

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“When We Forget God...” #1

By Brian Meade



People who are important to us are people we should never forget; especially if they have done something great in our behalf. God was so good to Israel at many times and in so many ways— yet God said, “*Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.*” (Jeremiah 2:32) Let’s look at some areas that we definitely must not forget God in our lives today.

I. In the Biggest Decisions of Our Life.

In one of the lesser known stories of the Old Testament, Israel was deceived by one of their neighbors into making a peace treaty with them (Joshua 9:1-14). The Gibeonites pretended to be on a long journey, used old provisions, and worn out clothes to plead their case in saying they were not one of the neighboring Canaanite people. The result was that Israel, “*asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.*” Consequently, a peace treaty was made without all the facts— and all because they failed to ask for direction from the Lord before making this important decision, that had undesirable consequences later on.

If they had only remembered to go to God in prayer, they would have known that the Gibeonites’ story was simply not true. God was left out of the decision making process entirely, and for that, Israel had to honor the peace treaty with them. Can we neglect to ask guidance and help from God in just such a way today? God must absolutely should be a part of every important decision, or else we can be guilty of not trusting in God’s help (Proverbs 3:5-7) and trying to go at it on our own like Israel. The consequences could be very undesirable for us as well! We must never forget to consult God in prayer for the important decisions in life, such as:

(1) Finding a Job or New Occupation.

There is the constant need (that we all have) to be in need of gainful employment to provide for our family the necessities of life (Luke 11:3). Situations of life can put us where we may need to start over in our career. It is precisely in times like this, we need to remember that God can help us to not fail to provide for our families (1 Timothy 5:8; Psalm 37:25). Also, we should never forget our need to pray for wisdom and understanding from God, and then be willing to follow God’s work ethic in our endeavors (Genesis 3:19; Proverbs 6:6-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10). Sadly, in today’s society, many people look for *entitlements* and *handouts* from our government, when they can and should be seeking to work for their necessities. May it never be so for the Christian!

(2) Choosing a Husband or Wife.

Who we choose to marry is a very important decision that affects us for a lifetime. We should not forget to ask for God’s help in finding a good mate (Genesis 24:12-15). This decision is one that is too important for us to leave to chance and our “*own understanding*” alone (Proverbs 3:5). But if men are looking for the “*excellent wife*” (as they should) who is spoken of in Proverbs 31:10-31, they need to look to Lord. Notice what the wise man of Proverbs says, “*House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the Lord.*” (Proverbs 19:14)

And ladies, the Bible tells us, *“Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man? A righteous man who walks in his integrity—How blessed are his sons after him.”* You will have to intentionally look for a godly man who will help you to bring up children, *“in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”* (Ephesians 6:4) Let us not forget, God is willing to bless us with a good wife or husband to help us be fulfilled, for our happiness, and our spiritual well-being. (Genesis 2:20-25; I Peter 3:1-7)

(3) When We are Moving to a New Location.

Remember Lot’s choice had dire consequences for choosing to live in Sodom (Gen. 13:12). Lot made his choice based only on what seem to look better for him and his prosperity, but the immorality of the people of Sodom made that decision one that he later regretted. We should put our family’s spiritual needs above financial prosperity (Matthew 6:33) and not choose a location just because it offers us more in the physical realm. Especially, if the place we desire to live in has no sound congregation to meet with easily. In that situation, it would be better to choose elsewhere to live, so we can be faithful to the Lord.

And if our motivation to moving to new area is for all the more things to do and see, we could easily be distracted (Mark 4:19) with all the *“greener grass”* (Genesis 13:10) that the new environment has to offer. This could have the same negative impact on our lives that Sodom had on Lot’s family (2 Peter 2:7-8). It may very well be, that in this decision and under these circumstances, we should not forget what God said in Psalm 37:16, *“Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked.”* Physical prosperity should never trump our spiritual prosperity! (Luke 12:15-20)

(4) Where to Attend Church Services.

We should ask God to help us to know where we should be worshipping in truth and in spirit (John 4:23-24). It should not be left up to superficial factors— like what does this church offer our young people? Or can our kids have more fun here with church sponsored recreation, fun, and games? The only real factor that really matters is where or not the truth is taught here!

Where we attend does matter to God, and should matter to us as well.

And if we are looking to find the church that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18), we must not forget God in the decision process! He can help us to know and believe the truth— as we get closer to Him in the scriptures (John 8:31-32; Acts 17:11).

Our eternal happiness with God depends upon us choosing a church that values Bible authority, true worship, and respecting the silence of the scriptures. With that much at stake, let us choose God’s way over any other way (Proverbs 14:12).



Repentance

By N.B. Hardeman

“One of the hardest things for men and women to do is to repent of their sins. It is comparatively easy in this country for a man to believe the gospel. In fact, it requires more effort to set aside the testimony that produces faith than it does to accept the word of the Lord and believe that God is and that He is a rewarder that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6) It is also comparatively easy to get men to be baptized when they have believed the gospel and repented of their sins. Repentance is a direct challenge to man’s will power; and so few of us are willing to bow in subjection, to acknowledge our wrongs, and to resolve by the grace of God to turn away from the same.

When I decide that I have sinned against God and against heaven and reach the conclusion that I expect to turn away from such deeds and to live as I ought to live, all things are easy to do. I am not at all discouraged when men fail to repent of their sins, for I remember that in the days of our Lord, woe was pronounced upon the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and even Capernaum, the city in which He lived, because they would not repent of their sins. (Matthew 11:21-23). If a man die without having done so, there is no promise for him in all of God's book, for the time has never been since man's first creation that God did not call upon him to repent of his sins." (Genesis 4:5-7; Jeremiah 8:4-6; Acts 2:37-38)

Hardeman's Tabernacle Sermons, Page 197 (with added scripture references—BM)

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain Doles, Penny Carmichael, Daniel and Barbara Holloway, & Brandi Meade's Uncle Greg Fields was diagnosed with colon cancer, but thankfully hasn't spread.

Local Meetings:

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay from East Columbus. 7:00 PM Nightly.

A **singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th** at 2:00 PM. Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	<i>"The Fear of the Lord"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

<u>Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:</u>	Paul Johnson
	The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 73, Question #14</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Adam Harris
	<i>Matthew 16:24-27</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Table:	Paul Johnson
Assisting:	Dan Cottrell & Lee Busby
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	<i>"The Value of Your Soul"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 14th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
	1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 41, Question #9</i>
Invitation:	Russell Briggs
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Closing Prayer:	Paul Johnson