

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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**October 29, 2023**

### ***“Oh, How I Love Your Law!”***

By R. J. Evans

*“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:7).*

To the faithful child of God, there is no other book greater than the book of all books---the Bible! That is true because it is the word of God; His message that reveals His will to man. The faithful Christian has much the same attitude toward the word as the Psalmist's statement of our above text. Or, as he refers to the righteous whose "delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2). If we started making a list of some of the blessings and benefits that come from reading, studying, and obeying God's word, the list would be almost endless. In this article, let's observe five wonderful blessings derived from reading, studying, and obeying the word.

#### **PEACE.**

Nothing is comparable to the peace that comes from reading, studying, and obeying God's word. Please observe the words of the Psalmist: *“Great peace have those who love Your law. And nothing causes them to stumble”* (Psalm 119:165).

The faithful Christian can say---the word keeps me from stumbling because it will *“direct my steps”* (Psalm 119:133) and it serves as *“a lamp to my feet And a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). The word is the foundation for wisdom, and through wisdom are the *“ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace”* (Proverbs 3:17). Those who obey the word of the gospel of Christ experience *“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding”* (Philippians 4:7).

#### **AN ENRICHED LIFE.**

Think of all the time, money, and effort that is spent in searching for a long, enriched life while here on earth. But many fail to realize the true blessings of an enriched life, because they are searching in the wrong places. Notice the words of the wise man: *“My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you”* (Proverbs 3:1-2). The key to the formula of an enriched life is obedience to the word of God. There are enumerable blessings that come from obeying the commands of God. In fact, young people are specifically told to *“Honor your father and mother,”* which is the first commandment with promise: *“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth”* (Ephesians. 6:2-3) See also John 10:10; 1 Peter 3:10-12.

#### **WARNINGS AGAINST DANGER.**

The Psalmist, in speaking of heeding and obeying God's commandments stated, *“Moreover by them Your servant is warned And in keeping them there is great reward”* (Psalm 19:11). There are so many dangers in life that can cause us tremendous spiritual problems. As the prophet Jeremiah said, *“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). But we do have *“the prophetic word made sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place”* (2 Peter 1:19).

Thus, by reading and studying the Bible, we can find our way around those dangers and "pitfalls" of error, heartaches, and sins---thus avoiding them.

## **JOY.**

Meditating on God's word provides joy in our hearts. *"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart"* (Psalm 19:8). The prophet Jeremiah explained it in this manner: *"Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart"* (Jeremiah 15:16).

## **WISDOM.**

Even those who are not highly educated can become wise through regular Bible study. *"The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple"* (Psalm 19:7). Studying and obeying the word of God can help us become wiser than our enemies, our teachers, and even older people. Notice again the words of the Psalmist: *"You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts"* (Psalm 119:98-100).

We could go on and on listing other blessings that come from reading, studying, and obeying God's word. For example, there is: guidance (Psalm 119:105; Prov. 3:23; help in overcoming sin (Psalm 119:11; 17:4); comfort in times of sorrow (Psalm 119:50-52, 92; 1 Thessalonians 4:18); and the increasing of our faith (Rom. 10:17).

Why not set aside some time daily for reading and studying God's word. And, most certainly, put it into practice by having an obedient, submissive, and receptive heart. By so doing, you will truly become a blessed person! ( See Psalm 1 - 3).

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## **"HOW TO IDENTIFY AN ANTI-CHRIST"**

By Joel Raulerson

Many hear the term "antichrist" and connect it with the end of the world. To many, the "antichrist" is the epitome of evil that will one day come into the world and lure people away from serving God. It is often connected with Premillennialism and popularized by books such as the Left Behind series.

Throughout history, many have claimed such men as Adolph Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin, Barak Obama, and countless others to be the antichrist that is about to bring about the end of the world. Is this what the Bible is talking about when it speaks of "antichrist"?

The term "antichrist" is a biblical term. However, many today have chosen to pervert its actual meaning. What does the Bible say about the antichrist? 1 John 2:18 says, *"Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come."*

In this passage, we see that there have already been a number of antichrists, beginning in the first century. If the antichrist was the signaling of the end of the age as many today believe; the world would not still be here nearly 2000 years later. The antichrist is not some ultimate evil that is going to appear before the end of the world.

Many antichrists have already been here! One of the main issues with this misconception of what an antichrist is lies in the definition of "antichrist." How can we identify an antichrist? 1 John 2:22 tells us, *"Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son."*

As we have already seen, there have been countless antichrists throughout history. In fact, there are some walking the earth right now. That is because an antichrist is simply someone who chooses to deny that Jesus is the Christ. Many today choose to be an antichrist by denying both Jesus and God the Father. The definition of antichrist is already in the name. It is anyone who is anti-Christ. In other words, anyone that is an adversary of Christ (John 15:14).

Is there anyone you know who is an antichrist? Is there anyone who has chosen to place themselves and their beliefs above serving God? Perhaps there may be some reading this article that are choosing to be an antichrist today.

Examine yourself and ask the question, "Am I an antichrist"? Am I willfully choosing to continue my life in sin? If you are, you need to make a change, put off the old man, be washed in baptism, and begin serving God today (Acts 2:37-38).

If you are spending your life striving to serve the Lord, warn others about what it means to be an adversary of Christ. Show them the truth and the blessings they can find by serving Christ.

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: 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, Fred Johnson, Mary Ann Holley, Larsen Plyler, Willis Fields (Brandi Meade's Dad), Sam Kennemur (Upcoming surgery November 6th).

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Paul Johnson  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Pictures Of Prophecy In Isaiah 2"

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

**Workbook:** Fred Johnson  
1 & 2 Thessalonians  
**Author:** Mark Mayberry  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #53, Question # 12

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

**Announcements:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Dan Cottrell  
**Scripture Reading:** Romans 11:1-5  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Doug George  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "The Role Of Israel In God's Plans Today"  
**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

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

**November 1, 2023**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors  
**Author:** Max Tice  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #41, Question #4  
**Invitation:** Adam Harris  
**Song Leader:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.

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# ***“Pictures Of Prophecy In Isaiah 2”***

Lesson Text: **Isaiah 2:1-5.**

## **I. The Mission of The Prophets.**

- They Would Give The Word Of God, As Directed By God. **Isaiah 38:4.**
- They Rebuked Sin & Apostasy— And Preached A Return To Faithfulness- **Isaiah 28:1.**
- They Also Foretold Future Events— They Spoke Of The Coming Of Their Messiah.
  - Isaiah Is Referred To As *“The Messianic Prophet.”* **Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12.**
- They Gave Hope To Better Days In The Future- **Isaiah 2:5.**

## **II. The Pictures For Us In Isaiah 2:1-5.**

- A Picture Of The New Testament Age.
  - *“Now it will come about that In the Last Days...”* **(Vs. 2).**
  - The Days That Jesus Speaks- **Hebrews 1:1-2.**
  - Acts 2 Fulfillment of Joel- **Acts 2:14-21.**
  - A Time Of Perilous Days- **2 Timothy 3:1.**
  - A Time When Scoffers Come- **2 Peter 3:3-4.**
- A Picture Of The Church Of The Lord.
  - *“The Mountain of the House of the Lord...”* **(NASB vs. 2).**
  - The Church Of Our Lord Is Pictured As A House:
    - 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:4-6; Hebrews 10:21; 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Peter 4:17.**
  - The Exalted Picture Of The Kingdom/Church- **Daniel 2:44-45.**
- A Picture Of The Future Of Jews & Gentiles Together.
  - *“And all nations shall flow to it.”* *“Many people shall come and say...”* **(Vs. 2-3)**
  - The Old Testament System Was For The Jews Only— Gentiles Excluded- **Eph. 2:12.**
  - But Under Christ’s Reign, Both Jews & Gentiles Are Citizens- **Ephesians 2:13-19.**
  - Jesus Predicted It In **John 10:16.**
  - Fulfilled In **Acts 10; 11:26; Romans 1:16.**
- A Picture Of The New Law Going Forth From Jerusalem.
  - *“He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.”* *For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”* **(Vs. 3).**
  - Moses Was A Law-Giver— Jesus Has Laws Too. **Hebrews 7:12; 10:15-18.**
  - **1 Corinthians 9:19-21; Galatians 6:2; James 1:25.**
- A Picture Of The Peaceful Rule In God’s Kingdom.
  - *“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.”*
  - Jesus, The Prince of Peace- **Zechariah 6:12-13; Isaiah 65:24-25; Matthew 5:9.**

# ***“The Role Of Israel In God’s Plans Today”***

Lesson Text: **Romans 11:1-5.**

## **I. The Role Of Israel In Old Testament Times.**

- **Acts 7:1-53**, Stephen Reviews The History Of God’s People To Christ.
- The National Law Was Given To The Israelites- **Exodus 32.**
- The Temple Was Built In Jerusalem For Worship- **1 Kings 6:1-38.**
- The Blood Of Bulls And Goats For Sacrifices- **Leviticus 16:14.**

## **II. The Role Of Israel In Bringing In The Messiah.**

- **Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23.**
- **Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2.**
- **Luke 4:16-21.**
- Christ Fulfilled The Law Of Moses- **Matthew 5:17-18; Romans 10:4; 10:12.**
- Jesus Was The Last Sacrifice Offered For Sins- **Hebrews 10:9-14; 10:4.**
- Worship At The Temple Ended At The Cross- **Matt. 27:51; John 4:19-23; 24:1-2.**

## **III. How Are Jews Are Saved Today?**

- Both Jews And Gentiles Need Salvation- **Romans 2:5-11; 3:21-26.**
- Both Are Saved The Same Way- **Acts 2:36-41; Acts 10:47-48.**
- No Distinction In The Way Of Salvation For Both- **Galatians 3:26-29.**
- Salvation Of Jews And Gentiles- **Romans 11:13-23.**

## **IV. Why All This Matters Today.**

- Does God Still Have Some Big Plans For Israel In The Future?
- Misunderstandings About The Jews Still Being God’s Chosen People Today.
  - **Romans 11:25-29; 2:28-29; Colossians 3:9-12.**
- Those Who Believe In Premillennialism/Dispensationalism Look For Israel To Be Fully Restored In Jerusalem.
- But How Can God Restore Israel?
  - Salvation? Land Promises? Take Prominent Place Over Gentiles?
- Is This Anti-Semitism To Believe The Proper Role Of The Church In God’s Plans?
- God Places No Distinction In The Church Between Jews And Gentiles.
- We Are In The Last Age Until Christ Returns For His People.
- We Are To Follow Paul’s Instructions In **Romans 11:20.**

**Conclusion:** God’s Plans For Israel Is The Same For All Men— Salvation Through Christ! **Ephesians 3:8-11.**