

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
[MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com](http://MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com)

May 2, 2021

### **“A Walk Pleasing To God”**

By Bobby K. Thompson

*“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that you walk and please God, so that would abound more and more.”*  
(1 Thessalonians 4:1)

It is important to please God (Galatians 6:10). Without faith it is impossible (Heb. 11:6). We should be concerned with a walk pleasing in the sight of God.

The service of a Christian is represented in the Scriptures by a number of different figures. A building, a vineyard, a race, and a walk are but a few of these figures. The life and conduct of a Christian is often referred to in the figure of a walk.

The apostle Paul was admonishing the brethren at Thessalonica to walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord. This should be our desire and such must be our desire if we hope to live with the Lord in eternity.

If Our walk is to be pleasing to the Lord we must:

#### **(1) Walk With God.**

Two individuals in the Scriptures are said to have walked with God. We have reference to Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Noah (Genesis 6:8-9). Both are referred to in Hebrews 11 as being men of faith and their deeds being motivated by their faith in God. Walking with God also indicates communion and agreement. The prophet Amos asked the question, “*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*” (Amos 3:3). The man who treasures his wisdom above the wisdom of God will never walk with God. Those of us who profess walking with Him need to carefully watch our actions and manner of life. It is highly possible for us to get ahead of God and be guilty of presumption. Moses was guilty of presumption when he struck the rock in the desert of Zin rather than speaking to it (Numbers 20).

We may even find ourselves following afar off as the apostle Peter did and later warming ourselves at the devil’s fireside (Mark 14:54,67). The meaning of the preposition “with” should be appropriated in our everyday walk, if it is to be pleasing to God.

#### **(2) Walk Before God.**

The emphasis is upon the word “before.” We need to be constantly aware of the fact that we are in the presence of God. Our lives are to stand the inspecting eye of the Lord. The Hebrew writer stated: “*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*” (Hebrews 4:13)

Abram was directed of the Lord to walk before Him: “*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.”*” (Genesis 17:1).

Hezekiah reminded the Lord, “*and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.”*” (Isaiah 38:3).

Rather than walk before Him, as men should, we often try to walk before God as we do before men. We have been guilty of viewing God in the manner mentioned by the Psalmist: “*You thought that I was altogether like you;*” (Psalm 50:21).



Man hides from other men and tries to hide from God, but in vain (Genesis 3:8). People deceive one another and they attempt to deceive God, but God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7).

How often people are slack in their promises and in turn they get to thinking that God is the same. The apostle Peter states that the Lord “*is not slack concerning His promise.*” (2 Peter 3:9 KJB). He is not in any respect slack concerning the fulfillment of His promises.

Sinful man bribes his fellowman and the success that he encounters motivates him to think he can do the same to God.

Some people view sin as not being so terrible and they stifle their consciences to the point of feeling that God feels the same way. All such thinking is vanity!

We need to walk before God with the reverent understanding that His thoughts and His ways are high above ours, as are the heavens above the earth (Isaiah 55:8-9). What are you doing now? The Lord knows. He knows even the thoughts of our hearts!

### **(3) Walk After God.**

The admonition to the children of Israel: “*You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.*” (Deuteronomy 13:4)

It is fatal to follow the wrong influence and teaching. The Scriptures abound in examples of those who did and the consequences that they had to pay.

In this age, walking after God means walking by faith in Christ (2 Cor. 5:7), in the commandments of the Lord (1 John 5:3; Luke 1:6), in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4), after the Spirit (Romans 8:1), and in the narrow way (Matthew 7:13-14).

Have you checked your walk lately? A walk pleasing to God involves walking “with” and walking ”before” and walking “after” God.

Think on this!

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## **“Mote Hunting”**

By David Posey

In His condemnation of hypocritical judging, Jesus speaks of one who beholds the mote in another’s eye, but fails to consider the beam in his own eye (Matthew 7:3). What unusual moral vision! When focused outwardly it is able to discern the smallest speck; yet, when looking inwardly, it cannot discern that which should be most obvious.

Our Lord is, of course, pointing out the need for self-discipline in verse 5, “*Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.*” What a tremendously important lesson this is! But what He touches on may be worthy of consideration too; namely—“mote beholding!”

Obviously, the act of mote beholding, in itself, is not wrong for it is simply the act of perceiving or seeing the “mote”, whatever it might be. When this occurs, providing we have “debeamed” ourselves, we can help (see clearly) to cast out the mote from another’s eye.

