

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

September 17, 2023

“Even As Far As Sodom: Lot And His Wife”

By William J. Stewart



When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, 'Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.' And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, 'Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.' (Genesis 19:15-17).

Getting Too Close to the World

Lot was with his uncle Abram from the time they departed "...Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan..." (Genesis 11:31). After the death of Terah, Lot continued with Abram (Genesis 12:4-5; 13:1). Eventually, as tensions arose between their herdsmen, Abram and Lot realized they needed to separate. Lot chose the plain of Jordan; Abram dwelt in Canaan (Genesis 13:10-11).

However, when Lot settled in the plain, he did not continue just in the plain of Jordan. We're told that "...Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom." (Genesis 13:12). Moses then comments of Sodom, "...the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD" (verse 13).

In discussing the judgment of the wicked, the apostle Peter spoke of the destruction which came upon Sodom and Gomorrah, as God made "...them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)..." (2 Peter 2:6-7).

Why was his righteous soul tormented from day to day? The simple answer is because of the wickedness of the Sodomites. Why did he continually see the wickedness of the Sodomites? In what began as the pursuit of fertile soil, Lot eventually gained an attraction to the cities of the plain (Genesis 13:12; 19:20).

He did not condone their actions, in fact, he spoke against them (Genesis 19:9), but through seeking prosperity and comfort, he willingly tolerated the continual presence of extreme wickedness around his family.

Friend, we cannot help but live in the world, but we must be careful about the associations we keep, and the places we choose to go to, live at, etc..

James asked, 'Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself as enemy of God.' (James 4:4). We must be careful not to get too close to the world!

Decisions And Consequences

The plains of Jordan and Sodom looked nowhere near as appealing on that dreadful day as it had years before. Destruction was on the horizon, and in fact would have come while Lot was still there were it not for the Lord's mercy (Genesis 19:16). Lot went to his sons-in-law and daughters, compelling them to leave the city, but they would not listen (Genesis 19:14).

The angels took hold of Lot, his two remaining daughters and his wife, and led them out of the city. While departing, his wife, perhaps longing for the life they were leaving behind, looked back, and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26). The decision to locate to Sodom cost Lot at least half of his family!

"Remember Lot's wife." These words were spoken by the Lord as a caution of the danger of turning back (Luke 17:32). We know nothing about Lot's wife, except that she ought to have been focused on escaping the judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah.

Instead, she was compelled to look back. Certainly, she was responsible for her own actions, but Lot bore a portion of it, for he led his wife and children into the devil's nest.

Decisions which we make in life need to be based upon spiritual merit, not physical. Men are to lead their families in such a way that sanctification, holiness, and faithfulness to the Lord prevail (Ephesians 5:26-27; 6:1-4). Jesus asked, "...*what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Matthew 16:26)

Each step closer to the world we take is a step further from the Lord. Let us cling to God.



Memory Verse of the Week:

Galatians 5:1 (NKJB)

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

"Covering Sin"

By Mike Thomas

The Bible says, "*He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy*" (Proverbs 28:13). Elsewhere it adds, "*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered*" (Romans 4:7). Evidently, there is a right way and a wrong way to cover sin.

The wrong way to cover sin is to remain in it while trying to conceal it from others. Jesus rebuked this attitude when He told the Pharisees, "*Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness*" (Matthew 23:28). We can expect the same verdict whenever we live in sin and try to appear godly at the same time. Eventually, our need to be approved of men will outweigh our need for God's approval, and we will concoct ways to keep our sin hidden from others. This never works. Sooner or later, our sin will be exposed and our hypocrisy will become evident. Nobody can keep their sin hidden indefinitely, nor will it go away with time, by moving away, or by doing additional good works.

The only way to respond to sin is to humbly confess and forsake it. To stubbornly continue in it, convincing ourselves that we will never get caught, is the path that leads to misery and shame. Pride always leads to a fall—without fail. And ultimately, "God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). There will be no secret sins on Judgment Day. Whatever we hid from men will eventually be exposed by God, who will condemn us for our deceit and pride. It will be as Paul foretold, "*Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later*" (1 Timothy 5:24). No one can keep their un-repentant sins hidden forever.

The only way to rightfully cover sin is to be forgiven of it by God. This is what Paul meant when he said, "*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*" The person doing the covering in these instances is God, because His righteous requirements for forgiveness have been met. For a non-Christian, this requires obedience to the gospel, which is God's power to save man from sin (Romans 1:16; Acts 2:38). For a Christian, it means to "*Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you*" (Acts 8:22). God also expects the Christian to confess his sin in prayer (1 John 1:9) and before those who are aware of it (James 5:16). God will not show mercy to the person who tries to cover his sin in any other way.

Once a person's sins have been forgiven by God, we are to cover them as well by no longer holding them against that person. For, "*He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends*" (Proverbs 17:9). We do this because of our love for their soul, our desire to help them rise above their mistakes, and because of the mercy God has shown us (cf., Ephesians 4:32). If we refuse to forgive that person and continually refer to them as sinners (to harm and shame them), we can know that "*neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*" (Matthew 6:15). We must willingly cover another's (forgiven) sin before God will cover ours.

Gospel Meeting

At The **Meeks Street Church Of Christ**

October 22nd—25th With brother Tim Henderson

Sunday Morning at 9:00 (22nd).

Monday—Wednesday 7:00 PM Nightly (23rd-25th).

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, Janet Boren, Fred Johnson, Mary Ann Holley, Anita Harris, Larsen Plyler, Willis Fields (Brandi Meade's Dad), and Sam Kennemur (Upcoming surgery (November 6th).

North East Church of Christ in Tupelo has a Gospel Meeting October 1st—6th.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Fred Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Not Everyone...."

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: 1 & 2 Thessalonians
Starting Page & Question: Mark Mayberry
Page #41, Question #10

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "What Makes A Christian Different From A Sinner?"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 20, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
Author: Max Tice
Starting Page & Question: Page #20, Question #4
Invitation: Adam Harris
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Not Everyone....”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 7:21-23.**

I. Not Everyone Who Calls Jesus Lord Will Be Saved.—

Why? Because Not Everyone Has Submitted In Obedience To His Will **Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46.**

- Like in **1 Chronicles 29:23-25.**
- Many Have Not Really Counted The Cost Of True Obedience.
 - True Obedience Actually Does The Lord’s Will And Not Our Own- **Romans 10:3.**
 - True Obedience Follows God’s Directions Without Additions, Subtractions, Or Substitutions- **Deuteronomy 4:2; 5:32; 17:20; 28:14; Joshua 1:7; Acts 15:24.**
- One Day, We Will All Call Jesus Lord, But We Must Do It Before That Day! **Phil. 2:11.**

II. Not Everyone Who Works Will be Saved.

- Why? Because We Can Work Wrong Things Or In Wrong Ways.
- Our Own Works- **2 Timothy 1:9;** Works Of Lawlessness- **Matthew 7:21; Titus 1:16;** Hypocritical Works- **Matthew 23:3;** Working To Be Seen Of Men- **Matthew 23:5;** Works Of The Law- **Romans 9:32; Galatians 2:16;** Works Of Darkness- **Romans 13:12;** Works Of Righteousness- **Acts 10:35;** Good Works- **Ephesians 2:10;** Works Of The Lord- **1 Corinthians 15:58.**
- Which One Of These Were They Doing? — **Matthew 7:22.**
Matthew 7:23 (ESV) *“And then I will declare to them,
‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

III. Not Everyone Who Prays Will Be Heard.

- Why? Because We Can Pray For Wrong Things Or In A Wrong Manner.
- Prayer Must Be “In Faith” And Not “In Doubt” **James 1:5-8.**
- Prayer Should Not Be A Show To Others- **Matthew 6:5-8.**
- Prayers Offered For Selfish Desires Are Not Heard- **James 4:1-3.**
- Prayer Must Be According To His Will- **1 John 5:14-15.**
- Prayers Must Be Offered In A Good Conscience- **Psalms 66:18; 1 John 3:21-22.**

IV. Not Everyone Loves The Lord And His Truth.

- Why? Because We Can Love The Wrong Things And Error. **John 15:25.**
- We See That In The Book Of **Acts 4:1-4; 5:17-18; 5:40-42.**
- Some Loved Their Own Way Of Religion More Than The Lord’s- **Romans 10:3.**
- Some Will Not Be Saved Because Of It- **2 Thessalonians 2:5-12.**

V. Not Everyone In The Lord’s Church Will Be Saved.

- Why? Because We Can Fall Short Of What We Can And Should Be.
- That’s The Real Basis For This Lesson—Not What Others Are Doing, But What About Me!
- Points 1-4, And Apply Them To Me. **2 Corinthians 13:5.**

Conclusion: Even Though, Not Everyone Will Be Obedient— Some Will.

1 Corinthians 9:22; Luke 8:15; 1 John 2:15-17.

“What Makes A Christian Different From A Sinner?”

Lesson Text: **1 Corinthians 6:9-11.**

I. Defining the Terms.

- Who Is A Christian?
 - The Term Is Used Three Times In Scripture- **Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16.**
 - Refers To Those Who Have Been Saved From Their Past Sins- **Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16.**
 - How Is One Saved From Sin? By Obeying The Gospel- **Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16.**
 - Christians Have Come To Jesus For The Forgiveness Of Sins- **Colossians 1:14.**

- Who Is A Sinner?
 - The Term Is Used Many Times In Scripture- **1 Timothy 1:15; James 5:20; 1 Peter 4:18.**
 - Refers To Those Who Have Not Been Saved From Their Past Sins- **2 Thess. 1:7-9.**
 - How Is One A Sinner? Not By Birth, But By Choice- **Romans 3:23; 7:7-12; James 4:8.**
 - Sinners Have Not Come To Jesus To Be Forgiven Of Their Sins- **John 5:40.**

II. How Are The Differences Made?

- In The Choice To Obey God, Christians Will Obey— Sinners Will Disobey.
 - **Romans 6:16-18; Ephesians 2:1-3.**
- In Hearing God’s Word, Christians Love To Hear It— Sinners Refuse To Listen.
 - **John 18:37; Acts 17:11; Proverbs 28:9; Ezekiel 3:27.**
- Concerning Christ’s Blood, Christians See The Need— Sinners Can Live Without it.
 - **Romans 5:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Acts 13:46.**
- Pertaining To Worship, Christians Have Joy In It— Sinners Are Bored Or Mock It.
 - **Psalms 122:1; Romans 15:9-11; Acts 2:13-15; Acts 17:30-33.**
- In Attitude About Sin, Christians Strive To Stay Away— Sinners Run To It, Glory In It.
 - **Colossians 3:5-7; Ephesians 4:19.**
- In Times Of Suffering, Christians Will Run To God— Sinners Will Run Away.
 - **Hebrews 6:18-19; John 3:20-21.**
- In Fellowship, Christians Join Others Of Faith— Sinners Join Other Sinners.
 - **1 John 1:3; Psalm 1:1-2.**

III. Why Does This Matter?

- The Difference Will Be Made Known To All In The “Last Day.”
 - **Matthew 25:31-34; vs. 41; vs. 46.**

- The Differences Are Made Now, By Your Choices And Decisions....