

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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November 23, 2025

“God Is Not Far From Us”

By Michael R. Baggett

“...so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:27-28, NKJV).



Have you ever felt like God is so far away you cannot find him? Paul, an apostle of Christ, explains that God is not far from each one of us. Is God far away from the sinner seeking Him? I have heard preachers tell audiences that they must wait for The Holy Spirit to come and “deal with them” before they can be saved. In other words, God is so far away from the sinner seeking Him he must wait until God sends the Holy Spirit to “deal with him.” Is God only near to those He chooses to send the Holy Spirit to deal with them?

The righteousness of faith does not agree with the Calvinist preacher's idea that God is far away from those seeking Him. Rest assured, those diligently seeking Jesus do not have to wait for Him to come from a faraway place!

Paul, an apostle, writes in Romans 10:6-10: *“But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, ‘Do not say in your heart,’ ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Is it difficult to find Jesus? The apostle teaches that we do not have to go on a long journey to find Jesus! Jesus is as near as His word. Paul writes, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). Some will even claim that faith is the “gift of God,” twisting Ephesians 2:8-9. Does God force faith on anyone? Faith comes by hearing the word of God. It is your decision to believe and obey it. Salvation is the gift once we receive it. Paul writes, *“But they have not all obeyed the gospel”* (Romans 10:16). A reaction to the preached word is necessary. The gospel can be rejected, or it can be obeyed. (see Romans 6:1-6, 17).

Many preachers turn salvation into a mystery for only the chosen few. But what do the scriptures say? *“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:13). Who is the whoever? Well, that is you and me or whoever desires salvation in Jesus!

The one who hears the gospel must come to faith in Jesus (Romans 10:17); turn away from sins in repentance (Romans 2:4); confess with the mouth the faith they have in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10); and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6: 3-6). It is in water baptism the sinner calls or appeals to the saving power of God thru the Blood of Jesus to save him. (see Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). I do not care how famous the preacher is who disagrees with this, to deny the necessity of being baptized for the remission of sins is to deny the Bible! (Acts 2:38).

How are we called by God unto salvation? We are called, not directly by The Holy Spirit, but by the word the Holy Spirit has revealed (Ephesians 3:3-6). The Bible teaches clearly that we are called by the gospel (Romans 10:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:14).

God and salvation in Jesus are not far from any of us: *"Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says, the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.*" The LORD is clearly omnipresence -everywhere! (Jeremiah 23:24).

Are you ready to have your sins washed away in the Blood of Jesus Christ? Hebrews 11:6 tells us, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

The song says, "His grace reaches even me." The good news is you do not have wait for Christ to travel from a long distance to have your sins forgiven! Thank God for the victory in Christ Jesus our Lord!

"YOU HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST"

By David Weak

The Lord calls on His disciples to be *"perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48).

Peter said, *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'"* (1 Peter 1:15-16). We are to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1). Paul said that the apostles warned every man and taught every man in order to present them "perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28). Even Paul's helpers, such as Epaphras, labored fervently so that the saints might "stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12).

If you study Bible words, then you know the Greek word "teleios" (perfect) does not mean sinless, but refers to maturity of character, spiritual completeness, and the full-grown nature of one's moral standards. Thayer says that it means to be a "full-grown man" and to be of "full age, mature" relative to morals and spiritual growth.

So, what the Lord and the apostles were calling on Christians to be is mature, complete, and fully grown-up regarding the attributes and qualities that make one a disciple of Christ and a follower of God. Paul said we must *"quit ye like men"* (1 Corinthians 16:13). Jesus Christ is our standard. He set the example and "bar" that all disciples must meet. God established His Son as our savior, but also as our example. Those who believe in Jesus must follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

People like to say they just "can't live up" to the Lord's example, but the Bible provides overwhelming evidence that we can do so. Again, we are not talking about sinlessness, but spiritual maturity. That we can do! That we MUST do!

