

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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The Five Classes of Lost People #1

By Brian Meade

There are certain classifications of how (or why) people in the world are lost in sin. Sin allures and entangles us for different reasons. That's why Satan uses different lures for different people— to draw them to sin and stay in his kingdom.

I. The Truly Wicked & Immoral.

Everyone in the world has sinned at one point or another (Rom. 3:23; I John 1:8-10), but there are those who truly love the pleasures and advantages that sin brings to their lives. They are truly wicked and immoral through and through! They are like the ones mentioned in Proverbs 2:14-15, *“Who delight in doing evil and rejoice in the perversity of evil; whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.”* (NASB)

Paul spoke of those in the New Testament, *“who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”* (Ephesians 4:19 NKJB)

We often wonder how it is that anyone could have no guilt and shame enough to stop their sinful behavior? But they have given their lives over to it and sin has hardened their heart to the point that they have no intention of stopping.

In times past, God gave over to uncleanness those who would not repent (Romans 1:24-32), and even dealt severely with sin in Noah's day because, *“...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”* (Genesis 6:5). Also, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God, *“...having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”* (Jude 1:7) May it never be that our heart is *only* full of wickedness & immorality!

II. The Unbeliever Who Disbelieves God.

1. The Fact that God Exists.

If we are ever going to reach the one who disbelieves in the existence of God, we must first focus on the fact that God is (Hebrews 11:1-6). We must show them that true Bible faith in the existence of God is not *“wishful dreaming”* or *“fairy tale religion”*— but based on facts! Hebrews 11:1, states it as the *“substance”* (KJB) or *“assurance”* (NASB) of what we hope for in God, and *“the evidence* (conviction, NASB) *of things not seen.”* (KJB) Hence, there are facts and evidences that point to what we do not see and handle with our senses. Therefore our faith in God is not blind or

misguided merely by feelings— but based on real substance that leads us to a conviction and real assurance in God. (Acts 17:23-31)

2. It is Not Logical to Deny God.

It is a fact that real science is based on what is reasonable and logical for us to believe and not merely what we want the outcome to be. Because the fact remains that something cannot come from nothing, therefore it is logical to believe God created the universe and all we see around us (Genesis 1:1-27). Otherwise, we would have to believe that from random chance and chaos came into being order and design. That would actually require more faith than the existence of a Creator— God who intelligently and purposely ordered us into existence (Psalm 8:3; Psalm 136:5-9).

After examining all the evidence.....truly, *“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”* (Psalm 14:1)

GOSPEL MEETING

**Meeks Street Church
of Christ**

With Billy Randolph

October 15th – 20th

7:00 P.M. Nightly

III. The Moral Who Are Not Saved.

There are many who think that all it takes to be right in God’s sight is to be morally good. This concept of salvation is based on the assumption that as long as a person’s good outweighs their bad; they are in a saved condition. They profess, *“After all, God would not punish me....I pay my taxes, I tell the truth and not lies, I am faithful to my spouse, I don’t use alcohol or drugs, and I do my best to be a good person!”*

But the problem with this assumption is that it is NOT based on fact! All that one does morally cannot justify or atone for even one sin we have committed (Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-9). God does not *grade on the curve* with respect to salvation and thus we cannot work our own way of salvation— apart from God’s way. We are lost without God!

If moral goodness alone could save, then why did Cornelius send for Peter? — *“who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.”* (Acts 11:14) As we read about Cornelius’ character in Acts 10:2, we are impressed that he was, *“a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”* Yet despite all his moral goodness, Cornelius still needed to obey the gospel to be saved! (Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48).

Again, if moral goodness alone could save, then why did Jesus need to go to the cross and die for our sins? (Isaiah 53:5-12; Matt. 26:28) But Jesus died to secure the way for all to come to God for salvation. Through His blood we are saved and that only! But we must obey the gospel to be saved by Jesus’ blood (Acts 2:38; II Thess. 1:7-9).

News and Notes: sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, LuAnne Parrish, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Joe & Tommie Nell Roberts, Delain Doles, Barbara Doles, Kerrie Anne Barnett, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Crystal Harris, & Anna Hearn, Judy King is back in the hospital (ICU), and we mourn the loss of Crate Meade (Brian's Dad).

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Adam Harris
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"Why We Do Not Have a Church Kitchen or Fellowship Hall"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Fred Johnson

Announcements: Paul Johnson

Lord's Table: Paul Busby
Assisting: Sam Johnson & Tony Whittemore

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Dan Cottrell

Song Leader: Paul Busby
Song Service: Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19
Invitation: Brian Meade

Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 27^h

Auditorium Bible Class: Brian Meade
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs