

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:  
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

March 17, 2019

### **“What Are You Looking For?”**

By Jeffery W. Hamilton

*“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.’ And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.” So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them” (Acts 17:30-34).*

One message, heard by all, brought about vastly different responses. Some scoffed, some said they would think about it and discuss it later, but some believed. What made the difference? The difference is not found in the message, but in the hearer. There was only one message, but there were numerous listeners.

Such is always the case. A message taught brings about varied responses. Generally it is not the message, but what the person is looking for. That is why Paul told the young preacher, Timothy, *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (II Timothy 4:1-5).*



I can sympathize with Timothy. I dislike controversy, but the fact is, if I do my duty to God, I’m going to stir some up at times because teaching the whole truth will require telling people their wrong when they sin. Since we all sin, the opportunities for stepping on toes, knowingly or unknowingly, will arise on occasion. As Paul told the Corinthians, after taking them to task over a variety of issues, *“For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner; that you might suffer loss from us in nothing” (II Corinthians 7:8-9).* Does a preacher regret making people uncomfortable or even angry with the message he brings? Of course. But if it causes a change in course toward the better, then it is worth it.

When you come to services, what are you looking for? A pat on the back? Words to soothe your guilt? To hear the preacher give it to someone else? Or guidance toward heaven?

Ancient Israel failed to heed the message of the prophets. They didn't like what they heard. *"Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city"* (Matthew 23:34).

Let us not follow that course. May we have tender hearts to hear the words of God and a desire to improve as we all journey toward home. Like others of faith, *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better; that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them"* (Hebrews 11:13-16).

**GOSPEL** Allen Shepherd  
**MEETING** Sunday April 21st  
Monday-Friday 22nd-26th  
7:00 PM Nightly

## Do You Take God's Name in Vain?

By Mark W. White

God is serious about His name. He always has been and always will be. When He punished Israel for bringing idols out of Egypt, He later explained His actions by saying, *"But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made Myself known to them by bringing them out of the land of Egypt."* (Ezekiel 20:9, NASB) *takes His name in vain.*" (Exodus 20:7, NASB). In His commandments given to Moses, who in turn gave them to Israel, God declared, *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."* (Exodus 20:7, NASB).

One of the most obvious symptoms of a seriously sick society is irreverence. Observe the national news of our day and you will hear reports showing that Americans are acting like undisciplined adolescents. Our people laugh at Biblical values and crudely trample upon righteous principles established by God and validated by His Son. Our sense of awe is gone. We call "awesome" those things which are not, never have been and never will be. We use the word "awesome" without knowing its meaning. God's awesome name is no longer revered by the majority. Significantly, even among Christians the awe has been lost pertaining to the things of God and toward His name in particular.

When we think of taking God's name in vain, it may be that our mind immediately goes to the prohibition of cursing and profanity. Americans have fallen in love with gutter mouths. Comedians, politicians, news reporters and celebrities speak so often with filthy tongues it has become commonplace for us and our little ones to hear. Christians are heard to use the latest "cool" jargon without giving any thought at all to the origin and intent of popular words and phrases.

Frequently, I hear statements which I do not understand until I pass them through the Urban Dictionary on the internet. It's then I usually learn that what I have heard someone say should not be said by people who love righteousness and speak from pure hearts. To say the least, Americans are losing their polite vocabulary. Even colleges and universities now offer courses in profanity, attempting to make sense of and dignify the language the culture is speaking.

However, taking God's name in vain involves far more than cursing and adding "God" to it. "Vain" means "empty", "lifeless", or "lacking a sense of urgency". Taking God's name in vain suggests that a sense of urgency about God has been lost. The greatest sin against the name of God does not occur on bar stools where drunks spout profanities with "God" in the mix. Churches can be places where God's name is meaningless and void, too.

Do the words of our songs, prayers and sermons mean anything to us? We take God's name in vain when we claim to be people of faith but never show any real excitement for things pertaining to God. We call ourselves Christians, but could we care less if our neighbor is lost without knowing God—much less His holy name? If we call God, "Lord", but we withhold our hearts from full devotion to Him, then our speech betrays us. We take God's name in vain when our confession does not match our daily lives. God once said, *"If ... My people, who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (II Chronicles 7:13,14, NASB)

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Pam Zeanah, Katie Ward Cobern (cancer) Linda Harris— Ruthie Robertson's sister, who is in the Hospital in Newton. Karey Trimble was released from the hospital for a heart valve issue.

Rienzi Church of Christ is having a Gospel Meeting this week with Adam Cooper It starts this Sunday and goes through Friday— 7:30 nightly. (flyer in the foyer)

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "How Do We Please God?"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)  
*Page 16, Question #5*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Busby  
*Acts 26:27-29*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Assisting:** Adam Harris & Nathan Meade  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Invitation:** "Almost Persuaded"  
**Closing Prayer:** Adam Harris

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**March 20th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
1 & 2 Chronicles (Mike Willis)  
*Page 82, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.