To behave in a way that does not mirror the Lord's example is to rebel against our mandate from the Lord. Nothing that the Lord requires of His people is impossible for them. When the scriptures command us to give, then we will have all sufficiency to do so (2 Corinthians 9:8). When the word commands us to resist the devil, we can do that too (James 4:7).

In matters of temptation and sin, nothing that we face is uncommon to man. God will supply us with the strength to escape it (1 Corinthians 10:13). To avow otherwise is nothing short of an absence of faith. Every protestation that "I am who I am," rather than who I should be, is weak faith in action. A believer cannot afford to embrace his short-comings as insurmountable, while hoping that God will save him in spite of his flaws. No, the "full-grown" man of God is a Christian's goal.

One who calls himself a Christian should behave as Christ would have him behave. Paul knew he had not yet attained the maturity he strove for, so he pressed on toward that upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12). He did not give up and wallow in faithlessness, he buffeted his body daily in order to achieve mastery of himself (1 Corinthians 9:25, 27). So must every disciple!

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, George Hutto, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, and Cameron Hutchins.

Updates: Tim Harris Sr. is wearing his cast for several more weeks to heal up.
Billy Grisham is home since last Wednesday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Blake Briggs
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Ways Of Disobedience"</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Fred Johnson 1, 2, & 3 John
Author:	By Michael Hardin
Starting Page & Question:	Page — Question # —

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Fred Johnson
Scripture Reading:	<i>Psalm 14:1-7</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Singing Service:	<i>Men of the Congregation Lead Singing</i>
Invitation:	Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer:	Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 26, 2025

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
Workbook:	Great Bible Characters: Abraham
Author:	By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	Page #27, Question #14
Invitation:	Fred Johnson
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.



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“The Ways Of Disobedience”

Lesson Text: Hebrews 4:1-11. We Can Learn About The Need For Obedience...

I. God Has Drawn A Line Concerning Salvation.

- Between The Obedient And The Disobedient- **Hebrews 4:6; vs.11; 5:8-9.**
- Obedience To The Gospel Is A Must! **1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
- **Revelation 22:14-15.**

II. Ways We Can Disobey God.

- **By Stubbornly Refusing To Obey God.**
 - Balaam- **Numbers 22:15-22.**
 - King Saul- **1 Samuel 15:18-24.**
 - The Children Of Israel- **Ezekiel 2:3-5.**
 - **Romans 2:3-6.**
- **By Doing What God Has Forbidden.**
 - Adam & Eve- **Genesis 3:1-6.**
 - Achan- **Joshua 7:19-21.**
 - **Colossians 3:5-9.** *“Sons of Disobedience.”*
- **By Adding To What We Must Obey.**
 - **Deuteronomy 4:2.**
 - **Matthew 15:1-2; vs. 9; 23:1-4.**
 - Do Men Add To God’s Word By Traditions Of Men?
 - Instrumental Music, Prayer beads, Moderators, Circuit Overseers, Arch-Bishops, Creed Books....
- **By Subtracting From What We Must Obey.**
 - **Deuteronomy 4:2.**
 - **Matthew 15:3-6.**
 - Do Men Today Subtract From God’s Word?
 - Baptism as Unnecessary, The Miracles of Jesus, & Cutting Out What We Don’t Agree With...
- **By Substituting For What We Must Obey.**
 - Nadab & Abihu- **Leviticus 10:1-3; Leviticus 16:12.**
 - King Jeroboam- **1 Kings 12:28-33.**
 - Women Preachers, One-man-pastor for elders oversight, Hamburgers & Coke On The Lord’s Supper.
- **By Neglecting To Obey God Altogether.**
 - **Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 2:1-3; James 4:17.**
 - We Should Never Neglect Our Duties To God, Or We Are Unfaithful- **Matthew 25:15-30.**
- **By Not Believing & Trusting in God.**
 - **Hebrews 3:16-19.**
 - The Basis Of Saving Faith- **John 3:36; Luke 6:46.**

Conclusion: Romans 2:8-11.