

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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September 2, 2018

“Apostasy Versus Steadfastness #3”

By Brian Meade

The apostle Peter warns and admonishes us in 2 Peter 3:17-18, *“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”*

We now turn our attention to the more positive side of attitudes that help us remain faithful to the end (Revelation 2:10). God wants all Christians to develop the character of steadfastness in their faith and service to Him.

The Greek words that describe our steadfastness are:

- (1) *bebainos*— “Firm, secure.” (used in Hebrews 3:14)
- (2) *hedraios*— “Metaphorically of moral fixity.” (1 Cor. 15:58)
- (3) *hypomone* — “Steadfastness, constancy, endurance.” (1 Thess. 1:3)
- (4) *sterigmos*— “A setting firmly, supporting, fixedness.” (2 Peter 3:17)

When we think of the character of steadfastness, we are often reminded of words like dependability and constancy. We may even look to examples in the world, like the “*Old Faithful*” geyser at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. It was named in 1870 by Henry D. Washburn, and gets its name from being so predictable in its eruption (every 45-125 minutes). Many people have toured Yellowstone just to see this predictable force of nature and be amazed!



God needs to depend on us, and for that to happen, we must be fixed in Him. The apostle Paul said in Colossians 2:5-7, *“For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”*

Steadfastness in service is often a theme that we sing about in such songs as, “*I Shall Not Be Moved*.” The lyrics of this song speak of the follower of God, as though a tree being planted by the waters. Psalm 1:3 pictures the godly who follow God’s word and are thus, blessed for their steadfast service.

We keep and maintain our steadfastness:

(1) When We Love to Hear, Read, & Study God’s Word.

The apostle Paul told the young Timothy, *“Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in*



these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

The word of God is beneficial to us in so many ways: it keeps us in the will of God (Romans 12:2; 1 Thess. 4:3), keeps us closer to the heart and mind of God (John 14:8-9; 1 Cor. 2:10-16), keeps us focused on spiritual part of man (Matt. 4:4; Romans 8:1-16), Keeps us growing and maturing (1 Peter 2:2), and keeps us trusting in God’s promises (John 14:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Hebrews 6:10-11).

What keeps us *rooted and grounded* in Christ is our love for His word. We saw from Hebrews 2:1-3, the dangers of getting away from the word of God and how we can drift away spiritually by neglect. That’s why going to Bible studies regularly, listening to sermons, and attending gospel meetings whenever and wherever we may have the opportunity will help us so much.

All Christians need to develop a “*hunger and thirst*” for God’s word and will (Matthew 5:6; Psalm 119). We normally eat several times a day physical food, but the child of God knows he needs to be fed spiritually as well (1 Peter 2:2-3; Hebrews 5:12-14). Our love and desire for truth needs to always burn within us!

(2) When We Keep Our Joy of Worship.

Worship is our life! We live to give God praise and show our thankfulness for all He has done in our lives (Hebrews 13:15; Col. 1:12).

We look forward to the times that we come together for worship, as being the best part of our week.

When we GET TO COME, not just because we are commanded to assemble on the first day of the week (Heb. 10:25), but because we WANT TO COME and bring our heart-felt worship to the Lord! (John 4:23-24)

And consequently, we would feel so out-of-place to stay home in neglect of worship—where we would miss the opportunity to sing songs like: *Heaven Holds All To Me, Sweet Hour of Prayer, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, How Beautiful Heaven Must Be, and Amazing Grace.....*

We remain steadfast in our commitment to God, when our heart is truly in the worship we give to Him. We don’t have to get up in the morning and ask ourselves, “*Am I going to worship God this Sunday morning, or am I staying home and mowing the grass or doing the dishes?*” We have such a sense of joy and inner peace about our relationship with God— we KNOW where and what we are doing every time the saints assemble. We are there with them offering our time and service in worship.

David said it well in the Old Testament days of worship, when he said, “*I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”*” (Psalm 122:1)

Also Luke records the joy of the early church as they assembled together for worship in the New Testament age, when he said, “*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.*” (Acts 2:42-43)

May we always keep a steadfast spirit in our worship of Jehovah!



GOSPEL MEETING Trey Haskett
Sunday October 21st
Monday-Friday 22nd-26th
7:00 PM Nightly

**Spotlight On A Bible Verse:
Luke 13:3**

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

In Luke 13, those gathered to hear Christ included those who told Jesus about some Galileans who were killed by Pilate. Jesus’ response was to ask if they thought those people were worse sinners than others. Of course, they were not. Someone suffering at the hands of man does not necessarily mean he is a worse sinner than someone who does not

suffer at another's hands (Job; John 15:18-20; II Timothy 3:12; etc.). God makes it clear that my physical condition is not a good indicator of my spiritual condition (Hebrews 11:35-38; Revelation 2:9-10, 3:17).

To drive this point home, Jesus told those folks to repent or perish! In the early days of our country, one might have heard those old preachers calling for folks to "turn or burn"! This shows us the serious nature of the words of the Lord in Luke 13:3 and verse 5.

Friend, if we do not repent of our sins, we will perish. This is made clear in Luke 13, as well as Acts 17:30 and II Peter 3:9. To repent means, "about face, forward march" in a literal sense. As we read the Scriptures, we note that it is a change of our mind that results in a change of our life. Therefore, Christ taught those people, and us by application, that if we do not repent of the sins we have committed, we will perish spiritually!

Have you repented of your sins? If not, why not? What sin is more important to you than going to Heaven?

- Jarrod Jacobs

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), Charlene Newborn, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Madeline Flippo, Karey Trimble, Jerry Trimble, Janis Johnson, Randy Ferrell, Delain Doles, and Daniel Holloway

Our Gospel Meeting with Trey Haskett begins Sunday—October 21st to the 26th.
(7:00 PM Nightly— Monday thru Friday)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Dan Cottrell (needs fill in)
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "The Door of Opportunity"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Lesson 6 Page 32, Question #17

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Hebrews 11:13-16
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Table: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Russell Briggs & Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "The Dangers of Looking Back"
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 5th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)
Lesson 7 Page 36, Question #12
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Chris Callahan