

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

**December 3, 2023**

### ***“I Am Not Worthy”***

By Heath Rogers



Excuses for not becoming a Christian are terrible. I have heard my share, but one of the worst ones has to be "I am not worthy." Some people actually believe that they are so bad that God would never forgive them of their sins.

A friend of mine once told me, "God will not forgive the things that I have done." This statement was heartbreaking because it expressed a distorted view of God. Who are we to put a limit upon God's ability and willingness to forgive?

Such a view made God a respecter of persons, and left this person in a hopeless situation. "I am not worthy," if sincerely believed, is a deception of the worst kind.

In a sense, none of us is worthy of salvation. None of us have earned the right to be saved. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). However, salvation is a gift, not a wage (Romans 6:23). It is a gift of God's grace, not a compensation based upon my merit. A gift is not offered because it has been earned. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

However, there is also a sense in which we are worthy of salvation. The fact that God has offered salvation to us shows that He believes that we are worthy to receive it. Think about that. Shouldn't we let God decide if we are worthy or not?

The only people who are not worthy of salvation are those who refuse the Lord's invitation to be saved. In The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22:1-14), the king (God) summoned those who had been invited to the feast (the Jews). They made light of the feast and refused to attend. The king became furious at this insult and destroyed them.

Then he said, *"The wedding is ready but those who were invited were not worthy"* (v. 8). Why were they unworthy? Because they refused to come. The only way one can be unworthy of salvation is to continue to refuse the Lord's invitation to be saved.

In Acts chapter two, Peter told the Jews that they had killed the Son of God. They had murdered their own Messiah. *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ"* (v. 36).

Some of them believed what Peter said. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and knew that they had put Him to death. In desperation they asked Peter and the rest of the apostles, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* (v. 37).

Peter did not tell them that there was nothing that they could do. He did not tell them that they had been so bad that God would never forgive them of their sins. He told them to, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (v. 38).

Think about this - if the men who killed the Son of God could be saved, then you and I can be saved. No one has done anything worse than killing the innocent Son of God. If God was willing to forgive these men for killing His Son, then we can know that He is willing to forgive us of anything that we have done.

*"Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:18-19).*

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## **"RESURRECTIONS"**

By Kyle Campbell

While miracles in the Bible took many forms, including power over disease and nature, the most stupendous of them all was the miracle of raising people from the dead. Even when Jesus sent out His twelve disciples, He made sure that they could raise the dead.

Matthew 10:7-8 says, *"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."* Nine individuals in scripture are clearly presented in the Bible as being raised from the dead. In the Old Testament, Elijah resurrected the son of Zarephath's widow (1 Kings 17:17-24). Elisha resurrected the son of the great Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37). The Shunammite woman had no children. For a woman to be barren in those days was a great source of shame. The Bible says that her husband was old, which would imply he was unable to produce seed.

However, because the Shunammite woman was genuinely kind and generous to the prophet Elisha, he told her she would have a child in one year's time. God healed her and her husband and she conceived and gave birth to a son. Later on while working out in the fields something disastrous happens to her son (a head injury or possibly heat stroke) and he dies. The Shunammite woman hastily went to the prophet Elisha, and she insisted he go to her son and raise him from the dead.

Finally, a dead man came back to life when he touches Elisha's bones (2 Kings 13:21). Even after he was dead, the anointing still remaining in Elisha's bones raised someone from the dead. Earlier in 2 Kings 2:9, Elisha had boldly requested that he receive a double portion of Elijah's anointing. However, after Elisha died it looked like it was too late for him to raise twice as many people from the dead as Elijah. Who would have ever thought that touching Elisha's bones could raise someone from the dead; certainly not the men that were burying him! Clearly the seeds of faith we sow in the brief time we are in this world continue to grow and accomplish things even after we are long gone.

In the New Testament, Jesus raised three people: the widow's son at Nain (Luke 7:13-15), Jairus' daughter (Matthew 9:25; Mark 5:42; Luke 8:55), and Lazarus (John 11:43-44). When Jesus died on the cross, Matthew 27:52-53 records that many people arose and appeared to the people of Jerusalem. Of course, Christ Himself was resurrected from the dead (Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-10). In Acts, Peter raised a female disciple named Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36-42) and Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:9-12).

The resurrection of Christ is absolutely pivotal to the New Testament and its message of salvation from sin. Jesus was *"... declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead"* (Romans 1:4). Paul furthermore stated that the resurrection was a primary component of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The following verses (5-8) recount the importance of witnesses seeing Jesus raised from the dead. It is interesting that the crucifixion, while witnessed by many, does not depend on witnesses — this is only the case with the resurrection.

Perhaps the reason is the importance of the resurrection to all of us: *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"* (John 5:28-29).

The Hebrew writer taught the same by saying, *"Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection ..."* (Hebrews 11:35).

As Paul so succinctly put it: *"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power"* (1 Corinthians 6:14; cp. 2 Corinthians 4:14). Every resurrection in the Bible was an amazing miracle, but it merely foreshadows what awaits every Christian who can hold fast (Hebrews 4:14; 10:23).

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Fred Johnson, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish.

A Gospel Meeting at Phil Campbell Begins today.  
(December 3rd—7th , with Trenton Barksdale).

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *“The Kinds Of Followers Of Jesus Doesn’t Need”*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Jerry Kennemur  
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon  
**Author:** Herschel Patton  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #14, Question #9*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Dan Cottrell  
**Scripture Reading:** *Acts 2:42-47*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord’s Supper:** Paul Busby  
**Assisting:** —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *“How Necessary Is The Church In The World?”*  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**December 6, 2023**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors  
**Author:** Max Tice  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #65, #1 Fill In The Blanks*  
**Invitation:** Adam Harris  
**Song Leader:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

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# ***“The Kinds Of Followers Jesus Doesn’t Need”***

Lesson Text: **Luke 9:57-62.**

## **I. The Following At A Distance Follower.**

- Like Peter Did- **Matthew 26:57-58.**
- They May Have Reasons (Excuses) For Not Getting Too Close To Jesus:
  - They May Stay Away From Fear Of Responsibility, Obligations, And Duties.
  - If They Get Closer, They May Be Called Upon To Do More.
  - They Keep Jesus A Safe Distance Away From Their Lives.
  - But Is It Really Safe? **Matthew 26:69-75; Hebrews 2:1.**

## **II. The Bread-Seeking Follower.**

- Like Some Who Followed Jesus For More Bread- **John 6:24-29.**
- Our Motives Must Be Right In Following Jesus— Not What We Get, But Give.
  - Jesus Never Tried To Gain Disciples By Offering Them Material Things- **John 12:32.**
  - Too Many Followers Today Have An Attitude Of, “What Does This Church Offer?”

## **III. The Prominence Driven Follower.**

- James & John Asked For Prominent Positions- **Mark 10:35-41.**
- Diotrefes Desired The Preeminence- **3 John 9-11.**
  - This Attitude Brings Strife And Competition Among Brothers! **James 3:16.**

## **IV. The Critical-Complaining Follower.**

- Judas Criticized Mary’s Anointing Jesus- **John 12:1-7; Mark 14:4-6.**
- Being Critical And Complaining Is Not Helpful- Even Sin! **Philippians 2:14-16.**
- This Behavior Hinders The Work Of The Church- **Philippians 2:14-16.**

## **V. The Hard-To-Get-Along-With Follower.**

- Two Women At Philippi Had Trouble Getting Along- **Philippians 4:1-3.**
- We All Know People Who Are Hard To Get Along With— But Should Christians Be?
- This Can Disrupt The Unity And Work Of The Church- **Philippians 2:1-4?**
  - Some Will Try To Sow Discord Among Brethren- **Proverbs 6:14; 16:28.**
  - Some Will Try To Promote False Doctrines- **2 Timothy 2:14-17.**
  - Some Will Walk Disorderly- **2 Thessalonians 3:6.**

## **VI. The Pretend Follower.**

- **Galatians 2:4; I John 2:19**
- Some Pretend For Different Reasons:
  - To Please Others.
  - Overtaken By Sin And Still Attending.
- But This Is Hypocritical Behavior! It Doesn’t Benefit Jesus Any- **Matthew 5:13.**
- Jesus Doesn’t Need Fake Christians. Why? No Good Done/No Good Example.

## **VII. What Jesus Needs Us To Be.**

- Genuine, Loving, Kind, Easy To Get Along With, Encouraging... **Acts 14:21-22.**
  - We Need To Be The Kind Of Followers Who Help, Not Hinder The Cause Of Christ.

# ***“How Necessary Is The Church In The World?”***

Lesson Text: **Acts 2:42-47.**

## **I. The Important Role Of The Church In The World.**

- **Ephesians 1:22.** The Church Is The People Of God On The Earth.
- **Matthew 5:14-16.** The Church Is To Shine The Example Of Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 6:17.** The Church Is A Place Of Refuge From The Sinful World.
- **1 Timothy 3:15.** The Church Is *“The Pillar And Ground Of The Truth”*
- **Acts 2:42.** The Church Is Where Collective Worship Takes Place To Honor God.
- **Luke 11:2.** Imagine If The Church Never Existed, How Would God’s Will Be Done?

## **II. Some Beliefs That Minimize The Importance Of The Church.**

- Can Our Beliefs About The Church Be Minimizing Its Importance?
- Many Look At The Church, As God’s Social Club— To Meet Social Needs.
  - Children’s Daycare, Blood Drives, Christmas Presents for the Needy, Cake Decorating, Yoga Classes, Money Management, and “Jumping Jacks for Jesus.”
- Some Just Go To Church For The Entertainment and Fun Things. **John 6:26-27.**
  - Churches Today Offer Gymnasiums, Sports Teams, Game Nights, Youth Rallies....
- Some Want To Be “Christian At Large” And Not Part Of Any Local Church **Acts 9:26.**
- Some See No Need To Assemble— They Can Worship Online- **Acts 20:7.**
- The Church As A “Second Choice” And Not The Kingdom. **Zechariah 6:12-13.**

## **III. How God, Jesus, And The Apostles View The Church.**

- God Planned & Designed The Church- **Ephesians 3:8-12.**
- Jesus Purchased The Church By His Own Blood- **Acts 20:28.**
- Jesus Carried Out The Building Of His Church- **Matthew 16:18—Acts 2:47.**
- The Apostles And Prophets Laid The Foundation- **Ephesians 2:18-22.**
- The Power And Glory In The Church- **Ephesians 3:20-21.**

## **IV. How Important Is The Church To You?**

- By Fully Devoting Ourselves To The Work Of The Church- **Acts 11:21-23.**
- By Worshiping God Regularly, And From The Heart! **John 4:23-24.**
- By Valuing The Church Enough To Be Your Priority- **Matthew 6:33.**