

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“What God Wants For Your Life”

By Brian Meade

The Bible teaches us about the desire God has for all men to be saved. In 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Paul says, *“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Notice in the reading, that prayer to God is urged by Paul so that we intercede on behalf others, and thus lead a tranquil, godly, and dignified life that God wants us to have; and that is for our benefit!

Unlike the devil’s evil desires for us, God seeks our good and has done so much for us so that we can be saved. As evidence of His great love and concern for fallen humanity—God sent His one and only Son Jesus to be the sacrifice to redeem all of us! (John 3:16; Titus 2:14)

When men blame God for all the evil that goes on in the world, they place blame where it does not belong, as James 1:13-16 teaches us. But rather, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”* (James 1:17) As an earthly father who wants the best for his children, so our heavenly Father and Creator wants for us.



Let’s look at what God Desires for your life today:

(1) God Wants You To Live A Life Free of Sin.

Notice in Hebrews 12:1, the writer is urging us to conclude from the previous chapter’s examples of strong faith and convictions, *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

The main point of this reading is that we all need to free from sin’s snare to run life unhindered as a Christian. As it is very true, that sin only weighs us down and is a very heavy burden that only God can take away!

Jesus would invite those who desire to be free in Matthew 11:28-30, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

In coming to Jesus, we trade the hard burden and heavy load of sin for the easy and light burden of service to a loving Savior. That is God’s desire for us: to help us get rid of what only hurts, defiles, ruins, and destroys our life.

All men need to be free from sin’s curse on their life, but sadly, not all want that for their good. Many will continue to live their lives with a constant sense of guilt, shame, and remorse for their past deeds— never truly free!

(2) God Wants You To Have The Best Life Possible.



This is NOT an advertisement for the “*gospel of health and wealth*” that men (like Joel Osteen) teach their followers. They draw great crowds talking about all the money and the physical prosperity you can have by listening to their “*All positive motivational speeches.*” (Romans 16:18; 2 Peter 2:3)

But there is a sense in which godly living does have many advantages over a life given over to sin’s way. It is true that Christians, by following Jesus’ way of life, generally have the best life possible.

Christians by their good conduct, morals, and commitment to God make the best citizens (Romans 13:1-7) who keep the laws of the land— as opposed to others who are lawless in their self-will and sin. Christians make the best friends (Proverbs 18:24) and neighbors anyone could ever have. As we are taught by God not to lie (Col. 3:9) and be honest with one another. True friends are loyal, honest, and devoted to each other; supporting, caring, and “*being there*” for the good times and the bad. The best husband or wife one could ask for (Proverbs 12:4; 31:10-31; Ephesians 5:22-33); they are committed, faithful, loving spouses, who do no harm. Sons and daughters, who are trained in righteousness, will be obedient, loving, and act with wisdom in life (Proverbs 15:20; 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4). Christians also make the best bosses to work for (Colossians 4:1) and are the best workers (Colossians 3:22-24) in the workforce— as they are honest, hard working, and do not cheat the boss in any way. That is, if we are sincerely striving to be a true Christian.

(3) God Wants You To Be A Part Of His Family— The Church.

Paul told the young preacher Timothy, “*but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*” (1 Timothy 3:15). The church (people) is the family or “household” of God. God wants to adopt us into his family of the saved (Ephesians 5:23) and be our Father— “*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*” (Romans 8:14-17) Being a part of God’s family has privileges!

(4) God Wants You To Be Faithful To The End.

In Philippians 1:6, Paul spoke of the beginning of their faith, when he said, “*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*”

Many use this passage to teach that one cannot fall from God’s grace, but that is not what Paul is saying to them or us today (1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Peter 3:17). But what this is saying is— that God is interested and active in helping us to be faithful to Him. God desires faithfulness from us and will help us in answering our prayers for what we need according to His will (James 1:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-4). We do believe that God supplies good gifts (Matthew 7:7-11) to His children— all in the view of their faithfulness. But it is still required of us to willingly and obediently remain to Him. Faithfulness is a choice that we all have to determine to give to God. God wants and expects us to make the right choice, so we can be saved in the end (Revelation 2:10).

(5) God Wants You To Receive The Reward Of Heaven.

Jesus told His disciples before He went to the cross, “*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”*

It is God wants you to be saved and to be with Him in heaven for all eternity. It is up to us to fulfill that desire by obeying Him in faith (Hebrews 5:9). Will you give your life to Him & reside in heaven’s bliss? (1 Peter 1:3-9)

A Women’s Bible Class

Starts back this January 2019.

Will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.

Ask Chris or Kathryn Callahan for where to meet.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Pam Zeanah,

There will be singing at SouthSide Houston, Ms. This month (Saturday 26, 6:00 pm)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Picture of Life's Other Side"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Paul Johnson
The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Page 90, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Fred Johnson
Luke 15:21-24
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Table: Paul Johnson
Assisting: Dan Cottrell & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "The Prodigal Son Returns"
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 23rd:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
1 & 2 Chronicles (Mike Willis)
Next Lesson, *Question #1*
Invitation: Adam Harris
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.