

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Churchatcorinth.com

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

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“When We Forget God....” #4

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.

IV. In the Conduct of Our Daily Lives.

The book of James tells us, “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*” (James 1:22-25)

This passage of scripture reminds us that we can forget to apply whatever influence the word of God should rightly have in our daily lives. God’s word molds and shapes our life by the hearing and doing of His word in us (Matt. 7:24-26; Romans 12:1-2). But what if we come to the services of the church every Sunday and listen carefully to hear what we should be doing or not doing? What if we agree this is how we should live our life as a Christian?

We are convinced that sin is bad, wrong, and wicked behavior; that there are more duties and responsibilities than just going to church services (James 1:27).

But after the sermon or Bible lesson is over, we go home to live our life a different way than God’s word teaches us. We forget all about what we learned and were convicted of keeping. We forget what the Bible says about purity of speech and begin to tell dirty jokes again the rest of the week. We forget that Ephesians 4:29 says, “*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*” (see also Eph. 5:4; Col. 3:8)

Once we get home from church services and away from the “*mirror*” of James 1:23-24, we may forget what the Bible says about wearing modest clothing on our bodies. If we are not careful, we can forget what Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:9, “*Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly,...*” We forget that when we go out in public with clothing that is too tight, too revealing, too see through, and is designed to attract attention through lust. We forget that God wants us to cover our nakedness— not expose it to others by the way we dress! (Genesis 3:21; Exodus 20:26; Isaiah 47:2-3)

It could even be on the way home that we transform back into the sinful and hurtful patterns of conduct that has never really been replaced by the gospel way of life (Titus 2:11-12; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27). We forget to really BE the “*new man*” or “*new self*” that Paul speaks of in Ephesians 4:22-32. But the only way anyone can ever give up the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) and do what the Corinthians did in I Corinthians 6:9-11— in turning from that kind of conduct— is to never forget God and His word (Psalm 119:11).



We must be intentional in our remembering God every day of the week, and this includes the replacing of bad behavior with good behavior. In 2 Peter 1:5-8, the apostle Peter tells us, *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Notice very plainly, what Peter says in verse 9, concerning those who do not have these qualities in their lives, *“For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.”* May we never forget God and say that our conduct just doesn’t matter! Heaven is too wonderful to miss because of short-sightedness (2 Peter 1:10-11).



Heaven Jesus is the Way

By Billy Moore

Who wants to go to Heaven? Everybody! But everybody wants to live in this world as long as they can. Why? We can't see beyond death. Whatever you believe about life beyond death is a matter of faith. Who do you know who has lived and died and has come back to tell what lies beyond death? Mohammed? Joseph Smith? William Miller? Mary Baker Eddy? The Pope? Or any of the other of the other founders of various religion? The answer is "No!" None of these has ever died and been raised from the dead to tell us what lies beyond this life. But there is *ONE* who has— Jesus of Nazareth!

Our Lord was put to death by enemies (crucified) buried and raised from the dead, and was seen on at least ten different occasions, once by above 500 brethren. Thus assuring His resurrection as a matter of historical fact, which unbelievers have not been able to disprove. On the night before His death, with His chosen disciples, He said, ***“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. “And you know the way where I am going.” He went on to say, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*** (John 14:2-6)

Do you think we should listen to Jesus? He wants us to listen and He wants us to go to heaven. Getting us to heaven— life eternal with God— is what the Bible is all about. Man was created in the image of God, had fellowship with God, but disobeyed God (sin) and lost that fellowship. Getting man back into His fellowship, which would require forgiving him of his sin, and treating him as if he had not sinned (in the scripture it is called *justification*) is what the Bible is all about.

Way back there in Genesis 3:15, God said the seed of woman shall bruise the head of Satan.; that *seed of woman* is Jesus— the only man who is the seed of woman, born of a virgin, but not the seed of man (Galatians 3:16). More than two thousand years after casting man out of the garden, God made a promise to Abraham, in you and your seed shall all nations be blessed, and about a thousand years later promised David that one of his seed would sit upon his throne, thus reigning over the people of God. About two hundred fifty years later, when these promises had not been fulfilled, God gave a sign to Israel, *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Immanuel.”* All of this leading to the coming of Jesus, who said, *“I am the way, no one comes to the Father but through Me.”* (John 14:6)

When you begin reading the New Testament— the book of Matthew, and beginning in the first verse— *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”* Matthew goes on to tell us that He was born of a virgin! This Jesus later said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”* Don’t you think we should be listening to Him? After His resurrection, just before going back to heaven, He said: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Jesus was teaching men the way to heaven— the gospel!

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 and Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Brandi Meade's Uncle Greg Fields, and Kimberly McCullough (in the Corinth Hospital for seizures), and June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom)

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: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Religion Versus Relationship"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 77, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Hebrews 9:15-17
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Table: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Nathan Meade & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "What About the Thief on the Cross?"
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 4th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 46, Question #20
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson