

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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February 14, 2021

### **“Children Are Special”**

By Doy Moyer

According to Jesus, children are special and need to be protected. In Mark 9:36-37, we read this: “And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, “*Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.*”

He also said, “*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea*” (Mark 9:42), followed by the hard teaching that if something is causing you to sin (hand, foot, eyes), then cut it off or pluck it out because that is infinitely better than going to hell (Mark 9:43-48).



Notice the nature of the point: “*Whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to sin...*” Children will come to Jesus. They will love Jesus and believe -- until someone does something to them that moves them into disbelief.

Sadly, children are often victimized and oppressed by those who know better, by those who have power over them, and by those who are more concerned about their own selfish and ungodly desires and purposes than by God’s.

This means that adults can destroy the faith of children by the way we treat them and teach them. We can be the reason they move from belief to stumbling disbelief. And if we do that, we see how Jesus feels about it.

To abuse children in any way is to incur the wrath of our Lord. Better that a millstone be hung around our necks and throw into the sea than to do anything that could jeopardize the faith of these precious little ones. Protect them. Stand up for them. That’s what Jesus did.

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### **“Propaganda Wars”**

by Terry Wane Benton

There was the **truth** that Jesus was in fact raised from the dead, and then there were the opposition forces who needed to keep the nation from converting to Jesus. They wanted to stay in control of the crowds and keep their wealthy pockets padded. To lose control to Jesus would mean that their lies would be exposed, and they would lose their ivory palaces of wealth and power.

So, this first effort at propaganda was to claim that the “*disciples stole the body.*” But this was too much of a risk to the soldiers if they let it happen, so that piece of propaganda did not last long. There were now too many eyewitnesses who were saying that they **saw** the risen Christ. The propagandists were not able to refute the evidence of their own scriptures that prophesied of the Suffering Servant dying for our sins and then having his days “prolonged” (Isaiah 53), or David saying that his soul would not be left in Hades nor his flesh seeing corruption (Psalms 16).

God’s word had been taught as true and fully dependable. How could the left (left of truth or propagandists) refute all the verses that described Jesus? It was a landslide of evidence that they would have to explain away. Add to that tremendous amount of

evidence the fact that they cannot produce the dead body of Jesus **and** many people had already seen Him alive again. It was becoming too much to keep explaining away and covering up. Acts 1-7 shows each move the left made.

The next move was to command the disciples (by local government authority) to not teach in Jesus' name anymore. The disciples said they had to obey **God** over man. Then they threatened and beat them, but they were too excited about the risen Jesus and the **Truth** of all that this implied about really having forgiveness of sins **and** a real hope of eternal life. The left could not squelch their enthusiasm for the truth. They tried censoring them and killing them but to no avail. They wore their beatings as a badge of honor. Jesus suffered for them and now they are glad to suffer for Him. The propaganda wars continued in Acts 6 when Stephen was falsely accused of speaking against the temple and the law of Moses. But Daniel had long before prophesied the fall of the temple (Daniel 9:24ff). Was Daniel guilty of insurrection and speaking against the temple? No!

Was David speaking against Moses, who was tied to the **Levitical** priesthood, when he spoke of the Lord being a priest after the order of Melchizedek? (Psalms 110). That was a change of the law projected right there in their own scriptures.

Combine that with Jeremiah 31:31ff and you know that there was a "new covenant" coming that would be greater than the old (Hebrews 8-9). So, it was a propaganda war to quiet the messengers. If you can intimidate and silence the messengers of truth, then truth becomes a lie. People forget so easily!

When you cannot sort out the truth from propaganda, you have to watch and weigh the evidence, and demand to see the evidence. If you are denied access to evidence, there is a war for minds. One side wanting to get the evidence out for people to see, and the other side trying to silence those voices. We've seen these same kinds of mind-control wars going on all through history.

On Pentecost Peter laid out the case for believing Jesus is "*now both Lord and Christ*" (Acts 2:22-36). Many were convicted (Acts 2:37) and aligned themselves with the truth (Acts 2:38-42). The truth set them free from doubt, and the power of the leaders of Israel. It freed them from an aimless life, and from a misled life, as well as from a condemned life.

Their conscience could be clear because they now knew the difference between truth and the false information that they had been fed. Jesus truly is both **Lord** and **Christ**. That truth has set many people free (John 8:30-31). It still sets us free today! Have you been listening to the devil's propaganda? Have you heard the evidence of Jesus?

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## "Thoughts About True Freedom"

By R. L. Whiteside

People who long for freedom usually know little of what it is nor do they know how to obtain it.

An illustration or two may help us see what freedom is. A machine runs free when all parts move as the designer intended. A living thing is free when it moves unhampered in the element, or surroundings, in which God intended it to live. A fish in water, not in a net or otherwise confined, is free; for there is where God intended it to live. Out of its element, it is not free. Contrary to speculative theology, man's natural element is righteousness. That is the element in which the creator intended that he should live and in which he is placed. He is not free anywhere else any more than a fish is free on dry land. By sin man, each man brings himself into bondage. Adam's sin did not bring you into bondage to sin; you did that yourself. "*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin*" (John 8:34).

While living in sin, men are under the most servile slavery, from which there is only one way to escape. "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness*" (Romans 6:17-18).

Obedience to the truth is the Lord's way of making us free from the bondage of sin. "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" (John 8:36). But Jesus forces freedom on no one.



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# ***“Come To The Cross”***

Lesson Text: **1 Corinthians 1:18-21.**

## **I. What does it mean to say, “Come to the cross?”**

1. It means God is calling out to us and we must respond.
2. The preaching that Paul and others did had a common message.
3. It means what happened on the cross is more important than the cross itself!
4. It means “Come to the blood of Christ!” **John 19:34-37.**
5. It means to answer God’s call through the Gospel- **Acts 2:38-39.**
6. The Cross is God’s Drawing Power— **John 12:32; John 6:44-45.**

## **II. Why Come to the Cross?**

### **A. To See God’s Love Fully Demonstrated.**

1. John 3:13-17.
2. Romans 5:8-9.
3. 1 John 3:16-18.

### **B. For Forgiveness of Sins.**

1. Luke 24:44-47.
2. Isaiah 53:4-6.
3. The Scope- Psalm 103:10-12; Hebrews 8:12.
4. Even for the foremost of sinners— 1 Timothy 1:15.

### **C. Peace With God, Self, & Others.**

1. Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14-17.
2. John 14:27; Hebrews 9:14-15.
3. 2 Corinthians 1:2—2 Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 12:14.

### **D. A New Life Found in Christ.**

1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17.
2. 1 Peter 4:1-4.

### **E. Strength For Daily Living.**

1. Hebrews 12:1-2.
2. Galatians 5:11— Galatians 6:14.

### **F. Hope For the Future.**

1. Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 11:28-30.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad) and Annie Jean Harrison.

**Those Who Serve:**

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| <b>Announcements:</b>                          | Russell Briggs                                 |
| <b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b> | Jerry Kennemur<br><i>1 Corinthians 1:18-21</i> |
| <b>Song Leader:</b>                            | Paul Busby                                     |
| <b>Lord's Supper:</b>                          | Paul Johnson                                   |
| <b>Preaching:</b>                              | Brian Meade                                    |
| <b>Sermon:</b>                                 | <i>"Come To The Cross"</i>                     |
| <b>Closing Prayer:</b>                         | Nathan Meade                                   |