

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

churchatcorinth.com

Meeksstreetchurchofchrist.com

January 7, 2018

Some Facts About the Church #1

By Brian Meade

There are many beliefs, and opinions in the world today about the church that are simply inaccurate.

However, the Bible gives us the facts that can be proven in the scriptures. It is not for us to speculate or form opinions separate and apart from these facts. Therefore, there is nothing that an open Bible can't fix.

I The Church is the People, Not the Building.

Quite often we hear someone drive by a beautiful building and hear them say, "That's a beautiful church there!" But in reality, that building is just a building, and the church actually is the saints who assemble at the building.

The Bible teaches us specifically who and what the church is in:

(1) 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

(2) 1 Peter 2:5, "you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

(3) Ephesians 2:19-21, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

As we see from these passages of scripture—the church is not the wood or bricks or stones that go into a material building, but a spiritual household of God. It is the saints of God who are the "living stones" only in a figurative sense. When Luke records the account that, "The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch,"

he definitely was not talking about the ears on a building in reference to the church at Jerusalem (Acts 11:22).

It is called a misnomer to use a term in the wrong way, and that is precisely what happens here, usually in ignorance. We usually know what people are referring to when they use the term incorrectly. But sadly, if that were the only misconception about the church, we would be glad. Certainly there are more dangerous beliefs about the organization and work of Christ's body. This one is easily corrected, as long as people are willing.

II. The Church is God's Devising, Not Man's.

In Ephesians 3:9-11, Paul reveals who is the architect and planner for the church when he said, "and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,"

The eternal purpose refers to the divine plan that came to fruition while Jesus was on the cross and realized on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36-47). His death secured the necessary means of building the church (John 12:32; Isaiah 2:2-3). Jesus declared the church to be of divine origin when He said, ".....upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." Notice Jesus says that the church belongs to Him, as He says, "My church." He would divinely direct His apostles and prophets in what was



been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” Notice Jesus says that the church belongs to Him, as He says, *“My church.”* He would divinely direct His apostles and prophets in what was already *“bound”* and *“loosed”* in heaven.

When men come behind the Lord and the church of His devising— to build their own version of the church (called a denomination), they build another church entirely! And NOT only is that completely unnecessary, it is also sinful! Christ has already provided for us *“all things”* in the scriptures what we need to be His church (*2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3*).

All men can do to a perfect church (Ephesians 5:23-27) is make it imperfect and corrupt with their own devised creeds, their own traditions, their own self-imposed worship, and their own brand of organization (Galatians 1:6-9). And when they do such, they have more in common with Jeroboam in 1 Kings 12:26-33, as *“...he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense.”*

When will men learn the lesson that God did NOT call men to *wake up* one day with their own vision of what the church should be— but to humbly obey the gospel and be a part of the church Jesus has already established on Pentecost (Acts 2:41-47).

(Continued next week)

Blaming God in this Irresponsible Age

By Jerral Kay

Why does God let bad things happen to me?
Why won't God let me succeed at this or that?
God doesn't love me!

Proverbs 19:3 - "The foolishness of man perverts his way: and is angry against the LORD."

Months ago I wrote an article, "Did God Create Evil?" Lately, I watched the new movie, "Let It Shine!" Like most religious movies, Satan is not mentioned, because they teach that God is the cause of death and suffering of loved ones. Why? The devil wears many costumes which appear good and righteous (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). He deceives the world into ignorance to accuse the Almighty God as our enemy, not him. The main reason many believe God is the instigator of distress which comes from the liberal religions in America, as seen in a funeral that I participated in at a Catholic church building. The three priests believed and taught the hundreds of listeners that the two murdered victims in the caskets there died because of God's will. When it was my time to speak I stood and said, "These two loved ones are victims of a cruel death; not from God, but at the hands of murderers who carried out Satan's will performed by his ruthless followers!"

The reason Protestant and Catholic leaders blame God for evil and human suffering is because they do not know the true God: 2 Corinthians 4:4- "The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." We can truly know who our Helper and who it is that seeks to destroy us (1 Peter 5:6-11).

We hear complainers spouting that God is cruel, but when they are blessed with gifts from heaven, not a word or deed of thankfulness is given. God is love and apostle John wrote, "I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accused them day and night before our God'" (Rev 12:10). Our heavenly Father will not hear accusations against His children any longer from the devil.

The New Testament book of James speaks of our responsibility to live in obedience to the will of God or turn our lives over to the power of Satan, being warned that Satan is the father of death and suffering in the world.

James 1:2 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various temptations; 12 Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Maybe we can recall the times that we doubted or accused God for our sickness, death of family, loss of job, or a happiness we thought would always be ours, but now understand what Jesus said, "The devil is the ruler of this world and you will have trouble in this world" Don't blame the only One who loves us and gave his only Son to heal our self-inflicted wounds of sorrows of this life.

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Cheryl Ridgeway, Elmo Wilson, The family of David Hartsell, The family of Billy Mac Fredrick, Martha Little—Father passed away.
Keep Kimberly Mccullough in our prayers— She had a seizure during Wednesday Night Bible studies.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *“What is Sin? And What it Does to Our Lives” Part 1*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Paul Johnson
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 61, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Romans 6:19-23
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Lord’s Table: Paul Busby
Assisting: Chris Callahan & Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *“What is Sin? And What it Does to Our Lives” Part 2*
Closing Prayer: Adam Harris

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 10th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 14, Question #29
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.