

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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July 25, 2021

“Mental Incinerators”

By F. Yater Tant

The whole world is aware of the accumulating mountains of waste and garbage threatening our planet. Air pollution, water pollution, land pollution are all becoming familiar terms. Every major city seems to be having problems with garbage disposal. We must find some way to handle the garbage, or it will finally overwhelm us.

The human body, like any well-ordered house, also has its garbage disposal equipment. Every time you expel a lung full of air you are throwing off poisonous elements that would very quickly destroy you if they were not discharged from the body.

The pores of your skin open up to emit from your system waste material which is deadly if allowed to accumulate. The digestive and urinary systems daily discharge waste materials which ordinarily would bring death to any human being if allowed to accumulate for only one short week.

But the mind of man has no such safeguard! Nature has provided us with "garbage disposal" equipment for the physical organism. What a pity that we do not come also equipped with some sort of mental incinerator where we could forever destroy the mental and emotional "garbage" which keeps on piling up, year after year, destroying our happiness, our effectiveness, and even perhaps destroying our chance of heaven! It is quite as important to keep the mind and heart in good condition as it is the house or the physical organism.

The physical body disposes of its poisonous waste materials quite automatically and as a matter of course. To remove the harmful garbage from the mind requires deliberate and specific effort toward that end. The Bible points the way:

1. ***“Thinketh no evil”*** is Paul's characterization of a loving heart. Does someone slight you at church? are some of your 'friends' saying hateful, spiteful things about you? Does your employer over-burden you with work? In short, are you abused, mistreated, unappreciated? What a sad and dreary spectacle is the man who is filled with self-pity! The easiest and best way to eliminate such from your life is to refuse its entrance in the first place! Put the best possible construction (instead of the worst) on the statement another may make concerning you.

But suppose the evil is there, open, glaring, and unmistakable. What then? The answer is simple: refuse to cherish or nourish the "hurt" you have received. Hatred in the heart is far more destructive and corrosive in its effects on the one who harbors it, more hurtful to the one who hates than it is to the object of the hatred.

2. ***“Forgetting those things that are past.”*** Every spring it used to be the custom of most housewives to have a "house-cleaning." Closets were cleaned out; rugs taken outside and beaten (how we used to hate that job!) blankets and quilts were washed and stored for the summer. It would be a most healthful practice if at regular intervals each person could make a list of all the things he needs to forget! Pull out the old grudges, harsh words, mistakes, and failures (and a lot of the successes, too!) and put them behind you. Put your fears and anxieties in the mental incinerator, and turn up the burners. Get rid of your old prejudices and childish animosities.

3. ***“Think on these things”*** are the words that follow the long catalog of healthful and productive items that should occupy the mind. The list (Philippians 4:8) is 'positive thinking' at its best. If the mind is filled with this kind of



"*whatsoever things*" the very presence of such thoughts will tend to nullify and cast out hurtful, lustful, fearful, sinful thoughts that otherwise might accumulate.

Consider Paul's encouraging words. "*In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:6-8)

So-o-o-o, maybe, after all, man **does** have that "mental incinerator," that device by which the poisonous and evil things that might contaminate the heart are destroyed and rendered innocuous.

At least, it is worth giving a try.

“The Nature of the Apostles’ Inspiration”

by Clarence Johnson

When Jesus sent the apostles out on what is sometimes called the limited commission to preach to the lost sheep of Israel. He told them, "*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. And you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you*" (Matthew 10:16-20).

Perhaps there are many lessons that might be gleaned from these verses, but we want to center our attention on the nature of the inspiration the apostles received from the Spirit of God. Notice that when they spoke by Divine inspiration, it was not necessary for them to plan ahead what they would say, or how to say it. The Holy Spirit was to reveal to them, not only some vague thoughts, but the precise words they were to speak.

This corresponds with the teachings of the apostle Paul concerning inspiration in I Corinthians chapter two. In I Corinthians 2:8-9, Paul indicates that those who crucified Christ did not and could not know the details of the marvelous gospel because God had not yet made those details known.

However, Paul then indicates that since the crucifixion, "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit." That is, Paul and the other inspired men had been selected to receive these revelations from God, and those same men were in the process of preaching and writing those truths for the benefit of mankind in general. Paul writes, "*We have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual*" (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

The American Standard translation renders that last phrase, "*combining spiritual things with spiritual words.*" God did not just reveal to them some vague thought and leave them to grope with how to put that thought across.

God gave them the exact words they were to preach and write.

Further, in Ephesians 3:3-4, Paul indicates that when we read what he wrote, we can know what he knew about Christ and His gospel. We commend that gospel to you. Read it, believe it, obey it, and be blessed by it.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

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 and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Nathan Meade
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Faithfulness Of God"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 44, Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Busby
	<i>Psalms 16:1-5</i>
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper:	Doug George
Assisting:	— —
Singing Service:	<i>Men of the Congregation Lead Singing</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 28th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #7, Question #2 True or False</i>
Invitation:	Russell Briggs
Song Leader:	Brian Meade
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Faithfulness Of God”

Lesson Text: **Lamentations 3:22-23.**

I. What Is Faithfulness?

A. Faithfulness- American College Dictionary.

1. Strict or thorough in the performance of duty.
2. True to one’s word, promise, vows, etc.
3. Full of or showing loyalty and fidelity.
4. That may be relied upon, trusted, or believed.

B. Greek word for faithful- “pistos”

— It is a verbal adjective used in two senses:

1. Faithful, to be trusted, reliable. (Passive)
2. Signifying believing, trusting, relying. (Active)

C. Semper Fi— Latin for “*Always Faithful.*”

II. The Faithfulness Of God Declared In Scripture.

A. In The Old Testament.

1. **Deuteronomy 7:9.**
2. **Lamentation 3:19-24. (Vs. 23)**
3. **Psalm 89:1-16.**

B. In The New Testament.

1. **1 Corinthians 10:13.**
2. **1 Thessalonians 5:24.**
3. **2 Timothy 2:13.**
4. **1 Peter 4:19.**

III. The Faithfulness Of God Demonstrated.

A. The Promise of the Flood- **Genesis 6:17-19; 7:13-19.**

B. The Promise of the The Earth Remaining- **Genesis 8:22; 9:11-16.**

C. The Promises Given to Abraham- **Genesis 12:1-3; 15:2-7; Joshua 23:14; Gal. 3:16.**

D. The Promise of the Coming Messiah- **Deut. 18:18-19; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23.**

E. The Promises of Rewards & Punishments For Israel- **Deut. 7:12-13—8:19-20.**

F. The Promises Fulfilled In Jesus’ Work & Kingdom- **Matt. 21:4; Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 2.**

IV. And Why That’s Important To Us.

1. As God Asks Of Us— Total Commitment, Devotion, & Sacrifices.
2. We Need To Know Of God’s Faithfulness To Trust Him Fully.
3. This Lesson, A Study of the Ample Evidence— *God is Faithful!*
4. He Will Keep All Future Promises... **2 Corinthians 1:18-20.**