

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 7, 2021

“Godliness In Conflict”

by Matthew W. Bassford

The book of James has the reputation of being the most practical book of the New Testament, but Paul’s epistle to Titus surely must be considered in the same light. Titus is only three chapters long, but all three chapters are light on abstraction and heavy on concrete application. Especially in the second chapter, Paul aims these applications at specific groups, but often they apply equally well to all of us.



This is true of Paul’s words to Titus himself in Titus 2:7-8. Paul is aware that when Titus travels to Crete, he’s going to run into all sorts of opponents of the gospel. If these people can discredit Titus’ preaching through criticism of the preacher, that’s exactly what they’ll do.

As a result, Paul counsels Titus on how to deprive these critics of the personal attacks they love. Today, all Christians need to listen to his advice because there are plenty of people who want to attack us for the same reason.

According to Paul, if we want to put these opponents to shame, we must excel in these four areas:

I. Good Deeds.

Christ-haters rejoice whenever they find religious hypocrites. If they can prove that we don’t obey the truth we proclaim, they don’t have to obey it either. We defeat this attack by living godly, blameless lives. When everybody knows that we practice what we preach, charges of hypocrisy have no force. What’s more, our example often proves to be as powerfully influential as our words.

II. Purity of Doctrine.

It’s easy to dismiss somebody who doesn’t know why he believes what he believes. Christians claim to be the people of the Book; if five minutes of religious conversation with us reveals that the Bible is unknown territory to us, that makes us another kind of religious hypocrite. If we clearly don’t study the Scriptures, why should anyone else? By contrast, when the time we have spent with the Bible is evident in the way we talk about it, we show that we deserve to be taken seriously.

III. Dignity.

Sad to say, dignity is out of fashion these days. Politicians, celebrities, and talking heads behave deplorably far too often, and far too many Christians take their cue from them, especially on social media. They gleefully share demeaning memes, sneer at anyone who disagrees with them, and engage in endless slanging matches with their opponents. Anyone with a good and honest heart will be repelled by such behavior. On the other hand, when we refuse to engage in it, we will stand out, and God-seekers will be drawn to us.

IV. Soundness of Speech.

This is the opposite of the unwholesome speech of Ephesians 4:29: speech that undermines, speech that tears down, speech that leaves its hearers worse off than they were. When we see a patron dress down a fast-food worker for getting their order wrong, that's unwholesome speech on display. We, however, should use our words to make days brighter, lives better, and lead others toward Christ. Just like we would only use sound timbers to build a house, we should only use sound words to build God's temple.

Obviously, conduct like this guarantees nothing. If people could reject Jesus despite His sinless perfection, we cannot expect to overcome a hard heart no matter how we behave. However, when our behavior leaves others with nothing to object to, we make it as likely as possible that they will listen to us.

“IT’S OWN BODY”

By Terry Wayne Benton

Some brethren have gotten caught up in the AD 70 doctrine that the resurrection and only judgment happened in AD 70. They argue that the resurrection of "the body" is just a spiritual resurrection of the collective body of Christ (the church). So, they do some tripping around in I Corinthians 15 to try to get the resurrection to be a collective spiritual renewal of the church rather than individual resurrection from the grave in which your body is planted. There are all kinds of problems with their efforts to make it a collective renewal of the church.

First, the church would have to be dead collectively in AD 70 in order to be raised collectively. Was the church spiritually dead? No! Some members no doubt were already spiritually dead both before and after AD 70, but resurrection is not collective spiritually when only some need renewing from their individual spiritual sleep.

There were plenty of Christians who were already awake spiritually before, during, and after AD 70. There is no point in time when every Christian was part of a collective spiritual sleep. Therefore, the events of AD 70 did not awaken a collectively dead church into a collectively living church (body). Any member could "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" **before** AD 70 (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23). I Corinthians 15 is not about a collective church (body) resurrection.

Secondly, Paul is arguing that you plant (sow) in the ground a body that is much different than what you will see come out of that body in the ground (I Corinthians 15:35-47). You sow a seed that is not the same form as what you see come forth. "To each seed its own body" (I Corinthians 15:38). "**Each**" speaks to the individual, not the collective. Each individual is planted in the ground in one form and comes forth at the resurrection in another form. What you plant in the ground looks nothing like what comes out of the ground. You don't sow the church, you have your personal body planted in the ground, and you have a personal resurrection of an **immortal** body raised from the ground (I Corinthians 15:52-53).

Each thing (body) that is planted comes forth with an immortal body. The church collectively was not planted in association with death in AD 70 and was not collectively raised in AD 70. Do not be deceived. Each person in Christ who dies physically as Jesus did will be raised immortally like Jesus. To **each** his **own body**.

Are you getting ready for the resurrection to immortality?

Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



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, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Betty Hurst is in Rehab at Corner Stone in room B1 (across from Magnolia Hospital). She can have visitors for the present time.

LuAnne Parish was in an automobile accident last Sunday and is recovering.

Continued Prayers for her recovery.

