

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 21, 2024

“DO WE SAY "AMEN" TO GOD'S COMMANDS?”

By Danny Linden

"Amen" is a word that we don't always think much about, but it means more than "the prayer is over"-it actually carries a meaning of truth or assent. When we use it at the end of a prayer, what we are really doing is expressing our agreement with the words of the prayer.

When someone else is leading the prayer, that is a way for me to join in and echo his words; when it is my own, it serves as a form of emphasis.

Another way we say amen is in response to a speaker's assertion: the preacher makes a point that resonates with you, and so you say "amen". The same can also be done in a private conversation. Either way, the function here is very similar. I agree with what was said and I want to vocalize that agreement.

There's a striking account in Deuteronomy 27 where this word takes center stage. It paints a picture of a powerful moment in the wilderness but also teaches us something about our relationship with God and His covenant.

Keep silent and listen. *"Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God. You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today" (Deuteronomy 27:9-10).*

Moses is nearing the end of his life, and one can only imagine his thought process regarding the people of Israel. They have had such difficulty in the wilderness with many failures and times they have disobeyed God. Without Moses leading them, will they remain God's people and enter the land of promise? It's a real concern, so Moses gets their attention for a serious reminder.

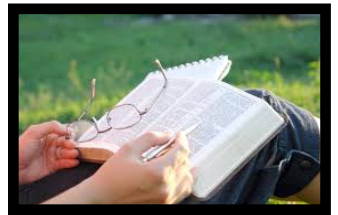
"This day" they have become the people of God-but weren't they already? Of course they were. This serves as a covenant renewal, which is something that we see periodically throughout the Bible. It's a way of rededicating themselves in anticipation of a great challenge ahead or after a period of failure. In this case, both are true. The people need greater commitment to the covenant if they hope to be successful. Their track record is spotty at best and it won't be getting any easier to serve God as they prepare to enter the land.

Amen to the blessings and curses. Moses then instructs the people how to renew the covenant when they enter Canaan. They should assemble half of the tribes on Mount Gerizim and half on Mount Ebal (which face each other). The Levites then call out various curses and blessings from the covenant. After each one, all the people were to express their agreement with an amen.

The list starts with many curses but expands as we keep reading into chapter 28. In fact, when they followed these instructions in Joshua 8, it says that they read "all the words of the law" (Joshua 8:34). By doing it this way, the people's role was no longer to be mere passive listeners. They took an active role in assenting to each and every command that God gave them.

Can you imagine being in the crowd on one of those mountains? With every curse and every blessing, you add your voice to the chorus of people giving their agreement. This must have been a sobering and unifying event for the Israelites.

Our assent. What does this teach us about our covenant with God today? It certainly gives precedent for an amen during a sermon or in response to a prayer, but it does something more as well. It shows us what God desires from us. It is sometimes said that the Mosaic covenant was one of ceremony and ritual while the new covenant is one of obedience and love. I don't think that is an



accurate portrayal of the differences between the covenants. God has always wanted the hearts and minds of His people. Mere lip service has never been enough for Him.

In one sense, our assent to God's laws doesn't really change much. We don't have the ability to opt out of God's covenant with us because we are not on equal footing with Him. He dictates the terms and sets the consequences for obedience and rebellion. But in another sense, our "amen" changes so much about our attitude. We profess our faith in a God that we don't directly see. We trust Him even when we don't understand every detail. We obey even when we would make a different choice if it were left up to us.

This is best seen in the assent to the curses. Why would I ever enthusiastically give an amen to God's declaration of how He will punish me if I disobey Him? It's because I know that what He says is righteous and that His very nature is righteous! Everything that is against Him deserves to be destroyed. I hate everything that rebels against God, even if it is within me. And so, I bend my will to God. He is worthy.

He reigns forever and ever. Let all the people say, "Amen!"

“Leaders Must Forgive”

By Heath Rogers

Forgiveness is an important theme of our Lord's gospel. Jesus came to this world to suffer and die to make forgiveness available to all mankind (Matthew 1:21). The forgiveness we receive from God is one of the richest blessings we enjoy (Psalm 32:1; Ephesians 1:7).

However, an important aspect of the gospel's theme of forgiveness is our willingness to forgive others. In fact, the Lord says our ability to receive forgiveness from God is contingent on our willingness to forgive those who have sinned against us. *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14-15).

Who needs this reminder that forgiveness from God is dependent on a willingness to forgive others? Of course, this message is for the "rank and file" member of the Lord's church. The teaching quoted above was preached to multitudes on the mountain (Matthew 5:1).

However, the Lord knew that His apostles needed reminders of this teaching. On one occasion, Peter asked, *"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"* (Matthew 18:21). The Lord responded with the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (vs. 22-35). In this well-known parable, the master angrily delivered the unforgiving servant to the torturers until repayment of his debt was made. The Lord concluded, *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses"* (v. 35).

Of course, each of us must heed our Lord's teaching and apply this important lesson to ourselves. However, the "each of you" in the above verse were the apostles! They were not exempt from this command. In fact, their position as leaders in the Lord's church made this warning necessary.

Leaders must have patience and humility. Moses was a very meek and humble man (Numbers 12:3), yet he lost his patience with the Israelites and acted in a way that cost him entrance into the Promised Land (20:1-13). If this can happen to a man like Moses, it can happen to any of us.

