

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

December 7, 2025

“Convinced?”

By T. Sean Sullivan

As a preacher of the word of God, I am directed to "convince, rebuke, and exhort," and in proper measure, all three are necessary parts of instruction (2 Timothy 4:1-5). It is my daily prayer to have the wisdom to teach God's people and to convince those outside of Christ to seek salvation (James 1:5). There is, however, an insurmountable obstacle in the way of my goal of convincing others. That obstacle is what they have convinced themselves of, before I ever even speak.

Many outside influences are distracting and misleading souls, but the most powerful deterrent is convincing themselves that they cannot succeed. Many believe in their own failure, so they quit before they start. Let's consider some things that people say to themselves, and what they should be saying instead. Let's consider these points.

Convinced: "I am too afraid"

Fear is the most powerful emotion. All other emotions have elemental fears. Fear can forcibly paralyze us or propel us away on a wild tangent. We know that fear is one of Satan's tools (2 Timothy 1:7). Paul told Timothy that God did not give them a spirit of fear. God is not the source of this type of distracting fear.

Fear holds many from their necessary salvation. Family reactions pose great fears. Some are afraid of how their obedience will reflect on their loved ones (most often those who have already passed on, who did not obey "this way"). We must remember, every soul has their own opportunities; we need to do what is right (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Timothy 2:15). Also, IF they are "lost", we know from Luke 16:27-28 that they do not want you to be lost with them. Friends' reactions can also pose great fears. Friends can be our greatest support or our greatest weakness. They are our support when they encourage us to greater things (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). They are our weakness when they corrupt our "good habits" (Proverbs 14:12; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Peter 4:1-5).

Some fear what they will have to give up: Many like their vices, but not one of those things improves our lives—they are detrimental (Galatians 5:19-21). Present life priorities also hold many from obedience (Matthew 6:25-33; Luke 14:15-20). Do not be convinced that fear is a valid excuse not to be saved today.

Convinced "I'll never be good enough anyway"

It is so tough to overcome and succeed when we begin in defeat. Satan wants to convince us that we like the way we are too much to change. He wants us to think; even if we try to change, we will still fail and go back. Many times, this defeated mindset comes from exaggerating others' perfection; idealizing others, and not being able to see themselves achieving the same level of success. Some are indeed more at ease with truthful living because they have been at it a while: They are "no longer children" (Ephesians 4:14). They have their "senses exercised" (Hebrews 5:14). But they need forgiveness, just like you and I (Ephesians 2:1-13).

If we convince ourselves that we will fail, we will never even begin to try. In truth, every one of us can, with determination, achieve salvation (Mark 16:15-16). There is no conclusion less truthful than not

being able to do something that God expects of us. In Acts 17:30, we learn that God has issued a command for "all men, everywhere" to repent. By speaking this command, God declares an expectation for "all men, everywhere". God is not wrong-if God expects that this ability to repent is within you, it must be! This certainly goes hand in hand with the Great Commission's call to preach the gospel to every creature [all men, everywhere] (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). All who desire salvation are capable of achieving it, unless they do not try or decide to give up. Do not be convinced of defeat before you start. Obey God and be saved today.

Convinced: "I'll do it later"

Remember what Satan said to Eve in the Garden? He said, "...you will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). He has told this lie to countless numbers of souls, in the hope that they will postpone their obedience to God. He knows that you likely will never find a convenient time to obey. There are so many who, "someday," like King Agrippa in Acts 24:25.

When will a convenient time ever be? Reality check: There is no time in our modern lives that will be less busy. The right time is the only time we have to do anything we do; that time is right now. The time to obey is when you are cut to the heart by truth (Acts 2:36-39). The time to obey is when you believe (Acts 16:30-34). The time to obey is today (2 Corinthians 6:2). Your life has no guaranteed continuation (James 4:14).

Do not let an excuse today become your greatest regret in eternity. Do not be convinced that you will always have "later"; be saved today.

Conclusion:

As long as any individual continues to convince themselves that they shouldn't obey the gospel, they will remain apart from the blessings of being in Christ. Excuses will push the Lord further and further away, until it is too late. There is something better to be convinced of. Be convinced of confidence, not fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Be convinced of success, not predetermined defeat (1 John 5:13). Be convinced that today is the day to be saved (2 Corinthians 6:2). Becoming convinced of the truth is a good start, but you must act on God's instructions. Take action in obedience to God right now.

"Honest Scales And Eternal Rewards: Conducting Business God's Way."

By Ian Rice

"Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight" (Proverbs 11:1, New King James Version).