Kelcy Whittemore is dealing with Covid and recovering.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Russell Briggs
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Tactics Of Unbelievers To Attack Faith"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 84, Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Doug George
	<i>Matthew 27:1-5</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Paul Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Preaching::	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Lessons Learned From The Life Of Judas, The Traitor"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 10th

Upstairs Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #51, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Doug George
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

“Tactics Of Unbelievers To Attack Faith”

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:16.**

Tactic #1: Make God’s Word That Seem To Contradict Itself.

- God Doesn’t Change- **Malachi 3:6**— God Changes His Mind- **Exodus 32:14.**
- God is Good to Man- **Psalms 145:9**—God Is Evil To Man- **Isaiah 45:7; Ezekiel 20:25.**
- God Does Not Tempt Man- **James 1:13**— God Tempted Abraham- **Genesis 22:1.**
- Don’t Kill- **Exodus 20:13; Leviticus 24:17**—Kill- **Exodus 32:27; 1 Samuel 6:19.**

Tactic #2: Ridicule & Mock The Miracles Of The Bible.

- **Dan Barker quote:** *“You believe in a book that has talking animals, wizards, witches, demons, sticks turning into snakes, food falling from the sky, people walking on water, and all sorts of magical, absurd, and primitive stories, and you say that we are the ones that need help?”*
- No surprise that people mock what they don’t understand- **Acts 17:30-32; 1 Corinthians 1:18-29.**

Tactic #3: Deny That The Jesus of the Bible Ever Existed.

- **1 John 2:22; 2 John 7.**
- In their minds Jesus Never:
 1. Performed Any Miracles. **John 20:30-31.**
 2. Died For Our Sins As An Atonement. **Hebrews 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.**
 3. And Especially Did not Rise The Third Day- **1 Corinthians 15:13-19.**

Tactic #4: Try To Make God Out To Be An Unloving Monster.

- Atheist favorite tactic is to use the suffering of humanity against God.
- **Dan Barker quote:** *“All you have to do is walk into any children’s hospital and you know there is no God. Prayer doesn’t make any difference. Those people pray for their children to live and they die.”*
- They say, if God can stop all suffering but won’t, then He doesn’t love us.
- Many say God is a tyrannical dictator that has a huge ego that must be worshiped.
- And many balk at serving a God who is “blood thirsty” and Punishes eternally in Hell all who will not obey Him!
- **Dan Barker quote:** *“You can cite a hundred references to show that the biblical God is a blood thirsty tyrant, but if they can dig up two or three that say “God is love,” they will say you are taking things out of context.”* They use **Genesis 6:5-7** to confirm this claim.
- They forget- **Romans 11:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-9; Jude 14-15.**

Tactic #5: Use The False, Contradictory Teachings Against The True.

- **1 Corinthians 14:33; John 17:20-23; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 John 9.**

Tactic #6: Say That All Christians Are Brainwashed Believers.

- **2 Peter 1:16**— We products of our Parent’s indoctrination, environment.....

Tactic #7: Promote Evolution And Denounce Creationism.

- They claim the science and facts are on their side, but don’t buy into it!
- They claim that Creationism and Intelligent Design are not real science.
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21.** Our Reaction: **Ephesians 6:10-13; Jude 3-4.**

“Lessons Learned From the Life of Judas, The Traitor”

Lesson Text: **Luke 6:12-16.**

I. Those Saved By Jesus Can Still Be Tempted To Sin.

- **Matthew 26:46-50; Luke 22:48.** How could a follower of Jesus do that?!?
- The Popular Teaching Is That Judas Was Never Saved— It Would Contradict Calvinism.
- But how did he preach and perform miracles? **Matthew 10:4-8.**
- God does not stop us from sinning- **1 John 3:9; Yet, James 1:14-15; 1 John 1:7-10.**
- Judas Let Sin Overtake Him, Like The Romans- **Romans 6:1-2; 12-13; Acts 1:24-25.**

Notes: _____.

II. Greed Can Take Us Down A Dark Path.

- **John 12:1-6; Proverbs 1:19; 15:27; Jeremiah 6:13; 1 Timothy 6:9-10.**
- Judas has rightly been compared to Balaam- **Numbers 22; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11-12.**
- Greedy for what? **Matthew 26:15.**

Notes: _____.

III. Don't Give Satan A Foothold In Our Life.

- **Luke 22:1-6; John 13:1-2.** What does this mean?
- Same language of **Acts 5:3**, “*Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart...*”
- Do Not Give The Devil An Opportunity- **Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7.**

Notes: _____.

IV. God Knows Even The Sins We Cover Up.

- **John 13:10-11; 13:18-19— Psalm 41:9.**
- **John 13:21-28.** How did Jesus know?
- **Hebrews 4:13; 1 Timothy 5:24-25.**

Notes: _____.

V. Some Consequences Of Sin Cannot Be Undone.

- **Matthew 27:1-5.** He could NOT go back and correct the Betrayal of Jesus.
- **Hebrews 12:14-17.**

Notes: _____.

VI. Remorse Is Not The Same As Repentance.

- **Matthew 27:3-5— 2 Corinthians 7:10-11.**

Notes: _____.

VII. Not All Followers Of Jesus Will Be Saved.

- **John 17:12; Matthew 26:24.**
- A Warning for us- **Hebrews 4:11; Hebrews 6:4-6.**

Notes: _____.