

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
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April 24, 2022

### **“What Money Can And Cannot Buy” #1**

By Brian Meade

We are all born into this world where money is required for nearly everything we do or need in this economy. Our life seems to be restricted, controlled, and dominated by how much or how little money we have in our bank accounts. To many in the world, money is everything! It is “what makes the world go around.” It is what opens closed doors, gets one out of traffic tickets, buys privileges that others without it cannot afford.



The world’s view is essentially: that money can buy anything and everything— But what the Lord teaches us is strikingly different from that view!

Jesus spoke frequently about the use of money in His parables: The Talents (Matthew 25:14-30); The Treasure Hid in the Field (Matthew 13:44); The Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 12:45-46); The Unjust Steward (Luke 16:1-12). Jesus always pointed men to the proper use of money: Not to trust in it (Mark 10:24); Not to hoard it up and treasure it (Matthew 6:19-21). Jesus’ teaching shows the limits of the Christian’s use of money. But here’s what I would say is the material

or temporal view of money in contrast to the spiritual:

#### **1. Money Can Buy Many Material Possessions....But Not Real Contentment With What We Have.**

The more money you have, the more more stuff you can buy. Most of the finery things of life cost significantly more than the simple and plain items one may own. And it seems that “Keeping up with the Jone’s” is the goal of the unless one has so many possessions to enhance and enrich their lives. But this attitude is opposite of the view of Jesus teaches, *“Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”* (Luke 16:25)

But the attitude that many take on gathering stuff, only leads to discontent, and an unending cycle of buying more and more. Some are trying to fill a void that was never meant to be filled with material possessions. But yet they try! Money can buy all that.... But to what profit?

What money cannot buy is a life of content and ease from running the “rat-race” that so many feel they need to run. Paul said in 1 Timothy 6:6-8, *“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”*

I am not saying someone cannot have nice possessions, but it is the inordinate love for these things that drives people to pile up extreme debt— and for what? So we can work longer hours to afford a house that we are never home to enjoy?! What would happen if we were to say, “I have enough and am satisfied?” You see, it is not the buying of many more things that makes us content with what we have, but rather the opposite. Less stuff in our life can actually mean more time with family, and in work in God’s kingdom unhindered.

#### **2. Money Can Buy Amusements & Pleasures.... But Not Real Happiness & Joy In Life.**

First of all, we are talking of the legitimate amusements and pleasures that we often pay high dollars to find— like going to theme parks, and other places to amuse ourselves. Disney Land, Kings Island, Six Flags, and others all across the world offer rides and an environment that caters to our desire to please ourselves.

Again, I am not saying it is wrong to go to these places and enjoy ourselves while there, but what I am saying is: these places are not free! Many times they are getting more and more expensive to take our family there for a just a relatively short period of time spent there.

I have been to Kings Island a few times, Six Flags a couple of times, and Disney World once in Florida— but if we think that real joy and happiness can only come when we are at these places, we are sadly mistaken.

Not to mention, the illegitimate pleasures and amusements that many are seeking through recreational drugs and alcohol. These can be very expensive to buy and enslave many in their pursuit of happiness. Many who go down these “roads to perdition” never ever find the joy they were looking for in the first place! Why? Because they are looking for it in areas where God never placed real happiness and joy in.

But where do we find true happiness and joy? Is it something we must buy? No! The best things in life do not cost money to enjoy. Notice the Psalmist’s words, “*Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!*” (Psalm 144:15). In this Psalm, David is expressing the happiness of having the prosperity God provides His people in Israel.

The Hebrew word for happiness: “blessedness, happiness, good fortune, i.e., a state of joyful mind.” Happiness or being blessed is not what we do, but what we are. What God is trying to lead people to become— a blessed life is a happy life. And our relationship with God should be the source of it.

Jesus said on the sermon on the mount, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*” (Matthew 5:3-7).

Doing the Lord’s work and genuinely being His people is the ultimate source of real joy for the Christian (Luke 10:20; John 15:11; Acts 15:3; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 1:8; 3 John 4).

But it is only when we fully give ourselves to the Lord— otherwise we make ourselves miserable trying to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).

Contrast that with the world’s attitude that money can buy happiness for us. Benjamin Franklin once said the following: “Money has never made man happy, nor will it; there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants.”

### **3. Money Can Buy A Fine House To Live In.... But Not A Godly Home To Raise Our Children.**

It may very well be a play on words to say there is a difference between a house and a home. The word house and home can be used to describe the structure that a family lives in or to the people in the family themselves. King David built a house to live in 2 Samuel 5:11. But it was God who blessed and established the “house of David” in 2 Samuel 7:26, meaning David’s descendants would be blessed— not the physical structure.

Our premise is that money can build a very beautiful and ornate house structure to live in, but it is another thing entirely to build a godly home. Again, I must qualify and say I am not against nice houses, as I know Christians who have both a nice dwelling place and a godly home. But we should not have one without the other!

We read in Psalm 127:1, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.*” The Lord teaches us the futility in building a house without Him in the plans, as well as guarding a city without seeking the Lord’s protection. Both illustrations begin the Psalm to remind us that we need the Lord as the sustainer, protector, and leader for our family. This means building our home-life on the foundation of the Lord’s teaching (Matthew 7:24-28).

It begins when parents choose to walk with God and lead their children in that same path also. Solomon said, “*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*” (Proverbs 22:6).

Paul said in Ephesians 6:4, for fathers to bring up their children “*in the training and admonition of the Lord.*” Fathers should take the lead in making sure that the family is being trained and taught in God’s ways. This involves a lot of intentional effort and work to make it a reality. Fathers and mothers should be on the same page in getting children to services, making sure they are receiving good Bible instruction, and setting a good example of faith for their kids. It is an awesome responsibility, with some awesome challenges!

