

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 2, 2025

“The Culture Of No Consequences”

By David Hartsell

In the beginning, the Lord blessed man with a paradise garden to keep, trim, and enjoy. Only one prohibition was mentioned. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17).

If they ate, they would lose their place in the garden and forfeit their right to the "tree of life." They would lose their lives and their special relationship with the Lord. This was the consequence. Sadly, they ate of the prohibited tree and paid the consequences.

Have you noticed the singular lack of consequences in almost every system of American culture? God's plan of behavior management for children (the rod of discipline, Proverbs 22:15) has been set aside by parents and schools. Athletes, stars, and politicians are seen to break laws with impunity. Bad manners and rudeness are tolerated if one is popular or famous. Coaches throw chairs, athletes sling helmets, and parents attack other parents, all clear violations of team rules and rules of appropriate behavior.

Yet rarely are those actions held to account. Proverbs 19:19 tells us the truth: *"A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again."* Priests and teachers have abused children without penalty. Presidents lie, congressmen take money, etc.

Human beings require structure and discipline. Fortunately for us, our Creator planned for our growth and happiness by holding us accountable. God is honest with us: sin brings death. The Word clarifies His expectations and holds us accountable. God is predictable, consistent, and fair. And aren't we thankful for that!

The beauty queen and best player have the same consequence and reward as the rest of us. Moses, God's chosen leader, was held accountable for disobedience (Number 20). Samson, a judge chosen by God, maintained supernatural strength as long as he followed God's directions. However, God allowed Samson to suffer the consequences of foolish behavior: the Philistines cut his hair, blinded and imprisoned him. Ultimately Samson gained victory over himself and over his enemies; God did not abandon Samson but answered his prayer.

Obedience begins with the fear of consequences. God's people cannot thrive if they accept the culture of no consequences. Churches grow numerically but not spiritually. Many are suffering from the lack of discipline among their members. Fornication, barhopping, gossip, and bitterness find their way into churches. Behavior that is plainly un-Christian is ignored while the "positive" is accentuated.

By overlooking sin, the consequences of sin are not seen or felt. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for this (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). They accepted an adulterer as a faithful brother. Paul told them to deliver him to Satan -- to let him know where he was spiritually. They were not even to eat with him. How cruel! No! This is God's way of shocking the sinner into seeing the consequence of his sin.

Not all consequences are bad. In fact, the disciplining of the Corinthian adulterer caused him to repent and return to Christ. Paul urged the brethren to reaffirm their love to him (2 Corinthians 2:3-9).

The renewal of Christian fellowship was crucial in helping this brother remain faithful. It remains the same today.

We cannot live without consequences. Some believe, because God does not punish sin immediately, He will not punish it at all. This is a serious mistake. In this life we might evade many bad consequences. However, in judgment all will be made right. Everyone will stand before God to be judged based on the things we have done on earth (2 Corinthians 5:10). Don't buy into the idea of a culture with no consequences, for there is no such place in existence.

“THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS “

By Michael R. Baggett

The Old Testament teaches us that priests were to come from the tribe of Levi. The New Testament states in Hebrews 7:14 concerning Jesus: *"For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood."* We learn here that Jesus could not be a priest under the Old Testament Law or covenant. Yet, we understand that Jesus is now our High Priest (Hebrews 7:17).

How did Jesus become our High Priest since He did not come from the tribe of Levi? The answer is unavoidable. There had to be a change of the law before Jesus could become our High Priest.

Do you not agree? Consider Hebrews 7:12: *"For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of law."* Did you get that?

If Christ is our High Priest, and He is, there had to be a change in the law. "What law?" The Old Testament Law!

Those who still insist on following the Old Testament today strip Jesus of His Priesthood! *"For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things...."* (Hebrews 8:4).

Christians do not follow the copy and shadow of heavenly things seen in the old law but follow the very image of the things Jesus has brought into reality in the new law. The New Testament is our new law, the law of Christ or law of liberty (1 Corinthians 9:21, James 1:25; 2:12).

Friends, Jesus can only be our High Priest because He changed the old law and established a new covenant and His eternal Priesthood.

When Jesus died on the cross, He nailed our sins to it, along with the old covenant with its ordinances, sacrifices, and laws, including Sabbath keeping. Jesus replaced that old covenant with His new covenant (Colossians 2:14-17; Hebrews 8:13). The Aaronic priesthood of the old covenant has given way to a better priestly system under the new covenant of Christ. We cannot serve under both and remain under grace (Galatians 5:4).

The fact is if we are still "married" to the old covenant, we are guilty of spiritual adultery (Romans 7:1-4). If any of your religious practices are grounded only in the Old Testament and not in the New Testament, you are stepping out on Christ! The burning of incense, instrumental music in worship, tithing (requiring giving 10% of money, crops), keeping the Sabbath (Saturday) etc., are not practices of the New Testament but the Old Testament. Think on these things, please. Read the scriptures cited above and take your time.

The old system was served by men who died. The priest of old offered the blood of bulls and goats which could never take away sins. These things were done until Jesus removed the old system, offering up His own precious Blood once and for all, therefore Jesus became our High Priest who is able to save us to the uttermost when we come to the Father through Him because Jesus lives forevermore continually making intercession on our behalf as Christians (Hebrews 7:25).

Is Jesus your High Priest? Jesus paid the penalty for your sins too (2 Corinthians 5:21). Have you come to Jesus for cleansing of your sins? Why not? All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We all need Jesus the Eternal High Priest.



Memory Verse of the Week:

John 15:8 (NKJB)

**"By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;
so you will be My disciples."**

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, George Hutto, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, and Cameron Hutchins.

Updates: Tim Harris Sr. had surgery last Friday and is recovering,
Evelyn Trimble had a fall and is recovering.
Steven Cottrell has begun attending at Meeks Street!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Nathan Meade
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Truth And Consequences"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Fred Johnson
Author:	1, 2, & 3 John
Starting Page & Question:	By Michael Hardin <i>Page 58, Question #14 or 15</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Blake briggs
Scripture Reading:	<i>Hebrews 12:1-3</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Power Of Joy To Sustain Us"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 5, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Abraham
Author:	By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #11, Question #8</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer:	Russell Briggs

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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Truth And Consequences”

Truth: actual, “true to fact,” “truthful,” conforming to reality, “truly,” lit., “true”
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Vol. 2, p. 645).

Consequence: Something produced by a cause or necessarily following from
a set of conditions. (Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).

I. Truth Causes Us To Believe In Jesus, While Others Don’t Believe.

- Romans 10:17; John 20:30-31; Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:2; John 5:39-47; 8:45-51.
- John 8:21-24; John 18:37.

II. Truth Causes Us To Receive It, While Others Choose To Reject It.

- John 1:6-13; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:14; 11:1; 17:11.
- Acts 13:44-46; Hebrews 10:26-29.
- Hebrews 10:30-31.

III. Truth Unifies Us In Believing The Same, While Error Tears Apart.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; Philippians 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:3.
- Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:10; 1 Timothy 4:1-5.
- 2 John 9-11.

IV. Truth Makes Us Friends Of God, While Others Become Enemies.

- Philippians 1:21-23; John 15:14; 1 John 2:3-5.
- Philippians 3:17-20.

V. Truth Saves Us, While Others Will Be Lost.

- 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Timothy 4:6; James 1:21.
- Romans 10:16-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:11-14.

“The Power Of Joy To Sustain Us”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 12:1-3**. Joy Sustained Jesus Through The Cross.

I. Don't Underestimate The Power Of Joy.

- Joy is the sense or state of gladness or elation that people experience through their relationship with God and through good things in their lives. (Lexham Theological Wordbook).
- Joy Is A Big Part Of The Christian Life- **Galatians 5:22-23; Rom. 14:17; Phil. 1:4.**
- Joy Is What Keeps Us Serving God- **Romans 12:11-12; Colossians 1:9-11.**
- Joy Makes Sacrifices Worthwhile- **Matthew 13:44; Hebrews 10:34.**
- Joy Makes Even Suffering Occasions To Rejoice- **Luke 6:22-23.**
 - **1 Thessalonians 1:6; Acts 5:41; James 1:2-4.**

II. Joy Comes From God's Blessings And Promises.

- **The Joy Of Knowing We Have The Forgiveness Of Sins.**
 - **Acts 8:35-39; Colossians 1:14.**
- **The Joy Of Knowing We Are Reconciled To God & Christ.**
 - **Romans 5:8-11.**
- **The Joy Of Having Fellowship With God.**
 - **1 John 1:1-4.**
- **The Joy Of Going To Heaven.**
 - **Luke 10:17-20; John 14:1-4.**

III. Don't Let Satan Steal Your Joy!

- Know That Satan Will Attack Your Joy- **Luke 8:13; Heb. 3:12-15; 6:4-6.**
- Don't Let Worship Become A Weariness! **Malachi 1:10-14.**
- Keep The Joy Of Heaven In Our Hearts- **1 Peter 1:3-6. Romans 8:18.**

Conclusion: Romans 8:16-17.