

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The Responsibilities of a Christian” #2

By Brian Meade

There are many things with which a christian must learn to be responsible. These articles are designed to help us to know what areas we need to really work on in order to be faithful servants of Christ. Our tasks and duties that we perform in God's service should be important to us every day of our lives. If we really seek *"first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness,"* (Matt. 6:33) we will take a great interest in doing all that God asks of us to the best of our ability. Having said all this, we move on to our next responsibility.



II. To live a pure life before God.

Even the most casual reader of the Bible will notice that God expects His people to be different from the people around them in one very important way; that they do not sin. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were to be separate from all the other nations whom God had given up to do their *"uncleanness"* (Rom. 1:24). Today, as New Testament christians, we are to be careful not to be like others that don't care about remaining pure. God has a lot to say about the matter, notice some verses on purity:

(1) **Romans 6:1-2**, *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"*

(2) **2 Corinthians 6:17**, *"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you."*

(3) **2 Corinthians 7:1**, *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

(4) **2 Timothy 2:19**, *"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."*

(5) **James 1:27**, *"Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

(6) **I John 3:3**, *"And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

These are just some of the passages that deal with this subject. More could definitely be said about this as God wants this to be firmly planted in our minds, *"that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* (Gal. 5:21).

But as you may well know, it is sometimes very difficult to always do what is right— especially when others don't. This world makes sin so alluring that we may feel like we are *"missing out on all the fun."* We are made to feel out-of-place and left out because we don't follow the crowd (Matt. 7:13-14). And in many cases, we are made fun of and talked about if we tell others we can't do what they are doing because it is wrong and sinful. These pressures can cause us to give in to temptation and lose our purity as *"the salt of the earth"* (Matt. 5:13). Jesus also said in that verse, *"but if the salt loses it's flavor; how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot of men."* This is one of the most important reasons to keep ourselves pure.

But how can we keep our purity in an impure environment of sin? There are things we can do that will help us to not sin against God, if we will only use these resources that God provides us.

(#1) Realize that Sin is Escapable.

we sometimes say that there are some temptations that we simply cannot resist. So when we are faced with them, we don't feel too bad, because after all..... "we couldn't help ourselves." I guess we try to justify in our minds while we are tempted, so we can commit the sin. These kinds of rationalizations only makes the Devil's job easier to get us to sin. But if we are ever going to live without sin dominating our lives, we must determine in our minds that sin can and should always be resisted. We CAN say NO! The bible teaches us, *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).* James also says, *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).*

(#2) Rely upon God's Word.

Jesus, when He was tempted by the devil, relied upon the written word to defeat all of the temptations He underwent (Matt. 4:1-11). Each time Satan came at Jesus testing Him, Jesus replied with a "It is written" to show why He could not do those sinful things. We need to follow the same pattern Jesus showed us and answer all of the devils *"fiery darts"* with *"the sword of the Spirit"* (Eph. 6). David long ago said, *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You"* (Psalms 119:11). Memorizing God's word will help us know what God's laws are and how to keep them. It is then that we can say to Satan, *"It is written."*

(#3) Exercise Self-Control.

Control of one's self is needed to resist the temptations. The King James Bible mostly uses the word *"temperance"* when speaking about self-control. Jesus talked about *"denying self"* in Matt. 16:24, and to do that, we must exercise self-control and will-power to stop doing certain things that we would desire for sinful pleasure. It takes self-control to stop yourself from drinking, smoking, stealing, fornicating, lying, gossiping, or even murdering someone. We must be absolutely determined not to give in to the selfish life of sin that the Devil offers us.

(#4) Pray to God for strength when tempted.

Praying to when we are tempted is something that we must do in order to combat temptation. There are times we are weak and need God's help in deliverance from evil. In Jesus's model prayer, He taught them to pray about temptations when He said, *"But deliver us from the evil one"* (Luke 11:4— See also Luke 22:31-32)

A christian will find that if we really trust in God, talking to Him about what we are weak about helps us to be stronger. But the sad part is, when we are tempted, there is a strong temptation not to pray or read our bible or even be around brethren. One thing we know is that sin will not allow us to be on good "praying terms" with the Lord. David said, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear"* (Psalms 66:18). The devil has to separate us from our dependance upon God in order to get us to sin and He doesn't want us to pray about our temptations.

Free Home
**BIBLE
STUDY**

A Women's Bible Class

will meet monthly at Miche, TN. at the home of
Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3rd Thursday of
the Month at 7:00 PM.

SPOTLIGHT ON A BIBLE VERSE:

Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, he began by telling them how he "marveled" that they could be removed from the gospel "so soon" (Gal. 1:6-9). The Judaizing teachers had come into the area and had been successful in spreading their false doctrine (Gal. 1:6-9, 3:1-4). The words of Galatians 5 complement what he said in chapters one and three. In Galatians 5, he reminds the people that circumcision profits nothing. In other words, holding on to the ways of the Jews under the Old Covenant is a waste of time. Thus, to try and somehow incorporate the Law of Moses to the New Covenant meant, *"Christ is become of no effect to you ... ye are fallen from grace."*

Trying to combine what Christ has said with anything else results in false doctrine. That was true in the first century and it is true today. If it is Christians who are doing this, then they are “fallen from grace.” In other words, they have left the Lord’s grace and are in a lost condition. God’s grace applies not only to those who are in need of salvation from sin, but also applies to those who need to stay saved! All men need God’s grace. Yet, there is a way in which one can leave the grace of God. This happens when we sin!

Let us not fall for the false doctrine that teaches “once-saved-always-saved” or “once-in-grace-always-in-grace”. Galatians 5:4 shows us that men can fall from grace. In addition to this, read I Timothy 4:1-2 and we will see Paul teaching the same truth to Timothy as he taught to the Galatians. Let us heed the warning in Galatians five!

Jarrold Jacobs

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts., Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Robert Adams, Megan Roach, and Velma Tucker.
We are thankful for the good outcome of Delain’s surgery Monday!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: “Doing Exactly What God Wants Part 1”

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Adam Harris
2 Timothy 2:5
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord’s Table: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: Daniel Holloway & Dan Cottrell
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: “Doing Exactly What God Wants Part 2”
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 13th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Daniel Holloway