

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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March 26, 2023

“For To You Is The Promise”

By Jim McDonald

Acts 2:39 says, *“For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God shall call unto him”*.



The promise which Peter spoke of was the promise in the preceding verse: *“... repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2:38).

Peter had answered a question the multitude asked, *“Brethren, what shall we do?”* by commanding them to both repent and be baptized. He assured them that remission of their sins would be given if they did so. He could make that promise because he was guided by the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised earlier and had given them that very day (Acts

2:4). Salvation (remission of sins) is a universal promise to all, for it was *“to you, your children, to all them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord called”*.

The apostle did not promise his audience the Holy Spirit; he promised them the promise the Holy Spirit had given. In an earlier verse Jesus was said to have received the promise of the Holy Spirit (2:33). This promise was that *“all power hath been given to me in heaven and on earth”* (Matthew 28:18).

He received the promise when He sat down at the right hand of His Father (Psalm 110:1). Therefore, the “promise of the Holy Spirit” was not the Holy Spirit, but the promise the Holy Spirit had given. The promise of the Holy Spirit in v. 39 was the promise of remission of sins. Peter could make that promise because he was given *“the keys of the kingdom”* by Jesus (Matthew 16:19).

Salvation is offered to all those whom Christ calls, but it is not given to all because not everyone accepts His call. Jesus said, *“Many are called, but few are chosen”* (Matthew 22:14). The writer of Proverbs personifies wisdom as offering a call to man, but man snubbed the call. Solomon wrote, *“Because I have called, and ye have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man hath regarded”* (Proverbs 1:24). In the same way God calls, but does not force man to accept His call. To the Laodiceans Jesus said, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me”* (Revelation 3:20).

The blessing of oneness and communion with Christ was dependent upon the Laodiceans “opening the door” before which Jesus stood and knocked. Man has freedom to choose, and it is he who must act to have communion with Christ. Jesus wanted to comfort the city of Jerusalem, but He did not because they refused His comfort. He said, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killest the prophets and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not”* (Matthew 23:37).

Jesus calls all men but He speaks to no man apart from His word. Every man is called in exactly the same way. Of that call Paul wrote, *“Whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (2 Thessalonians 2:14). Jesus commanded, *“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16:15). We understand that “every creature” was Jesus’ way of saying “every man”. Because the gospel is the means by which man is called, and the gospel is to be “preached to every creature”, then all men are

called. How many of those who heard Peter preach on Pentecost were called? Every one of them! Obviously not all who heard on that day accepted his message — they were called, but they refused.

Jesus, through the gospel message Peter preached, stood at the door of their hearts and knocked, but many would not open the door (cp. Revelation 3:20). Notice what the historian wrote: *“They therefore, that gladly received his word were baptized and there were added unto them that day about 3,000 souls”* (Acts 2:41, KJV). By these words (“they that gladly received his words”) the historian necessarily implied that some did not receive Peter’s words. Some were not baptized, some were not added to the number of those being saved (Acts 2:47). But they were all called.

Some in the audience had asked, *“Brethren, what shall we do?”* and Peter told them they were to repent and be baptized to have remission of sins, or to be saved (Mark 16:16). Peter spoke many more words to them, and concluded, *“Save yourselves from this crooked generation”* (Acts 2:40). But how were they to do that? How could they “save themselves”? By obeying the words which Peter spoke.

These who gladly received his words were baptized. They saved themselves. The promise of the Holy Spirit is still offered to all men today, which is the remission of sins to all who will repent and be baptized. That promise will last until Jesus returns. Let’s heed the Spirit’s words: *“Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts ...”* (Hebrews 4:7).

“NO MEALS ON WHEELS”

By Michael R. Baggett

“Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled” (John 6:26). Jesus spoke the words above to part of a crowd of people who took ships and followed Jesus back to Capernaum. Following Jesus is certainly not a bad thing; it is the motives of the people following Jesus that present a problem. When Jesus fed the 5,000 with two small fish and 5 barley loaves, He hoped the people would come to believe in who He is; instead, many saw Him as a convenient source of food. Jesus makes it plain their motives are not good when He points out they are laboring only to be filled again. Let the reader understand, Jesus did not feed the crowds to attract the crowds. Jesus did not use gimmicks. Jesus does not want local churches today stooping to worldly measures to increase church attendance.

A few weeks ago, I saw a local church advertising on their digital church sign they were having an old car show. That ought to attract the car lovers to attend at least once! Today, I saw where the same church is having a Bearded One BBQ. Throw in the Trunk or Treat and inflatables and a few free meals and the “work” is soon thriving. Jesus didn’t think so.

Someone rightly said, “Sitting in a church pew no more makes one a Christian as does one sitting in a garage makes one a car.” Jesus pointed out that some people followed Him hoping to be fed a free meal. Jesus didn’t want people following Him just because they could fill their fleshly appetites. Jesus wants people who hunger and thirst for righteousness! (Matthew 5:6). Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, not to provide side shows and big dinners to attract the masses! When Jesus worked the mighty miracles of feeding crowds, there was real hunger, and all miracles were done to prove who He is, and that people might believe (Matthew 15:32; John 20:30-31).

It has been rightly said, if you get people to attend using church dinners, clown acts or entertainment, you’ll have to keep the free dinners and entertainments on the agenda to keep these worldly-minded people attending. What good are the people who are only converted to fun and food? Take away the entertainment and refreshments and there goes the numbers. Well, that’s all you had in the first place -numbers, right? Jesus doesn’t care about large numbers; Jesus cares about true disciples who will take up their cross and follow Him! (Matthew 16:24).

Jesus told those people seeking to feed only their fleshly appetites they were laboring for the wrong things. In other words, Jesus wasn’t going to become their meal on wheels. Jesus told, *“Labor not for the meat (food) which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life...”* (John 6:27). What is that food which endures to everlasting life? It is Jesus! Jesus went on to preach to them how that He is the Bread of Life (John 6:48). What Jesus had to say offended many of them and they turned away and walked with Him no more (John 6:66). So goes the followers who are in it for the fun, food, entertainment, or social purposes.

Paul, an apostle, said, *“The gospel is the power of God unto salvation”* (Romans 1:16). The gospel will do everything God intended it to do, if only we will preach it!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Wayne Bivens (recovering from double by-pass), Ricky Doles, and Jamie Jones.

Danny Cottrell is doing good and hoping to come home this week.
The families affected by the storm Friday night.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Jerry Kennemur
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"How Do You Handle Temptation?"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
Workbook:	Colossians
Author:	Donnie V. Rader
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #13, Question #12</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Tim Harris Jr.
Scripture Reading:	<i>Psalm 107:4-7</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Brian Meade
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"And He Led Them By The Right Way"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 29nd:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Brian Meade
Workbook:	The Miracles Of Jesus
Author:	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #100, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Paul Busby
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

GOSPEL MEETING

Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **April 16th -- 19th** (Sunday To Wednesday)

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

“How Do I Handle Temptation?”

Lesson Text: **James 1:12-15.**

I. Do I Understand The Nature And Goal Of Temptation?

- **Nature Of Temptation:** The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise:
 - a thing or course of action that attracts or tempts someone: *the temptations of life in New York.*
 - (the Temptation) the tempting of Jesus by the Devil (see Matt. 4).
 - The Devil Is In The Business Of Selling Sin To Us- **1 John 2:15-17.** (By Our Own Desires).
 - **Genesis 3:6**— He Makes Sin Look Attractive, Something You Need, And Thus Desirable!
 - Temptation Is A Lure To Satisfy Carnal Desires (Fish Bait On Hook—Bait On A Mouse Trap).
- **The Goal Of Temptation**
 - The Devil Uses It To Ensnare Us- **1 Timothy 6:9; 2 Timothy 2:26.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Draw Us Away From God- **James 1:14; 2 Peter 3:17; James 4:8.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Cripple Our Influence For Good- **Matthew 5:13.**
 - The Devil Uses It To Destroy Us- **1 Peter 5:8; James 1:15; Romans 6:23; Matthew 7:13-14.**

II. Do I Have A Proper Attitude Toward Temptation And Sin?

- Fighting Temptation Takes Place In The Mind Or Heart Of Man.
- Our Attitude Toward Temptation Can Affect The Outcome:
 - How Does Not Taking Sin Seriously Affect How We Handle It?
 - **1 Kings 16:30-31; Ezra 9:1-6.**
 - Do We Hate Sin As We Should? **Romans 12:9.**
 - Does The Sins Of Others Bother Us? **2 Peter 2:6-8.** Not Self-Righteously- **Galatians 6:1.**
 - Do I Have Over-Confidence In My Abilities? **1 Corinthians 10:12.**
 - Do I Have A Defeatist Attitude With Temptation? **1 Corinthians 10:13.**
 - Do I Need Self-Control & Discipline To Handle Temptation? **1 Corinthians 9:27.**

III. Do I Rely On God’s Protection In Times Of Temptation?

- Do I Try To Face Temptation All Alone?
- Do I Trust In God To Help In Times Of Temptations?
- God’s Protection And Help:
 - (1) Prayer. **Luke 11:1-4.**
 - (2) God’s Word. **Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1-10.**
 - (3) The Brethren. **James 5:16.**
 - (4) The Spiritual Armor. **Ephesians 6:10-18.**
- Do I Have The Willingness To Use God’s Power To Help?

IV. Am I Enduring Temptation As I Should?

- Do I Know My Weaknesses?
- Am I Being Careful In My “Down-Time?”
- Am I Avoiding Areas Or Places Of Temptation?
- Am I Staying Away From People Who Will Tempt Me To Do Wrong?
- Am I Mindful Of Why I Must Endure? **James 1:12.**

“And He Led Them By The Right Way”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 107:4-7.**

I. Is Not Always Pleasant Or Easy.

- The Israelites Left Egypt And Were Headed To Canaan By Way of the Wilderness (**V.4**).
- They Suffered Thirst, Hunger, And Weariness The Way They Traveled.
- They Would Complain To Moses About All These Problems **Numbers 11:1-4; Acts 7:39.**
- They Even Talked About Selecting Another Leader To Go Back To Egypt **Numbers 14:4.**
- Application For Us Today: When We Leave Sin, There Will Be Hardships We Must Endure.
 - Because Of The Trials And Temptations Of The Devil **Revelation 2:10.**
 - Because Of The Persecution By Men **2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:1; 2:14-16.**
 - Because Of Weariness Along The Way **Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:3.**
 - Are We Tempted To Complain Or Go Back To Sin? **Phil. 2:14; Hebrews 10:32-39.**

II. Is The One Most Neglected & And Not Chosen By Many.

- Only The Israelites, God’s Chosen People Were On The Way To Canaan.
- They May Have Even Felt The Loneliness Of Being Separated From All Other Nations.
- Application For Us Today: We Can Feel Like The Only Ones Walking This Way.
 - Many Are Offered The Way God Provides, But Choose Not To (**Matthew 22:14**).
 - **Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 2:11-12.**
 - Few Go The Way Of Its “Straightness” **Matthew 7:13-14; Psalm 107:7.**
 - We Feel Out Of Place; Different; As Strangers Outside Of This World.... **Romans 12:2.**
 - Sometimes Our Children May Even Ask: “Why Do We Have To Be Different?”
 - It’s Just That We Are On A Completely Different Path Than Others!

III. Is Led By God Every Step Of The Way.

- **Exodus 15:13; Nehemiah 9:19-21.**
- The Israelites Followed God’s Direction As He Led Them Through The Wilderness.
- They Were To Trust God’s Direction By Faith And Obedience. **Psalm 119:105;**
- Application For Us Today: We Must Submit To God’s Direction Through His Word.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 10:27; 1 Peter 1:14.**

IV. Is The Only Rewarding & Enduring Way.

- **Psalm 107:7.**
- **Psalm 1:1-6; Psalm 73:24.** Does Sin Bring Us Anything That Endures? **1 John 2:15-17.**
- Application For Us Today: Heaven Is The Only True & Lasting Reward For The Righteous.
- One of the Songs We Sing: “There Is A Habitation.”

V. Is The Way Of Thanksgiving To God.

- **Psalm 107:8-9.** It Was Only Proper For Israel To Give Thanks To God.
- It Is Only Proper For Us To Give Thanks To God As Well.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:57.**