

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Churchatcorinth.com

Meeksstreetchurchofchrist.com

September 10, 2017

If Church Was a.....

By Mike Thomas

The greatest privilege we will ever have is worshipping God. A touching scene from the book of Revelation is when the *“twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power” (4:10-11).*

Certainly this illustrates what is true of all who understand the privilege of worshipping God. Unfortunately, the temptation can be strong to lose sight of that as we respond to the various events of life (Luke 8:14).

If we are not careful, we can let the slightest incident convince us to disobey God’s command to *“not forsake the assembling of ourselves together....”* (Hebrews 10:25).

Ironically, we would not let those same excuses keep us from doing other things we deem important.

I wonder, if church was a.....

Job, would we get fired? What chance would we have of keeping our job if we showed up only 20%- 50% of the time to work? And we missed work, not that something hindered us, but because we just didn’t want to go to the office. How would our boss feel about our lack of attendance at our job?

School, would we fail? Would we let our children miss school most of the time or attend only when they felt like it? Could we honestly expect them to pass tests and make good grades if they missed more classes than they attended? Would they miss valuable instruction time and key information they are not getting while absent?

We should understand these two illustrations enough to know better!



It is a common misconception that the building where the church meets is often called the church. But when we examine the scriptures on how the word church is used— we see it always refers to God’s people who are gathered together. Notice these scriptures that help us to see the proper role the people have as God’s church (the congregation or assembly).

(1) Acts 2:47,

“Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

God was not adding on to the church as a building project, but adding the saved people to His church. The saved are God’s people (Ephesians 5:23-27).

(2) Acts 5:11, *“So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”*

Is it the building that had great fear or the people of God? Buildings cannot have fear, only people can. (Matt. 14:30; Acts 5:5; Acts 24:25)

(3) Acts 8:3,

“As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.”

Was Saul making “havoc” by busting the stained glass windows or tearing down the walls of their building? The answer is in the verse itself— “dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.”

(4) Acts 11:22,

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.”

Does the building have ears? Next time you are at the building, walk around and look for ears on the building. Now we know people have ears (Mark 4:23; Mark 7:16). We are taught to listen to God (Matt. 7:24; Rom. 10:17).

(5) Acts 12:5,

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”

Who was praying for Peter? Was it the building or the people of God?

We know prayer is offered by Christians (I Thessalonians 5:25; Romans 15:30).

Buildings cannot pray for anyone, but people can and do pray for each other.

We conclude with the words of Paul concerning the people of God at Ephesus, *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*

The church is a spiritual building of God, but not one literally.

Hence, it is the people of God who are the “living stones” of 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.”*

GOSPEL MEETING

Meeks Street Church
of Christ

With Billy Randolph

October 15th – 20th

7:00 P.M. Nightly

The Wrath of God

#3 It Is a Righteous Wrath

(1) God's righteous wrath is different from the unrighteous wrath of man.

"For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (James 1:20) Man's wrath does not have high moral nature that God's wrath has. Men will often display wrath when it is undeserved; one of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:20 is *"outbursts of wrath."*(NKJB)

(2) God will do what is right, just, and fair.

"That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25) God will do right in the execution of His wrath on sin. It is precisely His indignation against sin that makes it right, just, and fair. Some accused God of unfairness in the Old Testament times of Ezekiel 18:20-25, but such was not the case. God said, *"The soul who sins shall die."* (Ezekiel 18:20) It is perfectly right, just, and fair for God to punish the workers of iniquity (Acts 17:30-31).

(3) No one will be punished who doesn't deserve it.

Notice in Revelation 20:12-13, *"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds."* Because God knows our works and deeds (Rev. 2:19; 3:15) therefore judgment will be according to our works (II Cor. 5:10), and thus no one can say, *"No, I didn't do that!"*

Brian Meade

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, Crate Meade, Kerrie Anne Barnett, Judy King, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Crystal Harris (surgery), Anna Hearn (surgery), Jim Allen (sick), and remember the families of Tony Allen (Jim Allen's nephew) and Patti Blackburn (Dianne's sister).

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris, Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Jesus' View of the Scriptures"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

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

Announcements: Paul Johnson

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

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Exodus 5:1-2

Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "The Authority of God"

Closing Prayer: Fred Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 13th

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris, Sr.