

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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January 6, 2018

“The (True) Measure of a Man”

By Brian Meade

The measure of a man is not measured by the amount of silver, gold, or other earthly treasures he may acquire. For Our Lord plainly said, *“one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* (Luke 12:15)

Nor does eloquence of speech make him worth more than other men. And neither does popularity or prestige among his peers truly define who he is as a man.

But rather, the measure of a man is determined by the friendly character of his life toward others, that he never met a stranger that he didn’t get to know.

By the love of family and concern for them that guides his steps. It is the love of family that keeps him going in both the good times & the bad.

By the helping hand to a neighbor in need, and his eagerness to give any solution, from his knowledge, for the problem at hand.

But most importantly, it is his faith in the Creator of all things that gives him hope, a hope that money cannot buy.

It is the service of God that fills his heart with joy, a joy that cannot be taken away by the passing of years.

It is the life given to the service of others that determines the true measure of a man. As Jesus also said to the twelve, *“but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”* (Matthew 20:26)

In Memory of Delain Doles

The Author Of Confusion

By Drew Edwards

Fifteenth century philosopher Marsilio Ficino once posted, “In these times I don’t, in a manner of speaking, know what I want; perhaps I don’t want what I know and want what I don’t know.”



Jump forward six centuries, and things are even more confusing. We live in times where it is problematic to be white or black, smart or ignorant, straight or gay, male or female (or neither), father or mother, Christian or atheist, Republican or Democrat. And Satan is sitting back and having a really good laugh at all the trouble he has stirred up!

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:33 that, “*For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*”

Paul was addressing the spiritual gifts that were made manifest in the church at Corinth and reminding the members of that congregation to “*Let all things be done for edification*” (verse 26). He also reminded the church at Ephesus of the roles that exist within the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11) “*for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of faith.*” (vs. 12-13). Whether it was apostles or prophets (who ceased after the Word came) or evangelists, pastors (elders), or teachers the Lord gave the church clear roles for fulfilling specific purposes. This is exactly where Satan has worked (among other places) to muddy the waters.

Confusing Roles

Ask anyone today what a “pastor” is and they will immediately tell you it is their preacher. The Greek word used in Ephesians 4:11 is “*poimen*,” which means shepherd. Clearly the words pastor, elder (Acts 20:17), overseer (Acts 20:28), and shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) all mean the same thing and are interchangeable. “*Euaggelistes*,” the Greek word for evangelist in Ephesians 4:11, means “a bringer of good things.”

Some might argue that their preacher could be better in this role, but clearly the roles of pastors (elders) and evangelists (preachers) are delineated in the Scriptures. However, not only is there confusion, but also a willful ignorance on these proper roles; even among those who claim to be Christians! Most would just as soon have a preacher leading the church and not elders—because each person “wants a say” and doesn’t want to relinquish power to a few men. This is EXACTLY..... what Satan wants! Instead of a church set up like the Lord has prescribed in order to ward off danger, instead churches abandon issues like church discipline and spiritual leadership in the name of “fairness.” How blind have we become!

Also egregious has been the confusion created in homes and in society. “Being the man of the family” has a negative connotation because many are portrayed in entertainment and media as misogynistic, dim, and like cavemen—especially if they are religious. Marriage has now been redefined in this country and in many others as whatever society chooses it to be. There is no “head” or “leader” in relationships, if relationships are even there. There can be no truth or defined standard without something being called cultish or someone being labeled as a bigot.

Confusing Truth

Remember what Jesus said in John 8:32? “*You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*” Satan has created a lie that has stuck not only in society, but even in churches— that truth is inconsequential, because all of us are right or none of us are right. We have been brainwashed into thinking that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Nothing could be further from the truth!

What we so often get caught up in is the quest to “be right” instead of finding the truth! Solomon wrote in Proverbs 23:23, “*Buy the truth, and sell it not.*” Why? Because “wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” are vital to knowing God!

Paul warned of those, in 2 Timothy 4:4, who would “*turn away their ears from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*” This is because of those who “*changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.*” (Romans 1:25)

Who do you think is in the middle of all of this? The “*working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.*” (2 Thessalonians 2:9)

Is the religious division going on today the goal of God or the working of Satan? What men have in religious division is certainly not unity!

2 Timothy 2:15 reminds us to “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” We can know truth, if we know the Lord.

Notice what James 3:15-16 says about the wisdom that comes from the Devil, “*This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*”

Don't let Satan confuse you about this!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Pam Zeanah,
Prayers for Delain Doles' family
Prayers for James Thomas Woodruff's Family (Scott Dole's Father in Law)
Tom Holley had a stroke and is still having difficulties.
Connie Adams (Preacher in Ky) also had a stroke last week and is home & improving.
Jackie Richardson is recovering from by-pass surgery (December 26th).

A Singing will be held at the Helton Drive church in Florence, AL. (details in the foyer)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: “*A New Testament Study of Perfection*”

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson
The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Page 81, Question #16

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Adam Harris
Exodus 19:4-6
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Lord's Table: Paul Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: “*Who Are You? And What Are You Doing Here?*”
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 9th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
1 & 2 Chronicles (Mike Willis)
Page 36, Question #1
Invitation: Chris Callahan
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs