

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“TRUST”

by Whit Sasser

“If a man gives to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep safe, and it dies or is injured or is driven away, without anyone seeing it, an oath by the Lord shall be between them both to see whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. The owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not make restitution.”
(Exodus 22:10-11).

In a culture where truth is seen as relative, it is difficult at times to take others at their word. When the very nature of truth is in question, how shall we believe anyone? No one wants to be gullible. Yet consider what the Lord expected of His people. If one makes an oath that he did not, in this case, harm his neighbor's property, then that was enough. The man's word was to be accepted. No further action was required.

Among Christians especially, we know we are to be people of our word (James 5:12), and we are also to be people of love who bear, believe, hope, and endure all things (I Corinthians 13:7). Start with the best assumptions. Believe the best of another. Assume the person is telling the truth. Don't be so suspicious of everyone. This is difficult because cynicism has become so ingrained in our culture.

This doesn't mean we are to be gullible, but it does mean we may be vulnerable and we can get hurt. The problem is that we can let how one person hurt us bleed over into other relations so that we trust no one. This can turn us into angry, bitter people who no longer know how to love. God does not want that for us.

There is no way to have loving relationships and fellowship if we are not willing to show trust. In a fellowship of believers, especially, we ought to be trusting and willing to assume the best of our brothers and sisters. A yes means yes, a no means no, and those words ought to be sufficient for us.



“From Bad To Good”

by Mike Johnson

Text: Philippians 1:12-14

Paul Arrives in Rome in Chains **Acts 28:15-16**

Paul wrote the book of Philippians while in prison. His trial had probably already taken place, and he seemed to be waiting for the verdict. It appears he expected to be released but was uncertain about it. Paul, no doubt, did not enjoy being imprisoned. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note his attitude in Philippians 1:12. Here he said, *“Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.”* (NASB)

One would think that Paul's imprisonment would have hindered the gospel. Instead, it did the opposite; it caused the “furtherance” (NKJV) of the gospel. How did this happen? How did bad turn into good? Paul gives us an answer in the text.

The Gospel Spread

First, in Philippians 1:13, he said, “*So that my bonds in Christ are manifest* (‘become well known,’ NASB) *in all the palace, and in all other places.*” Paul’s imprisonment had given him the chance to preach the gospel in Rome. It had given the gospel publicity during his trial that it would not otherwise have gotten.

Paul always seemed to make the best of whatever circumstance he found himself in. (Consider his attitude on another occasion when he was unjustly arrested. Acts 16:23-40). What happened to Paul was very bad. An event like this would cause most people to want to “give up,” especially if, like Paul, their tribulation was for doing right instead of doing wrong. However, Paul made the best of this unfortunate situation. He saw it as a chance to preach the gospel in other places.

Today, we must learn to make the best out of adversity. We must use hardships for whatever good we can. The problem may be sickness, persecution, or loss of loved ones. Whatever difficulty exists, we can always gain from it. Also, like Paul, we should take advantage of all kinds of situations and teach others. Who would have thought Paul could have turned his difficult situation into an opportunity to teach others?

The Influence of Paul

The second reason Paul gave to indicate how his imprisonment had helped further the gospel is in Philippians 1:14. This verse says, “*and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*” Paul’s courage inspired others to proclaim God’s Word boldly. You might say Paul’s good traits “rubbed off” on others. Courage is sometimes contagious. Often one person standing up in a complacent world and doing what is right can inspire many others to do right. People often want to do what is right, but they need a leader to get them started. Paul was such a person—we can also be. However, it takes courage to do this, and sometimes a person must stand alone. All of us have more influence on others, for good or bad, than we realize.

Summation

Many bad things happen to us. However, the Christian can use tribulation to his advantage. Romans 5:3 tells us tribulation (generally looked upon as bad) produces patience (which we need). Difficulties can be a stumbling block or a stepping stone. It is up to us to turn adversity into an advantage. Paul’s outlook in Rome helps us to see this.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Danny Cottrell, Gary Doles, Joe Felks, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Melissa and Star (Miss Betty’s oldest daughter and granddaughter in law) Sherry Doles had a good report Friday. Fred Johnson Mayor of Farmington- Dale Fortenberry.

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Sam Johnson <i>John 14:27-29</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kenemur
Lord’s Supper:	Russell Briggs
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	“ <i>Jesus Gives Us Peace</i> ”
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

“Jesus Gives Us Peace”

Lesson Text: **John 14:23-29 (verse 27).**

- (1) Last speeches with the disciples before He goes back to the Father.
- (2) Jesus wants them to be prepared for the difficult times ahead of them.
- (3) He makes a vast distinction between what the world gives and His peace.

I. What Is This Peace Jesus Gives Us?

A. Webster: “a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relations.”

B. Gr. **eirene** “occurs in each of the books of the NT, save 1 John and save in Acts 7:26 [(at) one again] it is translated “peace” in the rv. It describes (a) **harmonious relationships between men**, Matt. 10:34; Rom. 14:19; (b) **between nations**, Luke 14:32; Acts 12:20; Rev. 6:4; (c) **friendliness**, Acts 15:33; 1 Cor. 16:11; Heb. 11:31; (d) **freedom from molestation**, Luke 11:21; 19:42; Acts 9:31 (rv, ‘peace,’ kjv, ‘rest’); 16:36; (e) **order, in the State**, Acts 24:2 (rv, ‘peace,’ kjv, ‘quietness’); **in the churches**, 1 Cor. 14:33; (f) **the harmonized relationships between God and man, accomplished through the gospel**, Acts 10:36; Eph. 2:17; (g) **the sense of rest and contentment consequent thereon**, Matt. 10:13; Mark 5:34; Luke 1:79; 2:29; John 14:27; Rom. 1:7; 3:17; 8:6.”

“**The God of peace**” is a title used in **Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20; cf. 1 Cor. 14:33; 2 Cor. 13:11.**

(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 464).

C. It Is God’s Character— Love, Joy, Peace.... Galatians 5:22; 2 Corinthians 13:11.

II. How Is It Different From The World’s Peace?

- A. Can The World Truly Give Us Peace? **John 16:33.**
- B. The World Doesn’t Want To Give Up Sin- **Romans 3:12-17; Galatians 5:19-21.**
- C. We Can Never Have Peace With The World— **Romans 12:1-2; John 15:18-20.**
- D. Christians Can Have Peace Even In Trials. In Suffering, and In Pain.
— Song: “*It Is Well With My Soul*” **Philippians 4:7.** The world doesn’t understand....

III. How Is Jesus The Prince Of Peace?

- A. **Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:14; Luke 19:36-42.**
- B. Our Perfect Example of Peace- **Mark 4:35-41.**
- C. Jesus Is The King of Peace- **Hebrews 7:2; 1 Timothy 6:15.**
- D. Jesus brought Peace To Jews And Gentiles- **Ephesians 2:11-18.**
- E. Jesus Reconciles Sinners To God- **Philippians 1:19-23.**
- F. Jesus Established A Kingdom of Peace- **Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 14:33.**
- G. Jesus is the Central Theme of Gospel of Peace- **Acts 10:36; Ephesians 6:15.**

IV. How Can You Have This Peace From Jesus?

1. By Living of the Gospel- **Romans 5:1; Matthew 5:9; Galatians 5:22-26.**
2. By Pursuing it with all men- **Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 3:11.**
3. By Praying For Our Enemies and going the “*extra mile*” **Luke 6:27-30.**
4. By Doing All We Can To Be Peaceable- **Romans 12:17-21; 1 Thess. 4:11-12.**

Conclusion: Philippians 4:2-9.