

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 27, 2021

### ***“The Pillars of the Temple”***

By Jefferson David Tant

In giving Solomon instructions for building the temple, God gave a somewhat unusual command concerning two pillars at the entrance. *“And he set up the pillars at the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin; and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz”* (I Kings 7:21).

There were no names given to any other of the numerous pillars that were a part of the temple. So what was the significance of these two that set them apart from all the other pillars? Why were they given names?



Although we have no explanation for this, we can glean something from the Hebrew meanings of their names. From the detailed instructions given for the temple, it does not appear that these pillars supported the roof. In other words, they were apparently freestanding at the entrance.

The Pulpit Commentary suggests that “the balance of evidence appears to favor the view that Jachin and Boaz were monuments erected in the porch, to dignify the sanctuary, and to symbolize the power and eternity of the Being to whom it was dedicated” (I Book of Kings, p, 181).

Jachin means “He shall establish” and Boaz means “In it is strength.” Would not the names of these pillars, which one had to pass in order to enter into the temple, serve as a visible reminder to all those who entered, that this magnificent edifice was ordained and built by their God, whose strong arm would shield and protect them?

Also noteworthy is David’s charge to Solomon. David wanted to build the temple, but God did not permit it. David did make preparation by gathering the material. Then before his death, David gave Solomon the plans. *“Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the temple, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and the room for the mercy seat; and the plan of all that he had in mind...”* (I Chronicles 28:11-12).

What do you think would have happened if Solomon had not built according to “the plan,” the blueprint? Certainly, God would not have been pleased. Is there an application for us? Isn’t the church God’s temple today? Paul declared that we are God’s temple, not a physical building, but a spiritual building. *“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* (I Corinthians 3:9-11).

Then Paul continues to admonish: *“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”* (I Corinthians 3:16-17). No one ever builds without a plan or blueprint. When Christ said he would build his church (Matthew 16:18), let us not foolishly suppose that he didn’t have a pattern or blueprint in mind for that spiritual building.

Some today have the idea that we are free to conduct ourselves with respect to the church in whatever ways seem good to us. They don’t like rules or restraints. They want freedom. The idea that we have to follow a “pattern” is not to their liking. Is God less concerned about such than when he instructed Moses about building the

tabernacle? "Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." (Hebrews 8:5).

Consider Hebrews 9:1: "Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary." Now, consider the implications of that statement. I tell my 16-year-old daughter, "Look, even your 10-year-old sister knows how to make up her bed and keep her room clean." The very strong implication is that the older daughter should know how to do it even better than her younger sister.

So, what is the author of Hebrews telling us? If "even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship..." then the inescapable implication is that the second covenant also has rules of divine worship. Some don't like "necessary implications," but that verse has one, even if they don't like it.

Brethren, let us take heed how we build. "But each man must be careful how he builds on it" (I Corinthians 3:10). As those pillars symbolized the power and eternity of the Being to whom the temple was dedicated, let us respect those principles with regard to the church which was built by Christ. We have no right to change the blueprints. Let the temple's pillars remind us of the divine builder of the spiritual temple.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**  
Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**  
Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**  
Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

## ***"Sins Synonyms"***

By Joan Rieber

Sometimes reading the scripture in English is like eating diet food, you get volume, but the flavor and texture are lacking. Word studies in the original languages can supply what is missing. The Greek words for 'sin' are especially rich. I am not a scholar, so some of this article is my subjective response to the words, but learning even a little more can deepen our understanding of the issues involved in sinning. The pictures they present help us be more determined to avoid sin.

One word, hamartia, means to miss the mark. This is the word in Luke 5:24 that testifies to Jesus' power to forgive me of the many times that I have missed the target. In my mind's eye, I see an archery range and that elusive bullseye. Hopefully, as time goes on we come closer to the mark. There is encouragement in that picture.

A second term, parabaino, refers to going beyond or aside. It reminds us to remain within the things authorized by God. This is the word which puts the teeth in II John 9, "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God," echoing God's voice in the Law of Moses, reminding over and over that Israel should not add to or take from the Law, nor should they deviate to the right or the left. Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32 and Deuteronomy 5:32; 17:20.

Our next word is proskomma, the obstacle, the stone of stumbling of I Peter 2:8. Don't those few words bring falling to mind? Add with falling comes wounds, discomfort, and scars. God is trying to protect us with a warning about spiritual things that begins with physical consequences that we have experienced. If we do not stumble we avoid the long-lasting pain that sin brings and scars that may be permanent.

