

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The High Cost Of Disobedience”

By Brian Meade

A few weeks ago we looked at the cost of obeying Jesus and the words that He had said to those “would-be” followers. Jesus wanted them to know the true cost associated with devotion to Him. He basically told them that they had to pay a price and sacrifice in living for Him; and they needed to think whether they were willing to pay it from the start (Luke 14:25-33).

But unlike our discussion today, Jesus would richly reward the true disciple of His with blessings and eternal life—the opposite is true with paying the price for disobedience.

There is no good reward or happy ending for a life that seeks to disobey God. There were many times when Jesus warned those who might choose a life of rebellion and dereliction of duty—that it came with so severe a price that they should never even want to go in that direction!

We need to be reminded from the start what devotion to sin will do to our lives spiritually and eternally. So, let’s look at sin’s high cost....

I. Disobedience To Christ Makes Us A Slave To Satan.

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32). This truth is still relevant to our lives today, as we need to be free from Satan’s enslavement. But what if we deliberately choose to go the other way of sin, self, and arrogance toward Christ?

Well, that’s exactly what Jesus called out the religious leaders for doing in the next few verses, *“They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

(John 8:33-36). Jesus exposed the fact that they were not really acting like the descendants of Abraham because they wanted to kill Him (John 8:37-40).

Their high cost of rejection of Jesus is given in John 8:24, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* Disobedience comes in different forms and for different reasons, but it still leads us to the same destiny— without eternal life.

We preach the gospel, or the “good news” of freedom from sin, to many people today who need a Savior. Many can be described like what Paul said in Titus 3:3, *“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”*

Many are deceived into thinking they are free in a life of sin, but nothing could be further from the truth!



They may call themselves “freethinkers” and talk of not being bound in serving God. Others may think God’s way of moral purity and godly living is just too restrictive for anyone to live that way. But all the while Satan has them bound, “Lock, stock, and barrel!” He has them serving him heartily, everyday.

But the sad reality is, that some Christians will once again be enslaved to the sinful way of life they left previously. Now I am speaking directly to those who have in the past been set free by the gospel, and need encouragement not to leave Christ for sin’s pleasures. We who know the truth, understand that it is entirely possible to leave Christ and go back out into the world (1 Thessalonians 3:5; 2 Timothy 4:10).

Peter warned the Christians of his day about some, *“For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”* (2 Peter 2:18-19). I want you to notice the empty promise they make when they promise “liberty” or “freedom” (NASB;ESV). We should think long and hard before we ever follow the error of those who are “slaves of corruption.”

Notice what Peter says the end for those who do so, *“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”* The condition of being “entangled again and overcome” says that they are not in a right condition and thus are lost!

If obedience to Christ makes us free from the bondage of sin (John 8:32; Romans 6:17-18), why then, would we ever want to go back to that life of wretched enslavement? We need to count the cost of such disobedience!

Jesus said, *“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”* (Luke 9:62)

II. Giving Our Life Over To Sin’s Pleasure Costs Us Too Much!

As many are choosing every day how they will live their life, they need to look at the high cost for the momentary pleasures sin can bring them. I am convinced that many push aside the severe consequences of sin’s actions out of their thinking in order to pursue such lifestyles of disobedience.

Jesus said, *“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’* He goes on to talk about our foot or eye causing us to sin, with the same need to do whatever it takes (not literally) to remove the cause of sin in our lives (Mark 9:43-47).

The question we really need to look at is, WHY? Because the cost of sin is so great that we should see the obvious point He is making here—Going to the lake of fire is the price one pays for disobeying God.

You may have heard preachers say, “Hell is too hot! Eternity is too long! And Heaven is too beautiful to miss because of sin’s pleasures!” Those are the words of counting the cost of where sin will take us.

Jesus used that same reasoning when He said, *“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Mark 8:35-37).

Many who are choosing their path in life need to consider, “Yes, I can live as a fornicator, an adulterer, a drunkard, a liar, a gambler, a thief, or other such sins that the Bible calls the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-21), but what is the price for such a lifestyle? Paul says in Galatians 5:21, *“of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* To give up the eternal for the temporary is too high a price to pay!

In the years that I have been preaching the gospel, I have talked to several people about their soul and the need for Jesus as their Savior. I have some respond favorably and I have had some not respond so well to the truth they needed. I had one man tell me, “I have lived my life this way for so long, that it would be just too hard to change.” But I will never forget what one man said to me. He told me, “I know I’m going to Hell for the things I am doing, but I’m willing to pay the price for it.” That is the wrong choice to make.

Moses made the right choice in Hebrews 11:24-26, *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”*

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandra Oliver, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Ricky Ferrell, and Wesley Trimble.

Our Gospel Meeting is only 2 weeks away!
April 3-6 with Larsen Plyler.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Sam Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Christian And Giving"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)
Page # 13 Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Russell Briggs
Psalm 148:13-14
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Lord, Teach Us To Praise"*
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 23rd:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #15 Question #19*
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Doug George

“The Christian And His Giving”

Lesson Text: **2 Corinthians 9:6-7.**

There Are At Least 4 Kinds Of Givers:

1. The Covetous Giver- Who Gives, But Regrets It.
2. The Unteachable Giver- Who Gives, But Resents Any Teaching On Giving.
3. The Ignorant Giver- Who Needs Instruction On Giving.
4. The Generous Giver- Who Gives Liberally And Cheerfully.

I. The Nature Of Giving:

- It Is A “Grace.” **2 Corinthians 8:7.**
- It Is An Act Of Worship **Acts 2:42.**
- It Is An Act Of Love **2 Corinthians 8:24.**

II. The Motives For Giving.

- It Is A Divine Command **1 Corinthians 16:1-2.**
- To Advance The Work of the Kingdom **2 Corinthians 11:9.**
- To Help Others **2 Corinthians 8:4.**
- To Develop Spirituality in the Christian **2 Corinthians 9:11; Luke 16:10-12.**
- To Lay A Foundation For The Time To Come- **1 Tim. 6:18-19; Matt. 6:19-21.**
- To Please God- **Hebrews 13:16.**

III. What Hinders The Christian’s Giving.

- Materialism.
- Greed.
- Covetousness.
- Too Many Debts.
- Selfishness.
- The Cure For These Hindrances Is Simply Be A Devoted Christian **2 Cor. 8:5.**

IV. The Christian And Giving In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

- **Periodically-** *“On the first day of every week.”* (NASB)
- **Personally-** *“Let each one of you”* (NKJB)
- **Providently-** *“Lay by him in store”* (KJB)
- **Proportionate-** *“As he may prosper”* (NASB; NKJB;KJB)
- **Preventive-** *“So that no collections be made when I come.”* (NASB)

V. The Christian And Giving In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

- **Not Sparingly, But Bountifully** (Vs. 6).
- **Purposefully-** *“As he has purposed in his heart”* (Vs. 7).
- **From The Heart-** Vs. 7; *“Nor grudgingly or under compulsion.”* (See Vs. 5).
- **Cheerfully-** *“for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (Vs. 7).

“Lord, Teach Us To Praise”

Lesson Text: Psalm 148:1-14.

1. Praise defined: *“The undistracted, uninterrupted emptying of our breath and All our being in Adoring God.”*
2. Collective Worship To Praise God:
 - Everything Is To Be Tuned In To God.
 - All The Assembly Is Fully Focused On God- **Psalm 89:7.**
3. Praise Involves The Whole Person:
 - Our Voice, Eyes, Hands, Ears, Countenance, breath (the physical side)
 - Heart, Mind, Emotions, Will, & Intellect (the spiritual side)
4. Man Has A Dual Nature- Body and Spirit- **Gen. 2:7; John 4:23-24; 1 Cor. 14:15.**
5. Giving Praise To God Is A Sacrifice- **Hebrews 13:15.**
6. It Is Also What Flows From Our Gratitude- **Psalm 100:4-5.**
7. The Paradox: We Come To Empty Ourselves To Be Filled!
8. New Testament Praise- **Ephesians 5:18-19.**

What We Learn From Jesus About Praise.

1. We Need To Assemble Regularly To Praise God- **Hebrews 2:10-12.**
 - When We Miss Services, Do We Ever Consider The Lack of Praise?
 - Jesus Risked His Life To Go The Temple- **John 11:56.**
 - Have We To Fear Danger To Come Praise God?
 - How Is Our Praise Life? (Prayer Life)
2. Be Sincere And Genuine In Praise To God- **Matthew 21:14-16.**
 - These “babes” Were More Sincere Than These Jews.
 - Do We Want Sincere Praise or Compliments from Others? Or Insincere?
 - We Must Avoid Lip-Service In Praise To God- **Matthew 15:8.**
 - For Praise To Be Sincere, It Needs To Heart Felt.
3. Empty Our Mind Of Distractions- **Matthew 14:23.**
 - We Must Make A Deliberate, Intentional Choice Be Free From Distractions.
 - A Great Challenge For New Parents, Teenagers, And Older Alike!
 - How Can Self Get In The Way? **Luke 11:5; 1 Corinthians 11:20-22.**
4. Prepare Our Heart And Body To Praise God— **Luke 6:45.**
 - **James 3:9-10.** We Cannot Swear Like A Sailor All Week & Then Praise God On Sunday!
 - **1 John 2:15-** Also, We Cannot Love the World And Truly Praise God.
 - And Do Not Stay Up All Night Saturday And Expect To Truly Praise God.
 - **Acts 2:46-47** — Think About What We Are Thankful For!