

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 21, 2026

“Except The Lord Builds The House...”

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

About 1000 years before Christ, David wrote, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.”* (Psalm 127:1). These words are as true today as they were when they were penned. Unless the Lord builds the house (i.e., one's family), then the work we do is in vain.

Men today say a family can include two men who marry one another or two women who marry one another. Some have said that polygamy is acceptable before God. Yet, when we read the Bible, we see that God has described who is to be married and why.

In the beginning, we find that God created man and woman, and these two, male and female, are the ones to be married (Genesis 2:18-25). This was God's intention from the beginning. So said Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6.

How can the Lord build your house? Is this some mystical saying wherein God chooses your mate for you? Of course, not. Allowing the Lord to build our house means allowing the Lord to take first place in our lives.

All that we do and say in our home must be based upon what the Lord has said (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11). When a husband and wife submit their lives to the Lord's will, He will then build the home, and they will be truly blessed.

When a man and woman determine that, no matter what, they are going to live as husband and wife for life (Matthews 19:6; Romans 7:2-3), then they are allowing God to build their home.

In contrast, our world says that marriage should last only as long as it is "convenient" for both partners. In fact, one widespread practice is children being brought into the world by parents who do not feel the "need" for being married. There are many people today just "playing house" (shacking up) with no consideration for marriage as God has defined and described it.

Sometimes people live this way because they allowed their passions to get out of control. What is beautiful within the relationship of marriage (1 Corinthians 7:2) was made ugly due to sin. Sometimes, this behavior is excused as a way to get a "tax break" or a larger check from the government. How terrible that we justify our sins in pursuit of money!

This is not only justified by younger folks, but also widowers and widows have justified their adultery in the name of, "I'll lose my SSI check if I get married." Such people need to get acquainted with 1 Timothy 6:10!

This society has forgotten the words of Scripture which say: *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4).

Still others wish to make things "legal" and be married, but they have either divorced for an unscriptural reason or are marrying someone who does not have the Scriptural right to be married (Matthew 5:32, 19:9). In such a case, they are not allowing the Lord to build their house, either!

God does not sanction sin or bless people spiritually for their wrongdoing. Since this is true, we know that someone trying to build their house in this way is doing it in vain! They are trying to build a house without God's authority (Matthew 7:21-23). In such cases, the result is hearing Christ's sentence on judgment day: "Depart from me"!

Psalms 127:1 ends by saying, "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." In other words, if we do not put our trust in the Lord and allow Him to rule us, then it is a vain thing to try to protect ourselves! This is true in a city, in a family, or in a country! (Remember, as goes the family, so goes the city, the state, and the nation!)

Therefore, if we think we can build a house, a city, or a nation without God, we are already defeated before we start. When thinking about God's protection, I like Benjamin Franklin's words.

More than 200 years ago, Benjamin Franklin stood before the Constitutional Convention and said, "I have lived, sir, a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth: that God governs the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Conclusion:

Are we trying to build our house without the Lord? If so, why are we doing this? David makes it clear that it is a waste of our time to do so. Friend, let us humble ourselves before God and accept His way of doing things. God loves us, and He always has our best interests in mind. When we try to build a house without the Lord, we will fail every time. If we are doing this now, let us come to our senses and repent (Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 13:3, 5)!

“DEAD SEA GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION”

By Joe R. Price

Israel's official X account posted the following at 3:00 AM · April 20, 2026:

"Pride rises at the lowest place on earth ?? This June the Dead Sea becomes Pride Land, the biggest LGBTQ+ festival ever in the Middle East. Four days of nonstop celebration community and connection. "Israel celebrates its LGBTQ+ community bigger than ever ??"

The irony is too rich to ignore. The once fertile plains of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were turned into a wasteland by fire and brimstone from heaven, are now set to host a massive gay pride event. The ancient devastation recorded in the Scriptures was God's punishment against their sins of fornication (homosexuality, i.e. "going after strange flesh," Jude 7; Gen. 19:24-25, 28-29).

Now, "Israel is set to host the Middle East's largest ever LGBT festival at the Dead Sea in June 2026" (The Jerusalem Post, "Four day pride festival to be held at Dead Sea, largest in history of Middle East," Esther Davis, April 19, 2026). This new festival is called "Pride Land" and "intends to transform the middle of the Judean Desert into a colorful pride city from June 1 to June 4."

Not content with a four-day spectacle, the organizers "hope to create a multigenerational 'Pride City,' not just a party celebrating pride" (Ibid.). Obviously, they have rejected the historical lessons of that region which God "set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7).

Pray for the souls who are caught up in these sins that they will repent, lest they join their predecessors in "suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (cf. Rom. 2:3-5).

Memory Verse of the Week:

Psalm 127:1 (NKJB)

“Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.”



Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billie Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), & Greg Fields (Brandi Meade's uncle with Pancreatic cancer).

Updates: Billie Grisham is in Dogwood Assisted Living, here in Corinth.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is home and doing some better, still needs our prayers.

