

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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October 8, 2023

“Lying Wonders”

By Mark Mayberry

Introduction: In this lesson, we consider what the Bible says about lying wonders, deceptive signs, and pseudo-miracles. Such are often presented as proof of some false system of religion.

Commonness

Signs and wonders were sometimes produced by the proponents of pagan idolatry (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). Followers of corrupted forms of Christianity claim to perform many miracles, and proponents of such show great signs and wonders (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:23-28). The coming of the man of sin accords with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception associated with wickedness (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12). Marvelous deceptions were part of the system of emperor worship which threatened the early church (Revelation 13:11-18; 16:13-16; 19:20-21).

Case Study

When God brought the plagues upon Egypt, the magicians of Pharaoh demonstrated both power and powerlessness. The wise men, sorcerers, and magicians of Egypt showed their power by changing their staffs into serpents (Exodus 7:1-13, esp. vs. 11-12).

The magicians of Egypt seemingly matched Moses' miracle by turning water into blood, but could not cast a countermeasure to cancel the plague (Exodus 7:20-25, esp. vs. 22). Using their secret arts, the magicians of Egypt made frogs come up on the land of Egypt, but it would have been more helpful if they had undone the plague (Exodus 8:1-7, esp. vs. 7).

At an earlier point, the magicians and wise men of Egypt were powerless to interpret the dream of Pharaoh (Genesis 41:1-8). In their contest with Moses and Aaron, the magicians of Egypt failed to bring forth gnats, saying to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:16-19).

It is one thing for a magician to pull a rabbit/frog out of a hat, it is quite another to manipulate something as small as a gnat. Along with every other man and beast through all of Egypt, Pharaoh's magicians were affected by the plague of boils (rendering them ceremonially unclean) and could not stand before Moses (Exodus 9:8-12).

Instituting the Feast of the Passover, which commemorated His deliverance of Israel from the last and greatest of the plagues, God said, *"For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments - I am the Lord"* (Exodus 12:1-13, esp. vs. 12). Thus, the Lord executed judgments on their gods (Numbers 33:1-4).

Principles

Despite appearances to the contrary, false gods and their lying prophets are ultimately powerless. In First Kings Eighteen, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a contest on Mt. Carmel. Despite their frenzied appeals, Baal remained silent; Jehovah, in contrast, answered by fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:20-40). Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

However, graven images are nothing more than the work of man's hands, incapable of seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, moving, or communicating (Psalm 115:1-8; cf. Isa. 44:9-20; Jeremiah 10:1-5).

Conclusion

Sacred Scripture sets forth a simple test: Do the words of a self-professed prophet harmonize with the revelation of God? If not, they should be counted as false - in either their claim, the content of their message, or in their corrupt character (1 Kings 13:1-32; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

Genuine Bible miracles supported truth, not error (Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:1-4). Even the inspired message of the apostle Paul was compared to previously revealed truth (Acts 17:11). We must study to present ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15), examining everything carefully, and holding fast to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21).



At The Meeks Street Church Of Christ
October 22nd—25th
With brother Tim Henderson
Sunday Morning at 9:00 (22nd).
Monday—Wednesday 7:00 PM Nightly
(23rd-25th).

"Redefining Love And Hate"

By David Weaks

Every few years, our language changes, and words take on different shades of meaning, or they change meaning entirely. Such is the case with the words "love" and "hate".

"Hate" still means to despise something, and "love" still means to adore. However, nowadays people who champion the cause of immorality have flip-flopped love and hate for the sake of their agenda. People who oppose sin are called "haters," and those who practice rank immorality are now defined as champions of "love". I am interested in getting to the bottom of this from the Bible's perspective.

The Old Testament says that parents show their love for their children when they discipline them: *"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly"* (Proverbs 13:24). Solomon could not have been clearer. Parents who fail to discipline their children are the real "haters".

Solomon also said that "foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of reproof drives it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). Unfortunately, today we are told that loving parents never administer corporal punishment to their children.

Paul warned Timothy that in "perilous times" people would be "without self-control ... despisers of good ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4). Paul's words reverberate into the 21st century. People today love pleasure and sin rather than God, while those who love God and His perfect law are condemned as hateful people.

The Bible teaches that those who love God's word must hate every false way (Psalms 119:104, 128). Yet, people today believe that the ultimate expression of love is to tolerate and even endorse people who immerse themselves in immorality.

If you oppose sin and stand confidently on the side of the truth (Proverbs 23:23), you are called a "hater". If you speak out against homosexuality, which God calls "vile passions" and "against nature" (Romans 1:26-27), you are branded a "bigot".

Those who love God cannot back down nor retreat from the truths taught in the Bible. Standing for the truth will bring the wrath of ungodly people upon you, but their hate of truth should never deter you.

God is right, wicked people who advance the agenda of sin are wrong (Romans 3:4). Stand with God, love truth, hate sin, and love men and women enough to tell them the truth (Galatians 4:16).

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, Larsen Plyler, Willis Fields (Brandi Meade's Dad), and Sam Kennemur (Upcoming surgery November 6th).

Our Gospel Meeting, with Tim Henderson, starts October 22nd—25th.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Stumbling-Blocks To The Truth"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Author: Mark Mayberry
Starting Page & Question: Page — Question —

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Busby
Scripture Reading:
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "What Does Heaven Mean To You?"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 11, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
Author: Max Tice
Starting Page & Question: Page #32, Question #1 True or False
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Doug George



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Stumbling-Blocks To The Truth”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 2:4-8.**

Stumbling-Block #1:

Truth Is Too Narrow For Some In Its Nature.

- Only One Truth, Not Many Truths! **John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Gal. 1:6-9.**
- Truth And Error Exists- **Matthew 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1.**
- Not All Beliefs Are Valid Truths- **1 John 4:2-6.**
- Error Must Be Rejected- **2 John 9-11.**

Stumbling-Block #2:

Truth Restrains Us From Our Own Way.

- **Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Deuteronomy 13:1-11.**
- **1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1-5.**
- The Problem: **Judges 21:25.**
- The Remedy: **Isaiah 5:21; Proverbs 3:5-8.**

Stumbling-Block #3:

Truth Demands Conformity To God’s Standard.

- God Has A Standard Of Truth- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**
- **1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 3:16..**
- **Patterns- Exodus 25:9; 25:40; Numbers 8:4;**
- For Worship, Organization & Work Of The Church.... **Colossians 3:17.**
 - **Ephesians 4:11-13; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4.**
- Some Want To Be Non-Conformists To God’s Patterns Today!

Stumbling-Block #4:

Truth Calls Us To Stand Against Error.

- **Isaiah 58:1; 1 Kings 13; 1 Kings 18:17-19.**
- **Ephesians 5:10-11; Titus 1:11; Jude 3-4.**
- **Philippians 1:7; vs. 17; 2 Timothy 4:14-17.**

Stumbling-Block #5:

Truth Costs Too Much For Some To Obey It.

- **John 12:42-43.**
- **John 6:66-69.**
- **Matthew 10:37.**

“What Does Heaven Mean To You?”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 1:3-6.**

I. Is It My Inheritance?

- The Message Of **1 Peter 1:4-5; Romans 8:16-17.**
- It Does Require Some Things Of Us:
- Sacrifice- **Matthew 19:29.**; Obedience- **Matthew 19:18;**
Purity- **1 Corinthians 6:9;** Diligence- **Hebrews 6:11-12.**
Not To Trade It Away- **Hebrews 12:14-17.**

II. Is It My Comfort And Rest?

- **Luke 16:19-25; Matthew 5:4.**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.**
- **Hebrews 4:1-11.**
- What Are We Resting From?
- Burdens of Sin- **Matthew 11:28-30;** Their Labors- **Revelation 14:13-14;**
Persecutors- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8;** This Sinful World- **2 Peter 2:8-9.**

III. Is It My Victory?

- **Revelation 15:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58.**
- What Is The Prize For This Victory?
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 4:6-8.**
- All Because Of Our Faith- **1 John 5:4.**

IV. Is It My Home?

- We Are Greatly Desiring To Be Home- **Philippians 3:20.**
- **Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12.**
- How Do We Go Home? **John 14:1-6.**
- **John 10:27-29.**