Sometimes, wickedness provides an advantage in a business deal, leading the righteous to feel tempted to abandon their principles. However, the proverbs repeatedly teach that we should never envy the wicked, as their success is often deceptive, insecure, and short-lived (vv. 2-6). Generally, the righteous will experience blessings on this earth and will look forward to eternity in heaven, because they seek God. In contrast, the wicked have nothing to rely on except judgment and calamity. They may enjoy a brief period of "success," or pleasure, but they lack any lasting source of joy or security.

The proverbs emphasize that righteousness offers a secure reward; even death cannot rob the righteous of their blessings (v. 18). The proverbs specifically provide excellent (and practical) guidance for successful business dealings, including the following principles:

1. Be very cautious about standing surety for another's debts (v. 15).
 2. Remain conscientious and fair in your business dealings, as you will be held accountable by God for how you treat others (v. 1).
 3. Be generous in your giving, for you will reap little if you do not (v. 24).
- By following such principles, individuals can face the challenges of business with both integrity and wisdom.

Ultimately, the book of Proverbs reminds us that short-term gains do not measure true success. Those who manage their affairs with integrity and trust in the Lord will discover lasting security and peace, while the temporary rewards of the wicked will eventually fade away. How are you conducting your everyday business?

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, George Hutto, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittmore, Cameron Hutchins, and Karen Kennemur.

Updates: Tim Harris Sr. is wearing his cast for several more weeks to heal up.
Billy Grisham is home recovering.
Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall last week and is recovering.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Nathan Meade
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Is Cleanliness Next To Godliness?"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Jerry Kennemur 1, 2, & 3 John
Author:	By Michael Hardin
Starting Page & Question:	Page #73, Question #13

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Blake Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading:	2 Thessalonians 3:1-3
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Danny Sheffield
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Lord Is Faithful..."</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 10, 2025

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Abraham
Author:	By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	Page #35, Question #1
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer:	Danny Sheffield



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“Is Cleanliness Next To Godliness?”

Lesson Text: **2 Corinthians 7:1.** Many Think This Statement Is In The Bible...

I. The Jews Of Jesus’ Day Held This Misconception.

- The Problem: **Mark 7:1-7.**
- Jesus’ Answer: **Mark 7:14-23.**
- Why They May Have Thought So:
 - **Leviticus 15:1-33.**
 - **Leviticus 16:3-5.**
- Jesus’ Later Criticisms: **Matthew 23:25-26.**
- Peter’s Words About Baptism: **1 Peter 3:2-21.**

II. In What Ways Can We Be Made Clean?

- By Obeying The Gospel- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16.**
- By God’s Word. **John 15:3; Psalm 119:9-11; Ephesians 5:25-27.**
- By Repentance & Prayer- **Isaiah 1:16-18; Psalm 51:7; Acts 8:22-24.**
- By Walking In The Light. **1 John 1:7.**
- By Confessing Our Sins To Christ. **1 John 1:8-9.**
- By Not Touching What Is Unclean. **2 Corinthians 6:17-18.**
- By Following The Teaching Of God’s Grace- **Titus 2:11-12.**

III. The Challenge To Live An Undeified Life.

- Sin And Defilements All Around Us. **2 Peter 1:4.**
 - Crimes Such As Theft, Murder, Violence, & Drug Trafficking Dominant The News....
 - Corrupt Speech, Anger, Wrath, Lying, Deceit, Envy, & Covetousness.
- Peer Pressure Is A Strong Temptation To Corruption.
 - **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB).**
- Social Media And The Internet Must Be Used With Caution.
 - The Danger Of Pollution Influencing Us To Sin. **Proverbs 22:3-5.**
 - We Must Be On The Alert To The Danger! **1 Peter 5:8-9.**
- We Must Trust In God’s Promises- **2 Corinthians 7:1.**

“The Lord Is Faithful”

Lesson Text: **2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, (Vs. 3).**

I. His Calling Into Fellowship.

- **1 Corinthians 1:9.**
- **Called By The Gospel- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.**
- **2 Timothy 1:8-12**
- **2 Peter 1:10-11.**

II. His Keeping his Promises.

- **Hebrews 10:23.**
- **2 Peter 3:9; 1:3-4.**
- **Titus 1:2-3.**

III. Establish His Children.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:3.**
- **Romans 16:25-26.**
- **Colossians 2:6-7.**

IV. Keep His Children From Evil.

- **2 Thessalonians 3:3.**
- **John 17:15; Matthew 6:13.**
- **James 4:7.**

V. His Forgiving Our Sins.

- **1 John 1:9.**
- **Psalm 32:1-5.**
- **Proverbs 28:13.**

VI. His Help In Time Of Temptation.

- **1 Corinthians 10:13.**
- **Hebrews 2:17-18.**
- **Hebrews 4:14-16.**