

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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January 16, 2022

“Where Are We Headed?”

By Dub Simpson

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I'm sure we all agree it would be unusual for any one of us to awake tomorrow, hop in the car and drive off with no destination in mind. It might even be a stranger occurrence for us to drop by the ticket counter at Hobby Airport and purchase a ticket for a flight to nowhere in particular, or climb aboard a ship at the Port of Houston headed to an unknown land, sailing along an unknown route. We would not take the above actions because we want to know where we are headed and how we are going to get there. And in this age of technology we have all sorts of electronic information at our fingertips to find our direction and keep us on track.

But what about planning our eternal destination and being certain about our spiritual priorities? Where are you headed in this journey through life?

1) Are we choosing the correct route and how we plan to travel?

You can't be two places at once, except in science fiction. It's pretty tough to get to England by car and if you try to go to Dallas by way of New York you may miss your meeting. In Matt. 6:33, Jesus told His followers to "*seek first the kingdom of God,*" which leaves no doubt about our priorities and our direction.

We have to be careful about distractions that will divert us from our destination – take us in the wrong direction. It is easy to lose our focus, as Jesus warns in Matt. 6:24, "*No man can serve two masters...he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*" Don't let worldly distractions make you miss the most important destination. Being distracted behind the wheel can be deadly - spiritual distraction can effect the eternal destination of our soul.

We need to appreciate the words of Paul in Col. 3:1, "*...set your mind (keep your focus) on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*"

We have to make Jesus a priority to get where we should go.

2) Are we demonstrating and teaching others how to navigate on this journey?

Can those around us - family, friends, and coworkers - see where we are headed? Or do they think we are just traveling with the crowd - on that broad path that leads to destruction? Jesus admonishes us in Matt. 5:16 to *“let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Our actions and words need to be such that we not only save ourselves, but also bring others to Christ. And this concern about our spiritual direction should begin at a young age - 1 Tim. 4:12 - *“let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.”*

What do others think about your path through life? Are we striving to show others what is right and paying close attention to our effect on others? We must be a proper example to others. *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...discerning the will of God”* (Rom. 12:2).

Being a good example and striving to teach others keeps us on the right path.

3) Are we seriously concerned about the direction we are going?

If we don't pay attention to directions and road signs we generally end up in the wrong place. Heb. 2:1 - *“Therefore we must give the most earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”* A pilot must direct his plane and a captain must steer his ship. As the prophet Jeremiah stated, *“... O Lord, the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man who walks to direct his steps”* (Jer. 10:23).

It takes planning and purpose to get where we should be headed -it will not happen by accident. As the Lord said to the church at Laodicea in Rev. 3:15, *“...because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.”* We cannot carelessly go through life, but must follow God's revealed directions for us to get where we should be. The Hebrew writer admonished the early Christians to, *“hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”* (Heb. 10:23).

We must stay concerned about where we are headed on our life's journey.

Where are we headed? We should be headed in the way that Jesus and his apostles teach us - the way of salvation. “Come to Jesus,” as our one-year plan encourages. If we are focused on Christ, living according to his righteous example, and making an effort to follow his directions we will be headed to heaven!

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



“The Rich Young Ruler”

By Josh Day

As we begin 2022, we feel refreshed and ready to start a new year with the goals and resolutions to improve ourselves going forward. One way that we do this is with a renewed focus on spiritual things.

The Elders help us channel this refocus with a specific plan we can strive to reflect upon and grow throughout the year. This year, our plan is “The Gospel is for All,” and as the year moves along the Deacons will contribute articles in the bulletin using different characters in the New Testament to show the need that all need the Gospel.

So, what is this Gospel, this “Good News” that is for all people? It’s the news that Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, came to earth specifically to sacrifice Himself to bear the sins of all man and through baptism, our sins have been cancelled, the debt forgiven, because that debt was nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:9-14)

Today’s article will focus on the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-26. This man comes to Jesus and asks Him a question, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” Jesus then tells him to keep the commandments of the Law, to which the man responds, “Which ones?” This is a fascinating question; are some parts of the Law more important than others? Do we inadvertently ask this same question today what aspects of the new law that we follow? Do we choose to place more importance on not engaging in, say, adultery but overlook gossip and jealousy? We need to be careful not to pick and choose, as he is suggesting here in vs 18. Jesus then lists several laws that the man states he has kept from his youth, to which the Lord responds, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven and come, follow Me” (vs 21). In the following verse the young man went away grieving for he had many possessions.

So why would this man need the Gospel? The first thing that comes to mind is that his focus between the spiritual things and the physical abundance he had was out of balance. He clearly had some form of spiritual focus because he asked Jesus a question about eternity. This is a good thing, however when he was tasked with putting his physical and spiritual focus in the proper balance, we see just how out of balance it was, for he was not up to the task. The gospel call is a message of how our Lord left heaven, having all authority and power, lacking nothing, to humble Himself to save those far below His status.

This man needed this lesson; he needed to see the One with all power, authority, and might humble Himself. If Jesus could do it, then why not this man? Is that not every one of us? We have the gospel and yet from time to time, we struggle putting our spiritual and physical focus in the proper balance, and I think part of that is we are physically blessed as this man was. When the physical overtakes the spiritual, it lessens the importance and meaning of Jesus’ death. When we obey the Gospel and come up from the waters of baptism, we come out to deny ourselves, to serve our Lord because of that great gift of forgiveness He has given us. As we begin this year let us strive to put into focus just how important the sacrifice our Lord made for us, and let us not let the physical joys and abundance we have water down the importance of that great gift.

The second reason this rich young ruler would need the Gospel is because it provides a second chance. The Lord died for this man and nailed his sins to that cross, though this man clearly didn’t think he had any sins by his statement in vs 20, “All these things I have kept.” This man would have the opportunity to begin anew, putting the old man behind and being free from his sin through the blood of the Lamb. Why did this man need the gospel? Because it’s the only way to answer his question in vs 16, “how do I obtain eternal life?” Without having his sins washed away in baptism, the answer to the question is, you cannot. There is but one way to obtain this eternal life, and that is the Gospel.

Obviously, this man was still under the Old Law when he had this conversation with Jesus, but there was a time coming very shortly when he would have had the opportunity to hear the Good News, and maybe he was able to humble himself and commit the rest of his life in service to the Lord. How thankful we should be to have the revealed mystery at our fingertips, let us make sure that we are making the most of it.

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, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.

Several are in quarantine: Nathan Meade, Blake Briggs, Conner Whittemore, & Lee Busby. (And possibly others)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Adam Harris
Sermon #1: *"Don't Put The "Pro" In Procrastination"*
Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page #37, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Busby
Psalm 3:5-8
Song Leader: TBA
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: *Men Of The Congregation Lead Singing*
Invitation: Fred Johnson
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 19th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Book of Isaiah
Page #48, Question #1
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade