

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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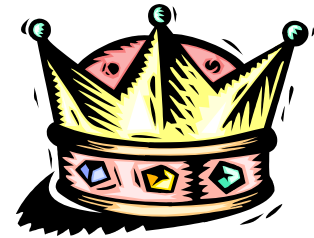
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January 14, 2018

### Some Facts About the Church #2

By Brian Meade

There are many beliefs and opinions in the world today about the church that are simply inaccurate. However, the Bible gives us the facts that can be proven in the scriptures. It is not for us to speculate or form opinions separate and apart from these facts. Therefore, there is nothing that an open Bible can't fix.



#### III. The Church is Under Christ's Authority, Not Man's.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, "...All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." It is clearly understood from the scriptures that Jesus has "all authority" or "power" (KJB) to rule and command His church in all things. The Heavenly Father has given this exclusively, exalted position to the Son (Philippians 2:8-11).

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, He gives us a very emphatic picture of Jesus' position in relation to His church, as Paul says, "...which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:20-22)

Paul also used similar language in Colossians 1:15-18, as he declared to us richly that, "all things have been created through Him and for Him. "...so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ("be preeminent" ESV)

After seeing how the scriptures give us this important information on Christ's authority and headship of the church, how then can anyone dare to usurp the role as head of Christ's body? How can men attempt to be the head of the church that Christ died for and purchased with His own blood? (Acts 20:28)

Men, of past and present, have made for themselves titles and offices that are legislative in nature. That is, they want to write laws, creeds, and edicts of their own devising— and thus usurp authority that only belongs to Jesus!

What need does the church have for a Pope, President, or other such presumptuous role? The book of James tells us, "There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy..." (James 4:12).

The Pope is supposedly, "The Vicar of Christ" on the earth as an "earthly representative for Christ."

The Bible is completely silent for a reason on all similar titles.

When groups of men, like the Southern Baptist Convention (or any other church councils) make and bind and loose their own laws and by-laws, they go beyond being under Christ's authority and into the realm of attempting to be the head of the church.

All such defections have one thing in common—an ambitious desire to be more than what is proper and good. And consequently, they are only able to give Christ's Headship a passing, sentimental lip-service at best, as they may say, "After all, Christ has all authority." May it never be!

#### IV. The Church is Spiritual in Nature, Not Carnal.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples concerning the nature of the coming kingdom would be like, He would always focus on the Spiritual. On the Sermon on the mount, Jesus started with the Beatitudes (Beatitudes) of humility, meekness, purity in heart, hungering and thirsting for righteousness.... (Matt. 5:3-10).

Jesus would teach those who sought just the physical bread, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life,”* (John 6:26-27). It is also worth noting that Jesus made such spiritual applications also in John 4:10-14 and 32-34.

And in the days of the early church, when some were concerned about food and drink in Romans 14:17, he concluded by saying, *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* Again, Paul emphasized the spiritual nature of the kingdom for us to get the message and look on *“the things above.”* (Colossians 3:2)

- The Church is NOT a Social club.
- The Church is NOT a Place to Eat and Drink.
- The Church is NOT a Recreational Provider.
- The Church is NOT a Political Movement.
- The Church is NOT a Place to be Entertained.
- The Church is NOT a Charity Organization to the World.

Jesus did not purchase the church with *“His own blood”* (Acts 20:28) so that we could be involved in the common things of life (I Corinthians 11:22). He did not die just so we could have better social, economic, political, recreational, or entertainment advantages— but a better spiritual condition (John 10:10).

(Continued next week)

## **“A Study of James 1:19-20 - Lesson 2”**

By Phillip R Keathley

James 1:19-20 – *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup> for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”* As we continue our discussion of James 1:19,20 we wish to focus on the importance of being swift to hear. The scriptures make it clear that it is through hearing the word of God, we obtain faith (Rom 10:17). By listening to what God teaches us in His word we can know how to be saved, how to conduct our lives, and be wiser individuals. Let us examine some importance concepts regarding hearing.

### **Don’t let your ears become dull.**

In Matthew 13:15, Jesus says the following, *“For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”* In this passage of scripture Jesus warns of the negative effect a lack of hearing His word will have upon the hearts of the hearer. The KJV uses the word “dull” in regards to hearing, while the NKJ translates it “hard of hearing.” This helps us understand that when we turn our ears off from the truth, making it difficult for us to learn the spiritual message of God’s word, our heart too, will be come dull, or hardened. Failure to hear results in a failure to truly understand and thus be converted.

### **Don’t turn your ears off from the truth**

In 2 Tim 4:4 Paul wrote the following *“and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”* (NKJV). In this passage of scripture, we learn that we make a choice whether to hear the truth of the word of God or not. Paul warns of the of those who “turn” their ears away from the truth. A conscience effort is made to avoid listening to the scriptures. When we do this, we replace the truth with what the Bible calls fables. We learn in Proverbs 1:5 *“A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,* The wise counsel we must listen to, that will make us a wise man, is the word of God.

### **Good listening skills help us answer wisely**

The Proverb writer tells us in 1:5 *“A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,”* We learn two important aspects about hearing in this verse. The first thing is that if we wish to be wise, we will listen and learn. This is also true about how to talk to others wisely. If we wish to answer people about the Bible, or any questions they ask us, we must first listen to what they have to say or ask so that we may learn what it is they are conveying to us, and thus be able to give a wise answer. Secondly, we learn that to obtain understanding we will seek or attain wise counsel. This is connected to listening to the wisdom of God’s word. Perhaps we could even seek out those who are wise in the scriptures and learn from them, by being swift to hear. Note Proverbs 1:8-9, *“My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.”*

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Cheryl Ridgeway, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Kimberly Mccullough, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab)  
Prayers for the Johnson family for the loss of Janis Johnson.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:**

Tim Harris Sr.

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"The Importance of Prayer to the Christian"*

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

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

Fred Johnson

The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)

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

**Announcements:**

Fred Johnson

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Paul Johnson

Luke 18:1-5

**Song Leader:**

Jerry Kennemur

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Busby

**Assisting:**

Chris Callahan & Nathan Meade

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"What We Express to God in Our Prayers"*

**Closing Prayer:**

Russell Briggs

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

**January 17th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Brian Meade

1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)

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**Invitation:**

Chris Callahan

**Song Leader:**

Russell Briggs

**Closing Prayer:**

Paul Johnson