

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

December 20, 2020

“Coasting Along”

by Jefferson David Tant

Recently, someone asked me “What is your biggest concern for the next generation as it relates to the kingdom?” That’s a good question, as each generation has its own challenges, some of which are the same in every generation, for our world is challenged daily by Satan. Yet there are new challenges, as youth today face challenges that were unknown in my youth. But I suppose every generation has faced things that were unknown to their forefathers.



Has it not been so from the earliest times? Consider the generation that entered the promised land under Joshua’s leadership, a generation that made a solemn vow. *“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”* The people answered and said, *“Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed”* (Joshua 24:15-17).

The Israelites had witnessed some of the greatest miracles of history, had received manifold blessings from God, and solemnly vowed to serve him faithfully. But just two chapters later, we have these words recorded: *“All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel”* (Judges 2:10).

I have just read *Traces of the Kingdom*, a fascinating look at the persecutions Christians endured in Europe, mainly England, hundreds of years before our “Restoration Movement” in the United States. I marvel at the strong faith of these saints who often had to meet in secret, who had their lands and possessions confiscated. Multiplied thousands were tortured, burned at the stake, or starved to death in prison. And yet they persevered. They were militant in their proclamation of the gospel, fearlessly debating their religious foes, and not flinching from pointing out the error in the false religions around them.

Have we become complacent in the midst of our comfort and freedom? Do we have such a desire to blend in and not cause any disagreements that we go out of our way not to offend? Obviously, it should never be our intent to offend, but truth does sometimes offend, even when spoken in the kindest way. Christ offended people (Matthew 13:57; 15:12). Paul offended people (Acts 16:22-23, etc.). John the Baptist offended Herod and got his head cut off (Mark 6:22-28).

Would the prophet Amos proclaim to us as he did so many years ago to Israel: "*Woe to them that are at ease in Zion*" (Amos 6:1)? Where is our militant spirit? Oh, we may be militant about not missing our favorite TV show or football game, but are we militant about the gospel? In the past, we have seen as many as 15 or 18 baptized into Christ here in one year. Question: What is the origin of these converts? In the first five years of the congregation, 41 were baptized, 66% of those were the result of evangelism, i.e., they were not our family members or those who sought us out. In the past five years, 47 have been baptized, and about 47% were the result of evangelism. Consider also that 30+ years ago we started with 12 members, and may have reached 50 or 60 in the first five years. In the past five years, we have had 120 or more members. So what's the point in all these figures? It would seem we have become less militant and more at ease in Zion. Just four were baptized in 2012. Two were from evangelism!

So, what is my concern for the next generation? I will state it in a positive manner.

1. We must be grounded in sound doctrine. Lessons to edify and encourage are needed, but we also need teaching on doctrine, that our roots may be firmly planted in truth.
2. We must be a committed people — faithful in our assembling together, and committed to living a godly life every day of the week.
3. We must be committed to congregational and personal evangelism. We cannot wait for the lost to seek us. "*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:10). Jesus didn't wait for the lost to seek him.
4. We must be diligent in instilling The Faith in our children, for the world and our educational systems are determined to destroy their faith.

My grandfather often said, "Brethren, we are drifting." Let it not be said of us.

The Value of Positive "Peer Pressure"

by Greg Gwin

I wasn't ready to do it yet. I really didn't want to get started at it. But, my neighbor had already mowed his grass two times, and my yard was looking pretty shabby. I figured if he mowed a third time before I mowed the first time, it would really make me look bad. So, even though I wasn't really in the mood, I got the mower out of the garage and went to work.

How often have you been motivated in a similar fashion? Maybe it was at work or at school. Perhaps it was a project or chore that you really dreaded. But someone else did something that made you realize that you needed to get to work.

We often talk about "peer pressure." Most often, we mention it with a negative connotation. In this regard, we are talking about how others can influence us to do evil. We are "pressured" to talk, act, and dress as worldly people do. There is great danger in this, and we have rightfully warned about these negative influences. "*Evil companions corrupt good morals*" (I Corinthians 15:33).

But, there is a positive side to "peer pressure" that we may be tempted to overlook. When we are around good people who are doing good things, we are motivated to follow their example. We are urged to get busy in the work of the Lord. We are encouraged to live right. We are moved to imitate them and be like them. This is good and helpful.

We are to "*exhort one another daily*" (Hebrews 3:13) and to "*consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*" (Hebrews 10:24). Christian, are you setting a good example for others? Are you motivating them in positive ways? Are you helping your brothers and sisters to be more like God wants them to be? Think!

“The Way”

Lesson Texts: **Acts 9:1-2; 19:9; 19:23; 22:4; 24:14; 24:22.**

I. The Old Testament Prophesied Of *“The Way.”*

- A. Isaiah 2:2-4.**
- B. Isaiah 35:5-10.**
- C. Isaiah 40:3-5.**

II. It Is Fulfilled In The New Testament *“Way.”*

- A. The New & Living Way- Hebrews 10:19-22.**
- B. The Straitened Way- Matthew 7:13-14.**
- C. The Way of Christ- Acts 18:25.**
- D. The Consistent/One Way- 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10.**
- E. The Way of Truth Spoken Against- 1 Peter 2:1-3.**
- F. The Way of Righteousness- 2 Peter 2:21; Ephesians 4:21-24.**

III. *“The Way”* Of Christ Versus Some *“Other Way.”*

- A. John 10:1-2; 7-9.**
- B. Not Our Own Way- Romans 10:1-3; Colossians 2:20-23.**
- C. Not The Way That Seems Right- Proverbs 14:12; Romans 16:17-18.**
- D. Not The False Way(s)- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 John 4:1.**
- E. Colossians 2:6-8.**

IV. How Does One Get Into *“The Way?”*

- The Same Way They Did In The Book of Acts:
 - (1) **Acts 2:36-41; 47.**
 - (2) **Acts 8:5; 12.**
 - (3) **Acts 8:34-39.**
 - (3) **Acts 9:3-6; 22:16.**

Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Gary Doles, Joe Felks, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles Melissa Felks, Star, and Roy Robinson, Keep those quarantined in our prayers; may they be safe and or recover!

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson <i>Acts 9:1-2</i>
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper:	Doug George
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	<i>"The Way"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Paul Busby