In conclusion, it only takes money to build a nice structure to live in, but it requires a heart of faith that seeks to do the Lord’s will to build a godly home.

(to be continued....)



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**And Our Facebook Page.**

**For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.**

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandra Oliver, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, and Greyson Reynolds (Nellie's classmate) went home to recover last week. The Family of Ed Moore (Died from a car wreck last Wednesday).

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Satan's Attacks On The Home"

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

Jerry Kennemur  
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)  
Page #25 Question #7

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

**Announcements:** Paul Busby  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Doug George  
Galatians 5:7-10  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Supper:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Hindering Causes And Their Cures"  
**Closing Prayer:** Sam Johnson

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

**April 27th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #18, Question #1  
**Invitation:** Dan Cottrell  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Doug George

# **“Satan’s Attacks On The Home”**

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 2:11.**

## **I. God’s Plan For The Home.**

- Husband And Wife Work Together— **Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:7.**
- The Husband/Father Lovingly Guides And Provides For the Home- **1 Timothy 3:12; 5:8.**
- The Wife/Mother Lovingly Cares For and Directs the Children- **Titus 2:4-5.**
- Both Teach and Influence Them to Respect God and Man- **Ephesians 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5.**
- Both Prepare Them To One Day Have A Godly Family of Their Own- **Proverbs 22:6.**
- What Satan Does To Undermine, Influence, And Destroy Our Homes- **1 Peter 5:8.**

## **II. Satan’s Attack: To Break Up The Home.**

- **Matthew 19:1-10; Matthew 5:32.**
- Quick, Easy, No-Fault Divorce (1969).
- Single Parents and the Consequences
- Will Use Unfaithfulness, Arguments Over Money, Addictions: Alcohol, Drugs, Pornography, and Gambling to make the marriage Unhappy or Bring Discontent.
- The Bottom-line: Sinful Conduct is at the root of all Divorces.
  1. Someone Let Sinful Desires Or Conduct To Ruin The Marriage.
  2. Sins of Commission Or Neglect Destroy Marriages. What Satan Wants!
  3. If They Acted With The Love, Respect, Kindness, Honesty, And Commitment That A Christian Should Have—The Marriage Would Have Not Failed.

## **III. Satan’s Attack: To Influence & Weaken The Home.**

- **1 John 2:15-17; 5:19; James 1:27.**
- Worldly Influences On Children To Rebel
- Songs, Movies, TV Sitcoms Can And Often Do Teach Contrary Ways To God’s Ways.
- Teach Drinking Alcohol or Drug Use is Normal and Fun!
- Rude, Crude, and Vulgar Language On Much of Our Entertainment.
- Some Songs, Movies, and Sitcoms Glamorize Vile Things.
- Open Talk About Promiscuous and Sinful Behavior in the Shows of Today.

## **IV. Satan’s Attack: To Redefine The Home.**

- **Genesis 2:20-24.**
- Couples. Living Together Without Marriage.
  1. A Major Problem of a High Divorce Rate.
  2. But Does It Really Help In Any Way?
- Perversions Of Marriage:
  1. Two Dads or Two Moms.
  2. Open Marriages— No Commitment, Trust, Or Dignity!
  3. Multiple Wives Or Husbands.
- Gender Identity Confusion.
  1. Does Away With Male And Female Roles.
  2. Its Fruit Leads To The Destruction Of God’s Order.

# **“Hindering Causes And Their Cures”**

Lesson Text: **Galatians 5:7-10.**

*enkopto* lit., “to cut into” (*en*, “in,” *kopto*, “to cut”), was used of “impeding” persons by breaking up the road, or by placing an obstacle sharply in the path; hence, metaphorically, of “detaining” a person unnecessarily, Acts 24:4, of “hindrances” in the way of reaching others, Rom. 15:22; or returning to them, 1 Thess. 2:18; of “hindering” progress in the Christian life, Gal. 5:7 (*anakopto* in some mss.), where the significance virtually is “who broke up the road along which you were travelling so well?” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 305).

## **I. From What Source Do Hindering Causes Come?**

- Not From God- **Galatians 5:8.**
- From Satan Himself- **1 Thessalonians 2:18.**

## **II . What Are Hindering Causes?**

- Temptations & Persecutions- **Mark 4:14-17.**
- Distracting Desires- **Mark 4:18-19.**
- False Doctrines- **Gal. 5:1-6.**
- False Teachers- **Gal. 5:7-8; 2 Peter 2:1-3.**
- Unbelief- **Hebrews 3:12; Vs.19.**
- Neglect- **Hebrews 2:3; James 4:17.**
- Laziness- **Proverbs 24:30-32.**
- Apathy To The Cause- **Matthew 24:12.**
- The Love Of Sin- **2 Peter 2:15.**

## **III. The Cures For Them.**

- Be Grounded In The Faith- **Col. 1:23.**
- Realize The Danger- **2 Timothy 2:4.**
- Be Led By The Spirit- **Gal. 5:18; Matt. 15:13.**
- Get Away From- **Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9-11.**
- Increase Faith- **Mark 9:20-24; Eph. 6:16.**
- Be Diligent- **2 Tim. 2:15; Hebrews 4:11.**
- Increase Zeal- **Hebrews 6:10-12.**
- Start Caring Again- **Revelation 3:14-16.**
- Get Rid of the Sin- **Hebrews 12:1.**

## **IV. What Hindering Causes Can Do To Us.**

- Keep Us From Obeying The Truth- **Galatians 5:7.**
- Keep Us From Entering In- **Luke 11:52.**
- Hinder Any Progress In Growth- **2 Peter 3:17-18.**
- Keep Us From Being Saved- **2 Timothy 4:10.**

What Is Hindering You From Being A Christian? **Acts 8:36—Acts 22:16.**

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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