If however, we are not careful, the “mote beholding” easily deteriorates into “mote hunting” or looking for fault in others, especially with a view of hurting or discrediting them in some way. The Christian who deliberately looks for something to criticize in another has, in that disposition alone, a personal “beam” in their own eye. I’m sorry to say, “mote hunting” is more popular than “beam hunting.”

In fact, most of us have likely indulged in the practice to some extent. Ill-will, prejudice, and envy (things which we are all susceptible) can easily send us on a mote hunt, if we are not careful.

If one has wronged us, we are inclined to search out and exploit the “motes” of their conduct and speech. Even the smallest conflict or controversy can motivate mote hunting.

And when folks start looking for and advertising the bad in each other, look out! You will see what we are seeing in many places today: hate, enmity, strife, and division. And such ungodly attitudes often cripple the cause of Christ.

The answer? “*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself,....*” (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

**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, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad). Special prayers for all the Harris family to recover from the Covid.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "If I Miss Heaven, Who Can I Blame?"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Fred Johnson  
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
Page 19, Question #1

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Dan Cottrell  
*Hebrews 12:1-2*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "What Direction Are You Looking?"  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**May 5th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)  
Page 17, Question #1  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Russell Briggs

# ***"If I Miss Heaven, Who Can I Blame?"***

**BLAME:** "to hold responsible; find fault with; censure:  
to place the responsibility for (a fault, error, etc.) (usually followed by *on*):"

## **I. Can I Blame God?**

- John 3:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 2 Peter 3:9.
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## **II. Can I Blame Jesus?**

- Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:9; John 15:13; John 14:1-6; Mark 16:15-16.
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## **III. Can I Blame The Holy Spirit?**

- John 16:12-14; 1 Cor. 2:11-16; Rev. 2:7(7 times); Rev. 22:17; 1 Peter 1:22.
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## **IV. Can I Blame The Brethren?**

- James 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
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## **V. Can I Blame The Angels?**

- Hebrews 1:14; Luke 15:10; Acts 8:26; Acts 11:13-14.
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## **VI. Can I Blame The Devil?**

- James 1:12-15; James 4:7-10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 2:11.
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## **VII. Can I Blame The False Teacher?**

- Matthew 7:15; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.
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## **VIII. Can I Blame Myself?**

- Ezekiel 18:20; James 1:12-15; Galatians 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8; Acts 2:40.
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# ***“What Direction Are You Looking?”***

Introduction: **Matthew 11:3; Matt. 12:2; Luke 7:19-20; Acts 3:1-8.**

## **I. Some Look Downward.**

1. An Attitude of Looking At “Earth-Life” Only.
  - **2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 Corinthians 15:16-20; 1 Cor. 15:30-32.**
2. An Attitude of Despair—Pessimistic—Gloomy—Looking Down Always.
  - **Genesis 4:3-5; Nehemiah 2:1-3; Ruth 1:19-22.**
  - **Psalm 42:1-11.**

## **II. Some Look Upward.**

1. A Positive Attitude—Optimist—Joyful— **Phil. 4:4.**
2. An Attitude of Looking Above For Direction/Salvation.
  - **Hebrews 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-4.**
  - **Luke 21:28—Acts 1:9-11—1 Thess. 4:16-18.**

## **III. Some Look Inward.**

1. An Attitude of Self-Reliance.
  - William Ernest Henley’s Poem- “*Invictus*. ”
  - A Stark Contrast to **2 Corinthians 5:15; Mark 10:45.**
  - **Proverbs 3:5-7.**

## **IV. Some Look Outward.**

1. An Attitude Of Concern/Help For Others.
  - **Philippians 2:2-4.**
  - **Galatians 6:10.**

## **V. Some Look Backward.**

1. Looking Back At Life—Reminisce—Retrospect.
  - Nothing wrong with that, as long we still are looking forward.
  - “*Precious Memories*” Song would be un-Scriptural, if we can’t!
  - Some Things Should Be Forgotten- **Philippians 3:13.**
  - We Should Never Look Back Spiritually- **Luke 17:32.**

## **VI. Some Look Forward.**

1. Looking Forward To The Future—Anticipation—Hope.
  - We NEED Something To Look Forward To In Life.... **Philippians 3:14.**
  - The Hope In Christ looks Forward- **Titus 2:11-14.**
  - **2 Peter 3:10-14.**

### **Invictus**

BY WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.