

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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March 17, 2024

### *“Is The bible Relevant To Our Lives?”*

By Heath Rogers

The Bible is undeniably one of the most influential books in the history of mankind. It remains the best-selling nonfiction book of all time. The text of the Bible is more available today than ever before, but increased availability has not resulted in increased interest in its message. In fact, the opposite appears to be true. Recent statistics show that only 20 percent of American adults believe the Bible is God's inspired word.



The word "relevant" means, "bearing upon or relating to the matter in hand; pertinent; to the point, applicable, appropriate." Relevancy is important. It has to do with making sure we are spending our time, attention, and energy with something worthwhile. When discussing the relevancy of the Bible, it would question whether the Bible has any bearing on our lives today.

Many people would say that it doesn't. While acknowledging its historical and religious significance, the prominent opinion seems to be that the Bible is an outdated book. It may have served a purpose before, but times have changed. Some question how a book as old as the Bible can have any serious application to our lives today.

Is the Bible relevant? Does this ancient book have any practical application to our lives today? Does it satisfy our needs as individuals and as a society? I believe a consideration of the following points will answer these questions and reinforce our appreciation for the relevancy of the Bible.

God and His word have not changed. A lot of time has passed since the Bible was written, but that doesn't mean God has changed. Think about this, a lot of time transpired during the writing of the Bible (about 1,600 years), and God is the same at the end of the Bible as He is at the beginning. "For I am the Lord, I do not change..." (Mal. 3:6).

God exists outside of time. It hasn't had any effect on Him. God hasn't grown any wiser through the centuries. He hasn't become more tolerant of things that anger Him.

God's word hasn't changed either. "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89). God's word is established. When I read the word settled in this verse I think of dried cement. The moral standards of society may change with the passing of years, but the standards set forth in God's word will never change.

The needs of mankind have not changed. Solomon observed "there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9-10). We have never outgrow the wisdom and guidance of God's word.

The philosophical needs of man are still the same. We still need answers to the most basic questions. The Bible provides these answers. "Where did I come from?" We came from God (Acts 17:24-26). "Why am I here?" To seek God (Acts 17:27-28). "Where am I going?" To meet God in judgment (Acts 17:30-31).

The spiritual needs of man have not changed. Many people have serious problems dealing with guilt, despair, depression, doubt, hopelessness, and fear. Why do we have these problems? The Bible is the only book that both identifies and offers a real solution to our problem. We suffer these problems because we are sinners. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). The Bible is the only book that tells us what we must do to be saved: believe in

Jesus (John 8:24), repent of our sins (Acts 17:30), confess our faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of our sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

The needs of society have not changed. Some may be surprised to find that the Bible addresses and offers solutions to problems we are facing as a society today.

- Crime and Punishment (Eccl. 8:11).
- Role of Civil Government (Rom. 13:1-6).
- Racial Prejudice (Rom. 2:11).
- Welfare Abuse (2 Thess. 3:10).
- Drugs and Alcohol (Gal. 5:19-21).
- Teen Pregnancy (1 Cor. 6:18, Heb. 13:4).
- Homosexuality, Same-Sex Marriages, and Gender Confusion  
(1 Cor. 6:9-10; Matt. 19:4-6).
- Divorce (Mal. 2:16; Matt. 19:9).
- Family Problems (Col. 3:18-21).

The Bible has stood the test of time and honest criticism. It is not an outdated relic, a collection of ancient myths, or a charm to ward off evil. The Bible is not meant to be a file cabinet for newspaper clippings, announcements, pictures, and flowers. It is the living and eternal word of God. It offers the answers to our most important questions, gives us the standards and guidance we need as individuals and as a society, and is the only book that will lead us to eternal life.

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## ***“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”***

By Dennis Abernathy

"What must I do to be saved?" is a very important question with eternal ramifications. It is asked and answered in the New Testament.

For example, in Acts 2, after hearing the gospel preached, and being convicted of their sin, the people on Pentecost asked: *"What shall we do? Then Peter said to them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."* (Acts 2: 37-38; see Luke 24:46-47).

In Acts 16: 30-31 the Philippian jailor asked: *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? He was told to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...And they spoke unto him the word of the Lord," and the jailor, and those of his household "were baptized, he and all his, straightway...and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."*

In answer to this question today people are told to "Just receive Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior" or "Just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," but they are not told what to do to receive Him, or what is involved in believing on Him. The Bible gives the answer: *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"* (Acts 2: 38).

In Acts 16, after speaking the word of the Lord to the jailor *"immediately he and all his family were baptized."* We don't have to guess what these people were told to do in answer to their question, because the answer is obvious by what they DID! For one to be saved, it is obvious there is something one MUST DO (See Acts 9: 6; 10: 6).

Believing on, and receiving Jesus into one's heart, involves DOING something, and the Bible tells us what that something we must do is.

I ask you kindly, where in the New Testament do we read of one asking "what must I do to be saved?" being told to "just receive Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior" or "just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ," without telling the inquirer what is involved in "believing" and "receiving" Jesus?

We don't have to speculate about the answer, we can read it in our Bibles. Wouldn't it be better to let the Bible give us the answer? Think on these things.

***Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:***

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, keep Tim Harris Sr. in your prayers for his upcoming eye surgery.  
Debbie Johnson, Jerry Kennemur (Covid), Fred Johnson (Covid/Strep).  
Debbie Sammons had surgery last Wednesday for Thyroid cancer, and is recovering.  
Melissa Combs had surgery last Wednesday, and is home recovering.

Our Gospel Meeting With Stacy Crim is scheduled for April 21st—24th.  
(Sunday to Wednesday)

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Paul Busby  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** “Don’t Let The Devil Separate You & Your Brother Pt. 1”

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

**Workbook:** Doug George  
1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon  
**Author:** Herschel Patton  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page 53, Question #1

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

**Announcements:** Blake Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Blake Briggs  
**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 18:15-17  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord’s Supper:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** “Don’t Let The Devil Separate You & Your Brother Pt. 2”  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

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

**March 2024**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
**Workbook:** The Book Of Daniel  
**Author:** By Daniel H. King  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #42, Question #3  
**Invitation:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Song Leader:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs



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**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

# **“Don’t Let The Devil Separate You & Your Brother Pt. 1”**

Lesson Text: **Matthew 5:23-24.**

## **I. Be Careful Not To Offend Your Brother.**

- **Proverbs 18:19 (NASB).**
- To be offended — to be caused to feel resentment or indignation.
- Why People Are Offended:
  1. We Were Careless In Our Words Or Actions; Can Be Unintentional...
  2. We Have Done Someone Wrong, Insulted Someone; Or Sinned Against Someone.
  3. It Is Difficult To Win An Offended Brother, So Be Careful.... Be Preventive.
  4. **Philippians 2:14-16.**
  5. If We Do Offend, Have A “Spirit Of Reconciliation” **Matthew 5:24.**

## **II. Don’t Imagine Evil Suspicions Against Your Brother.**

- **1 Samuel 18:6-9.**
- **1 Timothy 6:4-** “Evil Suspicions” Or Conjecture— reasoning that involves the formation of conclusions from incomplete evidence.
- Dangerous To Suspect Motives Or Actions Done By A Brother Without All The Facts.
- Sometimes Misunderstandings And Mistakes Happen In Judging People’s Actions.
  - **Proverbs 18:13 & 17.**
- Some Common Suspicions:
  - “That Preacher Preached At Me!”
  - “They Didn’t Shake My hand Because They Don’t Like Me.”
  - “That Brother Is Just Trying To Make A Name For Himself.”
  - “Brother So and So Is Trying To Take Over.”
- Love Prevents Such Suspicions— **1 Corinthians 13:4-7.**

## **III. Be Willing To Admit You’re Wrong To Your Brother.**

- **Matthew 5:25-26;** Made Clearer In **Luke 12:58-59.**
  - Why Wouldn’t We Admit Fault When We Are Wrong?
    - Pride, Stubbornness, Or Not Wanting To Face The Consequences?
- Why Paul Did Not Want Christians Suing One Another- **1 Corinthians 6:1-8.**
- But This Causes A Wedge Between Brethren! Resentment, Anger, & Bitterness...
- Precisely What The Devil Wants!

## **IV. Don’t Put A Stumbling Block In Your Brother’s Way.**

- **Romans 14:13.**
- One Of The Main Points Of Romans 14 Is Being Careful To Consider Your Brother.
- **Romans 14:14-18.**
- Satan Will Try To Use Personal Conscience Against One Another.
- **Romans 14:19-21.**

# **“Don’t Let The Devil Separate You & Your Brother Pt. 2”**

Lesson Text: **Matthew 18:15-17.**

## **I. Don’t Let Hate For Your Brother Wreck You!**

- **1 John 3:15.**
- **miseo (μισέω, 3404)**, “to hate,” is used especially (a) of malicious and unjustifiable Feelings towards others, whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity.”  
(**Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words— Vol. 2, p. 292**).
- **Matthew 5:21-22; John 15:25.** Jesus Is Talking To And About Religious People!
- It Is Apart Of The Old Man That Must Be Put Off- **Titus 3:3; Colossians 3:8-10.**
- Political Hate, Racial Hate, Religious Hate, Social and Economic Hate — All Must End!
- The Only Thing We Can Rightly Hate Is Sin! **Psalms 97:10; Romans 12:9-10.**

## **II. Be Willing To Forgive Your Brother.**

- **Luke 17:3-5.**
- **Matthew 18:21-35.**
- **Matthew 6:14-15.**
- Unforgiveness Leads To Other Sins:
  - Bitterness.
  - Wrath.
  - Division.
- Don’t Let The Devil Win!

## **III. Seek To Restore Your Wayward Brother.**

- **Galatians 6:1.**
- **James 5:19-20;** “*When God Says “Go!”*”
- God’s Second Law Of Pardon- **James 5:16; Acts 8:22.**
- **Luke 15:1-7.**
- **Matthew 18:15-17.**

## **IV. Don’t Fail To Encourage Your Brother When He Needs It.**

- **Galatians 6:2.**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:1-3.**
- **Acts 16:40; 20:2; Colossians 2:1-2.**
- We All Need Encouragement To Keep Going Onward!