Elders, deacons, and preachers must sometimes deal with brethren who can make themselves unforgivable. The temptation can be to wipe the dust of their ungrateful attitudes off our offended egos, put up a wall, and decide they are not worthy of forgiveness. In doing so, we make ourselves unforgivable before God.

Look carefully at the wording of our Lord's instruction concerning forgiveness in Luke 17:3-4. *"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him"* (emphasis mine - HR).

The New American Standard Update reads, "Be on your guard!" Wounded pride is one of Satan's most successful avenues of temptation. An unforgiving spirit will grow like a cancer and rot us from the inside, rendering us unfit for the Kingdom or God's forgiveness.

Gospel
Meeting

Speaker: **Stacy Crim**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **April 21st-- 24th**

Starting Time: **9:00 A.M. Sunday Morning**

7:00 PM Monday–Wednesday

(No Sunday Evening Service)

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, Fred Johnson, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Phillip Keathley (Ky preacher) had carpal tunnel surgery last Monday.

Northeast's Gospel Meeting Starts today!
Our Gospel Meeting Begins Next Week!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "When Guilt Is Good"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Author: Herschel Patton
Starting Page & Question: Page 70, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Brian Meade
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: Acts 17:16-17
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "When Discontentment Is Good"
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 24, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Brian Meade
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel H. King
Starting Page & Question: Page #66, Question #1
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



“When Guilt Is Good”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 119:71.**

I. What Is Guilt & Why Do We Have It?

- **Guilt:** refers to the sense of having done something wrong. It is a state of being guilty before God or a state of being guilty or ashamed before people and community. (DiFransico, L. (2014). *Guilt*. In D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*.)
- When We Are Guilty Of Sin- **Ezekiel 18:19-20; Ezra 10:10-12.**
- If We Have A Conscience Of Right And Wrong, A Tender Heart, And A Strong Desire To Please God— Then, We Properly Have Feelings Of Guilt.
- Guilt Brings Shame, Remorse, Regret, Disgrace, Weeping, & Mourning.
 - Ezra Mourned For Israel’s Sin- **Ezra 10:6.**
 - Peter Wept Bitterly- **Matthew 26:75.**

II. Guilt Can Lead Us To Repentance.

- **2 Corinthians 7:8-11.** It Gets Us To Do The Right Thing— Repent!
- **Acts 2:37-38.**
- **Acts 8:18-24.**

III. Guilt Can Be Deterrent From Committing Sin.

- **Deterrent:** a thing that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.
- When We Know That Sin Will Bring Us Shame And Guilt, We Should Avoid It!
- Why We Preach On The Awfulness Of Sin! “Pull No Punches!” In Boldness With Love.
 - **Ephesians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:15.**
- Why The Unrepentant Will Avoid Going To Church To Hear Sermons On Sin.
 - **John 3:19-20; John 16:7-8; Acts 24:24-25.**

IV. Guilt Can Give Us A Heart That Desires To Please God.

- **Psalm 51:7-10; Ezekiel 18:30-31.**
- **Luke 7:36-48.**
- What If We Harden Our Heart To Our Guilt? **Ephesians 4:19; Proverbs 29:1.**

V. Guilt Can Keep Us From Arrogance And Pride.

- **Luke 18:13-14.** The Tax Collector’s Guilt Humbled Him Before God!
- **Luke 7:44.** She Was Also A Great Example Of Humility!

VI. We Should All Seek To Be Free From Guilt— From Sin...

- **1 Peter 3:20-21.**
- It’s Why Jesus Says, “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved*” (**Mark 16:16**).

“When Discontent Is Good”

Lesson Text: **Acts 17:16-17.**

I. What Is Contentment? What Is Discontentment?

- **Contentment** - a resting or satisfaction of mind without disquiet. It is "internal satisfaction which does not demand changes in external circumstances."
(Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
- **Discontentment**- lack of satisfaction with one's possessions, status, or situation :
lack of contentment. (Webster).
- The Bible Teaches Us To Be Content- **Luke 3:14; Philippians 4:10-11;**
1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5.
- We Should Not Be Discontent In:
 - In Our Identity Or Who We Are— **1 John 3:1.**
 - In Our Jobs— **Colossians 3:22-24.**
 - In Our Possessions/Wealth— **Luke 12:15; Ecclesiastes 5:10-11.**
 - In Our Marriages— **Ephesians 5:25-33.**
 - In the Legitimate Pleasures of Life— **Hebrews 11:25; Ecclesiastes 2:24.**

II. Why Discontentment Is Good For Us.

- So We May Make Needed Changes To Be Right With God. **Philippians 3:4-8.**
- So We Stay Active In The Work, And Not Rest On Our Past Accomplishments.
- So That We Don't Grow Weary And Quit- **Galatians 6:9.**

III. Who Needs Discontentment? And Why?

- The Sinner With His Sin. **James 4:8-10.**
- The Follower Of False Religion. **Acts 19:21-41.**
- Every Follower Of Righteousness. **Matthew 6:33; 2 Timothy 2:22; Matt. 5:6.**
- The Christian Growing In Christ. **Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:2-3.**
- The Church In Converting The Lost. **Acts 17:16-20; Rom. 1:14-16; Mark 1:17.**