Russell Briggs is recovering from surgery.

LuAnne Parrish is still at Tishomingo Manor for rehabilitation.

Lynlie Cottrell is at home recovering from her surgery.

Randall Oliver (Lynlie's dad) is recovering from surgeries to remove skin cancer.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Why Three Hebrew Men Could Not Bow Down"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Passing The Torch
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page 24, Question #10*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Conner Whittemore
Scripture Reading: *Daniel 4:7-9.*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"When The Faithless Ask Us For The Truth"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

June 24, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class: Brian Meade
Workbook: The Book Of Mark
Author: By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page #63, Question #4*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Nathan Meade
Closing Prayer: Fred Johnson



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“Why Three Hebrew Men Could Not Bow Down”

Lesson Text: **Daniel 3:1-30.**

I. Bowing Down Meant Going Against God’s Decree.

- **Daniel 3:7-12.**
- They Knew King Nebuchadnezzar's Decree- **Daniel 3:1-6**, But Could Not Bow!
- **Exodus 20:1-6.** That’s Why They Refused To Bow Down!
- They Respected God’s Word & Commandment! **Acts 5:29.**
- Today, We Still Respect The Lord’s Commands- **1 John 5:2-4.**

II. Bowing Down Meant Going Against Truth & Reality.

- **Daniel 3:13-17.** These Three Men Knew The Truth About Idolatry!
- It Wasn’t Just That God Said Not To Bow Down To Idols— They Weren’t Real!
– **Psalms 115:4-8; Habakkuk 2:18-20.**
- Idols Were Not Real Gods At All, And Thus Not Proper Objects Of Worship.
- Bowing Down Would Be A Lie Against The Truth! **Romans 1:20-25.**
- Bowing Down Would Give Credibility To The Idol As Legitimate Worship.

III. Bowing Down Meant Compromise Of Their Convictions.

- **Daniel 3:18.**
- Just Like In Daniel Chapter 1, Convictions Matter!
- This Time, It Is Daniel’s Friends Who Are Holding Fast To Their Beliefs!
- Some Will Have Convictions On Certain Things, But When Pressed Will Give Up...
– But Not These Three Men! They Were Willing To Die For Their Convictions.
- They Were Brave In Standing Firm In Their Convictions, They Knew What They Believed!
- We Must Too- **1 Corinthians 16:13.**

IV. Bowing Down Meant Punishment From Heaven’s King.

- **Daniel 3:19-24.** Notice Nebuchadnezzar’s Wrath.
- They Feared The God of Heaven’s Wrath More Than Nebuchadnezzar’s.
- **Psalms 27:1; 118:6; Matthew 10:28.**
- All Men Ought To Fear God More! **Hebrews 10:31.**

V. Bowing Down Meant No Influence For God Would Be There.

- **Daniel 3:28-30.**
- It Wasn’t Coincidence Or By Accident That They Were There In Babylon,
– It Was God’s Providence!
- They Were There To Influence Others For God! Much like, **Esther 4:14.**
- Who Else Would Have Stood Up To The King That Day, For God’s Side?
- Because Of Their Refusal To Bow Down, Idolatry Was Challenged, And God Was
– Shown To Be The Only True Object Worthy Of Worship.
- Could We Be Placed In Similar Situations To Help Others See The Wrongness Of
– Cultural Sins We Asked To Bow Down To Today? **Matthew 5:13-16** (Salt & Light).

“When The Faithless Ask Us For The Truth”

Lesson Text: **Daniel 4:1-36.**

I. The Faithless Sometimes Seek The Truth.

- **Daniel 4:4-18.**
- The World’s Wisdom Failed (Again).
- God Alone Had The Answer.
- Be Ready When People Seek Truth.

II. The Faithful Must Tell The Whole Truth.

- **Daniel 4:19-27.**
- Speak The Truth Courageously.
- Speak The Truth Lovingly.
- Never Soften God’s Message.
- Call Sinner’s To Repentance.

III. Pride Is The Greatest Enemy Of Faith.

- **Daniel 4:28-33.**
- Pride Ignores God.
- God Humbles The Proud- **Proverbs 16:18; 29:23.**
 - Two Examples: **2 Chronicles 32:24-26 and 33:21-23.**
- Humility Precedes Repentance. **Proverbs 18:12.**

IV. God’s Purpose Is Redemption.

- **Daniel 4:34-36.**
- God Restores The Humble.
 - Just As He Had Done For Manasseh in **2 Chronicles 33:10-13.**
- God’s Kingdom Is Everlasting.
- God Deserves All Glory.

V. Be Ready When The Door Opens.

- Tell The Whole Truth. **Acts 20:20-21; vs. 27.**
- Tell It With Compassion. **Ephesians 4:15; Mark 10:21.**
- Point People To Christ. **John 4:29; vs. 39.**
- Be Ready When God Opens Hearts.