

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Everyday Christianity”

By Brian Meade

Every day there are certain things we do that make us who we are in life. We get up in the morning everyday and prepare for the activities that we will do. Our job or vocation is a big part of lives, but it is not all of who we are. We, as Christians, are defined by our spiritual service to God. Our true service belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Being a Christian does not end with a certain number of hours in the day. We are to be a Christian every day of the week; at least that is what being a true Christian is all about. It is not about just Sunday & Wednesday service to God—it is daily service to God. What do we do in daily service to God?

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

I. Everyday Christianity: Is Being A Disciple Every-Day.

Jesus said in Luke 9:23 (NKJB), “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Following Jesus is not something we put off and put on at different days of the week— it is our life every day. Just as the one who follows Jesus was obligated to deny self and carry their cross, we also have duties & obligations to perform on a daily basis.

Discipleship means I am a learner or follower of Jesus. It means I serve and obey Him ever every day. Thus, Jesus is the Ruler and Master of everything I do. As a disciple of Jesus, His words, commands, and will for my life take priority over all other things. That’s why to know the Master’s will, we have to constantly be in the business of studying the Bible. Because the better we know our Master, the more we can be like Him. That’s what disciples do— they imitate and follow the actions of the one who teaches them.

That’s why the apostle Paul would say to the Ephesians, “*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

And in after speaking of the way the Gentiles walk in the sensuality and darkened way of sin in Ephesians 4:17-19, Paul plainly tells them, “*But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,*” (Ephesians 4:20-21)

That’s why we need to be active studying and growing in the word of God. We need to be like the noble ones of Berea in Acts 17:11, “*Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*”

Let us commit ourselves to being “people of the book of God” and so we may live like our great example, Jesus Christ.

II. Everyday Christianity: Is Praying Every-Day.

Now does God say, “Thou shalt pray every day” in His word? Not in those exact words specifically, but there are some definite reasons why we should pray every day. In fact, Paul says in I Thessalonians 5:17, “*Pray without ceasing.*”

Some have suggested that means to “*never stop praying.*” It also means that prayer is such a dominating and important force in our life that we can’t imagine not praying to God everyday! It becomes a priority, rather than an afterthought.

One reason why Christians need to pray to God every day is the fact we need God in our lives every day. Our prayers should flow from our need and dependence upon God. Just as that song we sing, “*Every hour I need thee,*” we need God’s help. Is there a day that goes by that we don’t need God in keeping us safe from all harm, either in the physical or in the spiritual realm?

Temptations and trials come from the Devil every day of the week. And prayer is one of the greatest avenue of protection from the Evil One (Matthew 6:13; Ephesians 6:18; I Corinthians 7:5). Can we rightly go a day without praying for God’s deliverance from our enemy, the devil? Is it wise to do so?

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “*Give us day by day our daily bread.*” (Luke 11:3) How often do we eat our meals? We normally don’t go a day without food, so if our need of food is an every-day need— so we can conclude that our prayers should be everyday as well.

And we should remember that the worship of God in prayer is not confined only to the assembly of the saints, it should be a big part of our lives as an every-day reminder of who we are and Who we serve. It should keep us grounded and settled as we live as “strangers and exiles on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13)

As we remember from the story of Daniel and the period he was away from Jerusalem in captivity, “*and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God.*” (Daniel 6:10)

III. Everyday Christianity: Is Every-Day Evangelism.

A major part of the Christian life is devoted to spreading the word of God to others (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). It is the great commission given to the church to evangelize the world. We are to be wise soul-winners (Proverbs 11:30) and “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Evangelism is how the church grows in number and more souls are added to the Lord.

We read in Acts 2:47, “*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*” (NKJB)

Notice that it wasn’t just on Sunday morning or on Wednesday night that the Lord was adding those being saved to the church— but it was daily!

Our opportunities might not happen to us everyday, but it ought to be on our mind and on our agenda everyday to convert the lost to Jesus. We should be praying everyday for doors to open and for the Lord to help us find some soul to reach with the gospel. As we sing that song, “Lord, lead me to some soul today.”

Evangelism flows out of a need to seek and to save the lost, just like our Savior did while He was here on the earth! (Luke 19:10)

IV. Everyday Christianity: Is Keeping Pure Every-Day.

The Bible teaches us in I Thessalonians 4:1-4, “*Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*”

God has commanded us to live in a way of purity before Him— and this requires great diligence and sacrifice in doing so. It requires repentance from wicked works and a discipline and training in what is pure and right (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God’s word helps us to know right from wrong conduct and leads us to the life pleasing to God. “*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*” (1 Timothy 1:5)

This is often a difficult challenge because the world is dominated by sin and impurity of every sort! It is all around us constantly, everyday! (2 Peter 1:4)

And even though it may a great struggle, but with resolve and determination to live right for the Lord we can live a life of purity. Not sinless perfection, but when we do sin we have forgiveness by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7-10).

The Bible teaches us in 2 Peter 3:10-11, “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*”

Peter reminds us of our need to be ready at all times for the Lord’s return. Peter even tells us in verse 14, “*Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,*”

And how do we expect to be found if we do not practice diligence in living a pure life everyday? If we don't strive for purity everyday, do we hope the Lord will only come back on a Sunday morning during worship or on a Wednesday night during Bible studies? Obviously, personal purity every day will help us to one day be in heaven. Let us strive to live every day as an everyday Christian!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom) is still recovering.
Brandi Meade will have back surgery December 11th. (No word on an earlier date)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Where Are The Nine?"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Paul Johnson
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)
Page 22 Question #7

Announcements:

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Sam Johnson
Paul Johnson
Psalm 125:1-5
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Lee Busby & Jerry Kennemur
Singing Service: "Men of the Congregation Lead In Singing"
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 27th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)
Lesson #1 *Question #1*
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer: Paul Busby