

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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**December 4, 2022**

### **“My Last Requests”**

By John Issac Edwards



Since "...*thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*" (Proverbs 27:1) and "...*ye know not what shall be on the morrow....*" (James 4:14), any given moment could be our last here on earth. I am making a list of my last requests.

#### **1) Know There Is A God.**

The book of Genesis affirms, "*In the beginning God...*" (Genesis 1:1). "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God....*" (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork*" (Ps. 19:1). The Psalmist declared, "*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...*" (Psalm 139:14). Paul preached, "*For in him [that's God] we live, and move, and have our being...*" (Acts 17:28). There is sufficient evidence in the things that are made to make us without excuse for not accepting the fact that God is (Romans 1:20).

#### **2) Honor His Word.**

Realize the Bible is more than just words in a book and more than just a good book among many. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible is the living word of the living God! "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12).

The Bible is able to do for you what no other book can — "*...able to save your souls*" (James 1:21). Remember the "*very grievous hail*" plague of Exodus 9? "*He that feared the word of the Lord...made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses: And he that regarded not the word of the Lord left his servants and his cattle in the field*" (vv. 20-21). How about us today?

#### **3) Recognize There Is No Other Way But His.**

Jeremiah the prophet exclaimed, "*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*" (Jeremiah 10:23). Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me*" (John 14:6). Peter made known, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). Paul taught, "*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...*" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Jesus exhorted, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Matthew 7:13-14).

#### **4) Understand What The Church Is All About.**

Jesus promised, "*...I will build my church...*" (Matthew 16:18). He "*purchased*" the church "*with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28). The church is not a denomination, not a social club, and as Paul said, "*...not meat and drink...*" (Romans 14:17). The church of Christ is "*...a spiritual house...*" (1 Peter 2:5). It is a relationship in which Christ is our spiritual head and Savior (Ephesians 5:23). The work of the church is spiritual and involves "*the perfecting of the saints,*" "*the work of the ministry,*" and "*the edifying of the body of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:12). The church is "*...the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Timothy 3:15). It is not the pillar and ground of food, fun and frolic. Nor is it the pillar and ground of entertainment and recreation or secular education.

## 5) Put First Things First.

Set your priorities in proper order. *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..."* (Matthew 6:33). *"...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind"* (Matthew 22:37). If your job gets in the way of putting first things first, find another one. If sports keep you from putting the Lord first in your life, don't play. Remember what it's all about — *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man"* (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

## 6) Live For Jesus And For Others.

Remember the rich fool of Luke 12 who *"...thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry"* (vv. 17-19). Did you notice something missing in his thinking? No mention of the Lord or others. *"...God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"* (v. 20).

We are taught, *"And that he [that's Jesus] died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again"* (2 Corinthians 5:15).

And, as Jesus, who *"...came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28), OTHERS, let this your motto be. *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others"* (Philippians 2:4).

## 7) Be Humble And Thankful.

The downfall of many has been pride. Don't be *"exalted above measure"* (2 Corinthians 12:7). Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to think (Romans 12:3). *"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth..."* (Proverbs 27:2). *"...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble"* (1 Peter 5:5).

And *"...be ye thankful"* (Colossians 3:15). You have it so much better than some who have been much better than yourself! Don't complain or murmur. In about every situation where there is the possibility to grumble, there is the opportunity to give thanks. Be the one who says, "THANK YOU" (Luke 17:11-18). *"In every thing give thanks..."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

## 8) Be Ready To Appear Before The Judge.

We have a court date, the day and hour of which is known only to the Father (Mark 13:32). Thus, we must always be ready for our summons to *"...appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body...whether it be good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10). Ready yourself by hearing, believing, repenting of your sins, confessing Christ, being baptized (Acts 2-19), and being faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58)!

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## **"Good For Nothing"**

By Billy Norris

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."* (Matthew 5:13).

Salt is used by the world population daily. It is used to preserve, to save. Yet when it loses its flavor it is good for nothing. Christ said His disciples are the salt of the earth. In preaching the gospel throughout the world they are a saving influence, for the gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16).

But when they choose to go back to the world and lose their saving influence, they become good for nothing.

*"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."* (2 Peter 2:20-21).

How sad to turn a good life into one good for nothing.



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**And Our Facebook Page.**  
For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Danny Cottrell, Jerry Trimble, Jimmy Briggs, and Brandon Briggs.

To the family of Earl Mitchell, preacher/elder at Tupelo, who passed away.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** “*Embracing God’s Promises*”

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Brian Meade  
**Author:** Philippians  
Paul R. Blake  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #25, Question #13*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Doug George  
**Scripture Reading:** *John 3:16-18*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord’s Supper:** Russell Briggs  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** “*The Love Of The Cross*”  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Busby

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**December 7th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** The Miracles Of Jesus  
**Author:** Mike Willis  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #40, Question #8*  
**Invitation:** Doug George  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Closing Prayer:** Brian Meade

# ***“Embracing The Promises Of God”***

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 11:13-14; 2 Peter 1:4.**

## **I. The Nature Of God’s Promises?**

- Covenant As A Promise— Abraham, Moses, & Christ. **Gal. 3:15-18; Hebrews 8:6.**
- God Is Faithful- **Hebrews 10:23; Hebrews 11:11.**
- God Is Trustworthy. **Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2.**
- God Is Able- **Romans 4:21; Hebrews 11:17-19.**
- God’s Promises Are Conditional. **Deuteronomy 6:1-4; Colossians 1:23.**

## **II. What Are The Promises That God Makes With Us?**

- *“All The Promises Of The Bible”* By Herbert Lockyer (Approximately 8,000).
- Do All The Promises Of The Bible Apply To Us Today?
  - The Promise Of Deliverance From A Flood? Rainbow? (**Genesis 6; 9:13-16**).
  - The Promise Of A Son To Abraham? (**Gen.17**) The Seed Of Abraham (**22:18**).
  - The Land Promises To Israel? **Genesis 12:7; Joshua 21:43-45.**
  - The Promise Of A Savior Coming? **Deuteronomy 18:18; Isaiah 9:6.**
- God’s Promises For Us Today:
  1. To Be A Father To Us. **2 Corinthians 6:16-18; (7:1).**
  2. Life In Christ. **2 Timothy 1:1.**
  3. A Crown Of Life. **James 1:12.**
  4. Rest For The Soul. **Hebrews 4:1.**
  5. Eternal Inheritance. **Hebrews 9:15.**
  6. Eternal Life. **1 John 2:25.**
  7. The Heavenly Kingdom. **James 2:5; 2 Peter 1:10-11; John 14:2-4.**

## **III. How Can We Embrace The Promises Of God?**

- Looking To The Future Promise Of Heaven— **Hebrews 11:13-14; Col. 3:1-4.**
- Intentional Effort To Embrace God’s Promises. **Hebrews 6:10-12.**
- Growing In Faith/Trust— **Hebrews 11:33.**
- Not Participating In Sinful Conduct— **2 Peter 3:10-14; 2 Cor 7:1 (6:16-18).**
- Obeying the Gospel & Make Promises Personal. **Acts 2:38-39; 13:28-33.**

## **IV. What Happens, If We Don’t?**

- If We Live For The Pleasures Of Sin. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10.**
- We Fall Short Of God’s Promises. **Hebrews 4:1; Deuteronomy 34.**
- **Ephesians 2:12.** We Have No Hope In The Judgment Day!

# **“The Love Of The Cross”**

Lesson Text: **John 3:14-17.**

## **I. Unnatural Love For The Cross.**

- Man’s Fascination For The Wooden Cross:
  - The Crucifix VS. The Bare Cross.
  - Worn As “Good Luck Charm.”
  - Worn To Ward Off Evil Sprits.
  - The Red Cross Organization’s Name.
  - Used In Religious Rites And Worship.
  - Worship of the Cross Idolatry. **Judges 8:24-27; 2 Kings 18:4.**

## **II. The Love Of God Demonstrated At The Cross.**

- **Romans 5:8; John 15:13.**
- The Sacrifice Of The Cross- Perfect Lamb of God. **John 1:29; Isaiah 53:5-7.**
- The Agony Of The Crucifixion. **Luke 22:41-44; Matthew 27:31-56.**
- The Message Of The Cross. **1 Corinthians 1:18-24; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2.**
  - The Love, Grace, Mercy, & Forgiveness For All. **Psalm 118:29 (37); Col. 1:19-22.**
- The Power Of The Cross- The Blood of Christ. **Romans 5:9-10.**

## **III. Man’s Love For God Given Because Of The Cross.**

- **2 Corinthians 5:14-15; John 12:32-36.**
- Why Saul Preached The Christ He Once Persecuted. **Acts 9:19-22.**
- Why Paul Made Three Missionary Journeys.
  - **1. Acts 13:4–14:26. 2. Acts 15:36– 18:22. 3. Acts 18:22–21:17.**
- Why Paul And The Other Apostles Gave Their Lives Over To God.
  - **Revelation 12:11.**

Conclusion: **John 14:23-24.**