

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 13, 2025

“Determined To Learn”

By Colby Junkin

As I begin to witness the growth of my older son's intellect, I am amazed at his determination to learn. He is constantly wanting to know new things and inquires about everything that surrounds him. The amount of questions he will ask in a given day at times are limitless. He is in a constant state of, "Why does this do that?"

Not only are his questions limitless, but I have come to realize so is his intelligence. Children are like sponges that absorb as much information as you are willing to teach them. I am amazed daily at the depth of his knowledge and the new world which is being opened before his eyes.

These same statements can be made on behalf of all the children that I know. It seems with every passing week, they are not only getting taller, older, etc., but they are also always getting smarter. They are able to recall things in a moment's notice and retain information at a far greater volume than I have ever dreamed. It is this type of thirst for knowledge that should not only define our children, but more importantly every Christian.

The greatest blessing man ever received is the opportunity to be called a Christian. The very name, Christian, separates us from the rest of the world and gives us a higher calling in this life (1 Peter 4:4; Philippians 3:20-21). It is not something a person puts on in the morning and takes off at night, but rather it is a life-long description of who we are 24/7. It is our motivation to live purely and holy in this world. It helps us with our decisions, on where to go, who to see, and what to do.

We have been called to be Christians and to manifest a "Christ-likeness" in every facet of our lives. This is the foundation which guards our hearts from temptations and delivers us from evil. This is also where one must understand the importance of drawing near to God and growing in his knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

In the great commission, Jesus spoke to His apostles and told them, *"Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20; emphasis mine, bcj).

We will often quote from memory these verses and then stress the importance of personal evangelism, but fail to recognize the secondary aspect of making disciples which is, "teaching them to observe all that I commanded you." The duty of every faithful Christian is not to remain steadfast in their knowledge but rather to grow in respect to Jesus' perfect example by learning more about His will.

One way to understand this duty is by a simple motto, "Learn more, grow more!" The more we understand about God's will for man, the more we will manifest His Son's character in our lives. While some may justify their spiritual ineptitude by saying, "I will never know everything, so what if I don't try." This excuse will not be sufficient on the judgement day. Would we accept this excuse from our children? Then why do we expect God to accept it from us?

If our aspiration is to become like Jesus in every way, then we must have within us a determined spirit to learn. The only way to represent Jesus faithfully is to be able to handle His Word accurately (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible gives Christians every advantage to succeed in life both physically and spiritually, but far too often it becomes the most neglected tool in our toolbox.

The characteristics that are to be exhibited in our lives are not found at the local bookstore in the self-help section, but rather in the Bible. Only in the Bible do we learn how to properly manifest the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Only in the Bible do we learn about the manner of life that will ultimately lead us to heaven (2 Peter 1:5-11).

Therefore, we will either be determined to be an effectual doer of God's Word or a forgetful hearer (James 1:21-23). Which would I rather have describe my lifestyle?

Our children have a sincere desire to learn and know more about the world which surround them. May we micmic this same desire in our own lives. No greater duty is man called to fulfill than to study God's Word and apply it into his daily life. May our goal in this new year be to grow in our knowledge by being determined to learn!

"SEAL UP THE CRACKS"

by Zeke Flores

When we lived in Baytown Texas, spring was the time of year when termites swarmed looking for a place to form a new colony. Formosan termites head out about dusk this time of year and usually swarm around light sources (outdoor porch lights, etc). There can be thousands of the creepy little critters that gather and crawl all along the outside of a building looking for a way in. Usually they die in the attempt so you're left with a bunch of little termite bodies littering the ground around doors and windows. Worse, if they find a way in (and they will), you'll find dozens of dead termites on the floors and countertops in your house, usually near windows and doors. Eww!

As soon as we saw a single termite flying around, my wife and I immediately turned off all the lights and shut the blinds. See, we know that when they detect some light, they'll get all their little termite buddies and form a termite cloud around it. We didn't want them to find a way in. We knew they can squeeze through a space as thin as a dime so we tried to thwart their invasion as much as we could.

Is there a spiritual lesson to this? You bet your sweet termite swarm there is. See, everyday we're "swarmed" by opportunities to sin. It's all around us: the temptation to cut corners at work, the enticement to let our eyes linger on someone's body, the lure to join in with the crowd in questionable activities. The list goes on and on and it's a constant struggle.

Temptation usually comes on strongest during our weakest moments. When we're at the limit of our patience, we may lash out at someone in red-hot anger. When we're particularly lonely, we may reach out for an illicit relationship. When we're offended by someone, we might spread some critical gossip about them. Like the termite swarm, sin doesn't come in where there are walls and barriers, it comes in the little crevices and cracks in our character. Then when it's in, it leaves a mess in its wake.

There's a better way. Seal up the cracks; block the crevices. Don't allow your weaknesses to rule your character, instead, work to keep temptation from overcoming you by learning from your mistakes and building up your defenses. It only takes a little sin to do a lot of bad.

As for future termite swarms, we'll keep the lights off for a few nights and keep the doors and windows tightly shut against the nightly swarm to keep the infestation down to minimum. I hope we'll do the same with sin.

"Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts." (Romans 13:13-14).

Gospel Meeting

At The

Meeks Street Church of Christ

With Justin Roberson

April 27th-30th

Sunday Starting at 9:00 AM

Monday–Wednesday 7:00 PM

Gospel
Meeting

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann, and Stacy & Annette Meeks, Mike Timbes (Paul Johnson's neighbor who was diagnosed with lung cancer), Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Evelyn Trimble, Angie Keathley (Phillip Keathley's wife in Ky) had surgery last Wednesday and is recovering, and Dianne Johnson (Fred's wife) had surgery last Wednesday also and is recovering.

Our Gospel Meeting with Justin Roberson is just two weeks away!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Jim Allen
Sermon #1: "Paul's Hope, Glory, & Joy"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: 1st & 2nd Peter & Jude
Paul Blake
Starting Page & Question: Page 33, Question #6

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Scripture Reading: Acts 28:23-28
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Jim Allen
Sermon #2: "How Well Do You Listen?"
Closing Prayer: Dan Cottrell

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 16, 2025

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: Great Bible Characters: Paul
Author: By Bobby L. Graham
Starting Page & Question: Page 56, Question #1
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

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