

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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[MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com](http://MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com)

August 15, 2021

### ***“Refinement”***

By Terry Wayne Benton

All that happens to us in this life is part of refining us. Like gold is purified through the harsh fires of testing, and as testing refines and strengthens our quality of faith and character, we come out in the end with a glory that looks more like the glory of Jesus. That depends on how genuine our faith is in Jesus!

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.”* (Isaiah 43:2)

*“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold”* (Job 23:10). Think about how Job was tested, yet he believed he would come out somewhere as gold.

David went through many heartaches and difficulties, and yet, this is the refining process in him, and here is how he looked at it all:

*“For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.”* (Psalm 66:10-12 ESV)

We are either refined or we get burnt up. If we are refined, the end product will be beautiful in God's hands! Be sure you have gold quality faith in the Lord!



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### ***“Don't Live In Fear”***

By Terry Wayne Benton

- Fear of the virus,
- Fear of the vaccine,
- Fear of getting the virus,
- Fear of spreading the virus,
- Fear of side effects of the unknown,

All are legitimate issues that we must grapple with and approach with caution and discernment. But each person must also be cautious about unreasonable fear and the fear that leads to being unloving and judgmental toward others that don't see these issues the same as you.

We should fear fear itself. Fear that is paralyzing, judgmental, and divisive does more damage to the mind and to relationships than physical illness and physical death. We should be more afraid of such fear than we are the various viruses that are presently the focus of concern.

One side effect of terror and panic regarding our present landscape is that it can often set people against each other when none of us are experts and the supposed experts are very divided about what is true and what is not true.

Becoming judgmental, hateful, and divisive is not what you need, and certainly not what the church of our Lord needs.

*"as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror." (1 Peter 3:6)*

Be more concerned about losing your peace in Christ. Let the peace of God rule in your heart (Colossian 3:15). What is ruling in your heart? Peace or anxiety? If it is not peace, then fear has become greater than your commitment to the peace of God.

Be more concerned about the virus of the heart that may be driving you away from the highest principles of love. *"Above all things put on love"* (Colossians 3:14). Anxiety can drive wedges between people. Anxiety and fear can make you super critical of others while not being very critical of your own attitude. Fear the damage of being unloving and divisive more than you fear a virus that is not nearly so deadly. A lack of love is far more deadly -- eternally deadly! Living in fear that drives judgmental and divisive attitudes is far more deadly than COVID-19. 98% recovery versus **no** recovery from spiritual recklessness. If a person says "I love God" and hates his brother, he is a liar (I John 4:20). You cannot claim to love God whom you have not seen while the brethren you do see are the tests that prove the truth about your heart. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear (I John 4:18).

Which issue is more important before God? Pushing your view of the virus and vaccine when brethren are listening to different "experts" and have different views of what is true and not true? Or making sure that you do not let fear push you away from loving your neighbor as yourself, giving them room to handle this in their best judgment as you give yourself? What do you think God is more concerned about? Your fear-driven agenda? Or your agenda of peace and love and unity?

Things to think long and seriously about! If your first response is criticism and wants to put distance between us -- not love, pulling together, patience, and longsuffering -- then there is a more serious virus driven by fear, and that virus of the heart needs serious attention now! We don't know all we want to know about physical viruses, but we do know when our hearts are contaminated by fear and a lack of love and peace. We can do something about that! Make sure that gets the proper attention.

## ***"The Case For Virginity"***

By Alexis Williams

I am a virgin for myself. I know that having sex is a choice that is not left up to anyone but me to make. I also know that there is so much pressure to make a decision right away when it comes to having sex, and, oftentimes, people make that decision prior to marriage. Women often forget that it is not up to the man to decide when she is ready to give this gift away. It is my gift to give to someone who truly deserves to have it, and in my heart, I know that the person who truly deserves this gift from me is my future husband.

I am a virgin for my future husband. Giving my whole self to him physically is the one thing that no one else in the whole world can give him. It is the one thing that I possess that I will give to him, and it will be for him alone. To me, that is something so beautiful and heartfelt and special.

How amazing will it be to give something so unique to someone who will know that no one else in the whole world ever got this gift from me? He will feel so honored. And it is an honor and a feeling that I only want to share with him. It will be perfect. Because it will be something that we will share only with each other for as long as the Lord wills us to live on earth.

But most of all, I am a virgin for my God in heaven. He is my Creator and my Lord. By remaining a virgin until marriage, I am letting Him know that I trust Him and I honor him by respecting His will. His will for me is to wait to have sex until after marriage. And I trust that His will is perfect. Meaning that if I were to wait until after marriage to have sex, because it is His will, that experience will be more amazing and perfect and unlike any other sexual experience that I could have prior to marriage.

There's a reason why He wishes us to wait for marriage, and I know that it is because, in that union, sex will be better than anything I can imagine because it will be good and right in the sight of God. And anything good in His sight will be blessed by Him, so I know that it will exceed anything my mind can even imagine about sex now.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Prayers for Jamie and Anna Hearn (Car Wreck Friday night).  
The Family of Mary Ann Adkins (Brian's aunt who passed away).

**Those Who Serve:**

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

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Tim Harris Sr.
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	"The Sin of Lying"
<b><u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u></b>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	Page #54 Question #1

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

<b>Announcements:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Doug George
	Matthew 15:8-9
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Dan Cottrell
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Adam Harris
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	"Going Through The Motions"
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Sam Johnson

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**  
**August 18th:**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Russell Briggs
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
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<b>Invitation:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Paul Johnson

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**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

# ***“The Sin Of Lying”***

Lesson Text: **Revelation 21:8.**

## **I. The Definition of Lying.**

- A.** A false statement, or action, especially one made with the intent to deceive.
- B.** Anything that gives or is meant to give a false impression.
- C.** Two Kinds of Lies:
  - 1. Bold face, Outright Lies Without a Mixture of Truth.
  - 2. Half-Truths— A Mixture of Truth and Falsehoods. (White Lies)
  - 3. Gossip and Flattery.
  - 4. False Teaching— *“Babies are born in sin, Baptism is an outward sign...”*

## **II. Why Do People Resort To Lying?**

- 1. To gain an advantage From Someone- **Jude 16.**
- 2. To Avoid Embarrassment, Shame, or Punishment.
- 3. To Cause Someone Else’s Trouble.
- 4. To Maintain Privacy.
- 5. The Thrill of It! (Vice or Vanity)
- 6. Lack of Love of the Truth- **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.**
- 7. Tempted By The Devil To Lie- **James 1:14-15; John 8:44.**

## **III. Examples Of Lying In The Bible.**

- The Devil- **Genesis 3:4.**
- Abraham- **Genesis 12:11-20.**
- Sarah- **Genesis 18:13-15.**
- Issac- **Genesis 26:6-11.**
- Jacob- **Genesis 27:14-19.**
- The Sons of Jacob- **Genesis 37:31-35.**
- Potiphar’s Wife- **Genesis 39:7-21.**
- Samson- **Judges 16:13.**
- King Saul Lies To David- **1 Samuel 18:17-19.**
- The Old Prophet- **1 Kings 13:18.**
- The False Prophets- **Jeremiah 14:14; Isaiah 30:8-10.**
- Gehazi- **2 Kings 5:25-27.**
- False Testimony at Jesus’ Trial- **Matthew 26:59-61.**
- The Romans Soldiers- **Matthew 28:11-15.**
- Ananias and Sapphira- **Acts 5:1-10.**
- False Teachers- **1 Timothy 4:1-3.**
- Cretians- **Titus 1:9-13.**
- False Apostles- **Revelation 2:1-2.**

## **IV. Some Bible Wisdom On Lying.**

- **Psalm 40:4; Psalm 62:4; Proverbs 6:19; 14:25; Ezekiel 13:22; Ephesians 4:25.**

## **V. Why Honesty Is The Best Policy.**

- Lying Hurts Us More Than It Helps- **Proverbs 19:5/9.**
- Lying Destroys Our Character and Reputation- **Proverbs 22:1; 14:5; 1 Timothy 4:12.**
- We Do Not Want God Against Us- **Jeremiah 23:32.**
- We Want To Be Saved- **Revelation 21:8; 21:22-27.**