

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Churchatcorinth.com

Meeksstreetchurchofchrist.com

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Where Are Your Priorities?

By Phillip Keathley

In this day and age, being busy is as common as fur on a cat. We have so many things to worry about each day like who is going to watch the kids? What's for dinner this evening? Is there anything good on T.V. to watch?

And then there are times that we have a really big day at work and are tired when we get home. Somewhere in this busy schedule, we try to fit God in our crowded lives; not remembering where or who our priorities should be with. It seems that we forget to plan our lives around what God wants, and instead we try to schedule God a few hours, when and if we can.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."* Jesus makes it clear where we should be placing our priorities. We must remember that no matter how busy things are, the kingdom of God and His righteousness comes first and foremost.

In John 4:24, Jesus reminds us that we must worship God in spirit and in truth. We must remember that in order to accomplish this task, we must place God first in our lives. When we do that, worship becomes really important to us. We would not ever want to be absent from the times we worship on Sunday.

And when we are worshipping the Lord, our attention needs to be on Him. How can we attend the worship of the Lord, having our minds on things other than the Lord, and say that He is first in our lives? It is NOT possible. But in order to seek first the kingdom of God, we must show Him that He really is "first" to us in everything we do.

Paul commands us to give as we have been prospered in I Cor. 16:1-2. But how often are we guilty of not putting aside money for the Lord until we see the collection plate passed around? II Cor. 9:7 tells us to purpose in our hearts what we give to the Lord; This requires putting the Lord first.

Our lives must be God-centered rather than self-centered. Compared to eternity, our busy lives take place in the blink of an eye. As James 4:14 says, *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and vanisheth away."* With such little time in this world, shouldn't we want to make God our priority by devoting as much to Him as we can?

The Bible— the Word of God

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of life, and the doom of sinners, the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It gives light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the soldier's sword, the Christian's chart and compass. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand theme, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure, and a garden of flowers. It is given us in life, will be open in the Judgment, and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle its holy contents. Author unknown

WORDS FROM IRVEN LEE

“The child is like a mound of potter’s clay. The potter can take the clay and fashion it into whatever form he chooses. He can then dry and temper it, and the form is set into its permanent shape. That is a frightening thought. As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined. As the child is molded and shaped so the man will be. The challenge is very great when the parents realize that they have the power to shape the very eternal destiny of the soul that inhabits the body of their little child. How many parents will be lost because they failed in their duty to their children?”

(via [Good Homes in a Wicked World](#) – p. 91-92)

“GOD’S WAY”

BY SEWELL HALL

The problem of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. Paul said it existed in Corinth: *“For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness”* (I Cor. 1:22-23).

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on “The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World.” Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. But this was not Paul’s approach, as he told us: *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”* (I Cor. 2:2). Human philosophy and human wisdom had no place in Paul’s plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as “Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer.” Rather, he says, *“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God ... I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”* (I Cor. 2:1, 3-5).

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even “make waves,” but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God’s building they are classified as “wood, hay, and straw.”

Paul warns against building such material into the church: “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work” (I Cor. 3:10, 12, 13).

News and Notes: sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Cheryl Ridgeway, Anna Hearn, and Mackenzie Whittemore.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"What the Scribes & Pharisees Taught Us Part 1"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Jerry Kennemur

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 53, Lesson 13

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Tony Whittemore
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Lord's Table:

Sam Johnson

Assisting:

Adam Harris & Lee Busby

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon:

"What the Scribes & Pharisees Taught Us Part 2"

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 8th:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Johnson
Joshua, Judges, & Ruth (Mike Willis)
Page 79 , Lesson 17, Question #14

Invitation:

Dan Cottrell

Song Leader:

Chris Callahan

Closing Prayer:

Tony Whittemore