

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

July 21, 2019

“The Runaway Prophet”

By Jesse Flowers

There are so many wonderful and timeless lessons from the Old Testament book of Jonah that we need to continue to teach and apply today. Of course, Jonah was the prophet from Israel that God commissioned to go to Nineveh to cry out against their wickedness.

The LORD said to Jonah: *“Arise, go to Nineveh, hat great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD”* (Jonah 1:2-3).



One of the extremely important lessons from the book of Jonah that I want to emphasize in this particular article is that it is impossible to escape the commandments of God!

Jonah tried hard to do so but miserably failed in his futile attempt. The LORD sent out a violent storm that almost destroyed the ship he boarded (1:4-15). After being cast into the sea, God *“prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights”* (1:17).

After Jonah humbled himself and repented, God *“spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land”* (2:10). The word of the LORD then came to Jonah the second time, instructing him to go to Nineveh to preach God’s message. This time Jonah obeyed (3:1-3).

But just like the runaway prophet Jonah, we cannot escape God’s commands today. We can choose to ignore them, to disobey them, but they don’t change or go away. God’s word *“lives and abides forever”* (1 Pet. 1:23).

We may not like or obey the command to, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* (Acts 2:38), because we don’t believe we have to be baptized to be saved, but that doesn’t change the Lord’s command in the slightest (Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Nor does it change the eternal consequences if we continue to disobey God’s command (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Mk. 16:15-16).

We may not like or obey the Lord’s teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage (Matt. 19:3-9), but our stubborn refusal to accept it doesn’t make it just go away. If we divorce our spouse, except for sexual immorality, and marry another, we commit adultery (19:9). We may “get away” with it this life, but when we face God in judgment those who are “sexually immoral” (i.e. fornicator, adulterers, etc.) will be cast into hell (Rev. 21:8).

Regardless of the commandment, we cannot escape the responsibility to keep it or the consequences if we fail to do so. But if we truly love the Lord and our heavenly Father, then we will keep His commandments...all of them (Jn. 14:15; 1 John 5:3). Please keep in mind that it will be the word (commandments) of Christ that will judge us on the last day (Jn. 12:48).

“Don’t Allow Opinions To Become Commands”

By Jarrod Jacobs

One’s opinion is by far the most influential thing a person possesses. One’s opinion is often what shapes his beliefs and actions. Opinions are so strong that many have been taught and commanded through the years (Matt. 15:8-9).

The word opinion is found only three times in the KJV, and all three times the word is used in Job 32! Some translations use the word “opinion” as many as sixteen times (NET) and the least amount of times the word opinion was used was twice (NIV).

Though we do not read the word “opinion” in the Bible often, rest assured that anytime we read warnings about men’s traditions taking precedence over God’s word (ex: Titus 3:10), this is a time when an opinion was treated with more respect than Biblical truth!

While our opinions may not be wrong, they can develop into something wrong if they are allowed to turn into commands. Romans 14 and I Corinthians 8-9 are two passages which remind Christians that while it is OK to have an opinion, it needs to be remembered that other people have opinions too, and they are just as valid as anyone else’s. It should be obvious that within the realm of general Biblical authority, we may exercise our opinions. However, if we have an opinion we exercise that contradicts God’s specific authority on a matter, then we are practicing sin (I Jn. 3:4, 5:17; Jas. 4:17).

Exercising an opinion within general Biblical authority is quite clearly seen in Romans 14. The strong and weak brothers in that chapter were able to exercise their opinions. God “received” both and could make both “stand” before Him (Rom. 14:3-4). Both men, in this case, were correct, even though they held different opinions. Neither were allowed, however, to turn his opinions into commands that the other had to obey!

Examine yourself (II Cor. 13:5). Are you placing undue emphasis on your opinion? (This is called being a “heretic” in Titus 3:10.) Are you keeping it in its proper place? There is only one lawgiver, and it is not you (Jas. 4:12)!

Don’t make laws where God made none. Let’s respect the laws that God gave. Let’s not elevate our opinions higher than they ought to be!

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Meeting is right around the corner with brother Jarrod Jacobs. It begins September 30th-October 4th.

“Once For All”

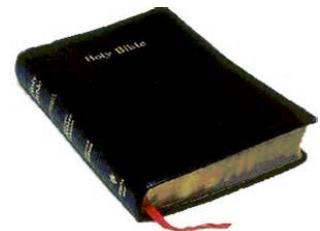
by Billy Norris
via Gospel Guide, Vol. 27, No. 12, December 1995

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints...” (Jude 3). The original Greek word hapax translated “once for all” means that it is “of perpetual validity not requiring repetition” (Vine, pg. 819).

The faith delivered to the saints is of such quality that it is complete (“perfect.” James 1:25) and will not tolerate repetition or alteration. This means that any “revelations” since the faith was given once for all have not come from God but from the inventive minds of men.

It further means that those who claim the revelations and those who believe them are condemned. The warning is clearly given, “Whoever transgresses (goes ahead) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (II John 9).

We must recognize and respect the significance of this word translated “once for all.” Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. (Hebrews 9:28). His sacrifice was of such quality as never to need repetition.



News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Katie Ward Coburn, Kathryn's grandmother, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, & Allison (12 year old girl that received burns from a house fire/ 80% of her body was burned), Karey Trimble, Clois Wright (recent stroke).
Marsha Briggs (Russell's mother), and Dan & Linda Hunt.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Adam Harris
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1. *"Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)
Page 61 Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Sam Johnson
Psalm 37:1-5
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Lord's Supper: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Chris Callahan
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Why Do Good Things Happen To Bad People?"*
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 24th:

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Johnson
The Book of Job (Mike Willis)
Page 19, Question #18

Invitation:

Song Leader:
Closing Prayer:

Brian Meade
Russell Briggs
Doug George