The last word, skandalon, describes a trap, a snare. Can you hear the intensity of Jesus' words in Matthew 18:7. "Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks!" The piercing teeth, the crushing pressure, the struggle to escape all come to mind in this word. Sin, like a trap, is always easier to avoid than escape. I have read that an animal may gnaw off its foot to escape from a literal trap, but what might be needed to escape from or deal with the snares of sin can be even more drastic. Recognizing the trap and the damage it can do will help us stop before we sin.

Our loving, wise Heavenly Father seeks to protect us by His principles from consequences of sin that we may not recognize. Some of that protection can be found in these vivid words as they show us something of how God sees sin.

**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 Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Danny Cottrell, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Nathan Meade
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	<i>"The Effectiveness of Excuses?"</i>
<b><u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u></b>	Jerry Kennemur
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
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**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

<b>Announcements:</b>	Paul Johnson
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Paul Johnson
	<i>John 12:9-11</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Dan Cottrell
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Jerry Kennemur
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	<i>"Because of You....."</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Sam Johnson

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

**June 30th:**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Paul Busby
	The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
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<b>Invitation:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Dan Cottrell
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Paul Johnson

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# **“The Effectiveness of Excuses?”**

**What is an Excuse?** Webster (1) “to apologize, or give reasons for.” (2) “to overlook (an offense or fault).” (3) “to release from an obligation.” (4) “to justify.”

## **I. Adam and Eve Made Excuses.**

1. Eve and Adam both sinned- **Genesis 3:6-11.**
2. What was Adam’s excuse? **Genesis 3:12.** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What was Eve’s excuse? **Genesis 3:13** \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Did these excuses work in justifying them? (**3:16-19; 23-24**) \_\_\_\_\_.

## **II. Moses Made Excuses.**

1. God called Moses to free His people in **Exodus 3:7-10.**
2. What was Moses’ 1st excuse? (**3:11**) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Moses’ 2nd excuse (**3:13**) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Moses’ 3rd excuse (**4:1**) \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Moses’ 4th excuse (**4:10**) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Did any of these excuses work in Moses not going? \_\_\_\_\_.

## **III. Aaron Made Excuses.**

1. What did Aaron do in **Exodus 32:1-4?** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What excuses did Aaron make? (**32:19-24**) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Was Aaron still accountable? \_\_\_\_\_ . Did he still sin? (**32:25**) \_\_\_\_\_.

## **IV. King Saul Made Excuses.**

1. What did King Saul do? **1 Samuel 15:7-9** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What excuses did he give? **15:18-21** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. How did Samuel take away his excuses? **15:22-24** \_\_\_\_\_.

## **V. Some Made Excuses For Not Following Jesus.**

1. What were the three excuses in **Luke 9:59-62?** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How did Jesus answer each one? **9:58,60,62** \_\_\_\_\_.

## **VI. Some Make Excuses Today.**

1. The Atheist and Agnostics Excuse: *“I just can’t obey a God I don’t believe in.”*  
– **Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 14:1.**
2. The Sinner’s Excuse: *“We’re just all born sinners anyway.”*  
– **Ezekiel 18:20-23; Romans 6:23.**
3. The Religiously Divided: *“We just all can’t agree on what the Bible says.”*  
– **1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 3:16; Ephesians 4:3-6.**
4. The Procrastinator’s Excuse: *“I will obey, just not today.”*  
– **Acts 24:25; Hebrews 3:15.**

## ***“Because of You...”***

Lesson Text: **John 12:9-11**. What Can Happen? Good or Bad?

1. Faith Overthrown- **2 Tim. 2:16-18** or Faith Strengthened- **John 4:39**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. God Is Chosen- **Ruth 1:16-18** or God Is Rejected- **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. God Blasphemed- **Romans. 2:21-24** or God Glorified- **1 Peter 2:11-12**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

4. People Were Cleansed- **2 Kings 5:1-4;10-14** or Not Cleansed- **Mark 6:1-6**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Souls Won To Christ- **1 Peter 3:1-4** or Souls Lost- **Hebrews 12:15**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Others are Discouraged- **Numbers 13:31-33; 14:1** or Encouraged- **1 Thess. 3:2**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Help Others Be Courageous- **Acts 28:15** or Not Helped- **2 Timothy 4:14-17**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Brethren Had To Warned- **Jude 1:3-4** or Like Timothy- **1 Timothy 4:13**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

9. Unity Is Maintained- **Ephesians 4:1-3** or Discord Follows- **Proverbs 6:19**.

\_\_\_\_\_.

10. Church Hindered- **3 John 9-10** or Church Grows- **Ephesians 4:15-16**.

\_\_\_\_\_.