

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

July 5, 2026

“The Silence Of The Scriptures”

By Jeff Cason

The state of Florida brought a case before the US Supreme Court against the states of California and Washington, charging those states with giving CDLs (Commercial Driver's Licenses) to non-citizens (illegal immigrants). This was based on a recent horrific accident in which an entire family was killed in Florida by an unlawful U-turn by an illegal alien who had been given a CDL by both California and Washington.

Justice Clarence Thomas disagreed with his colleagues and issued the following statement: "We have no more right to decline the exercise of jurisdiction which is given, than to usurp that which is not given." His statement is profound and significant as it applies to the laws that govern our nation, but it is even more profound and significant when applied to the study of authority as revealed in God's word. Let me put Justice Thomas's statement in other words by its two parts.

First, the Supreme Court must hear cases in areas where they have been given authority. The Supreme Court must hear cases where the Constitution expressly gives it authority. It cannot decide that it does not want to hear a case when it is mandated by the Constitution to do so. In this case, Justice Thomas argues that the Supreme Court must hear the case because it is a dispute among three states. He believes that the Supreme Court is told that its very existence is to bring justice in such matters.

Second, the Supreme Court must not hear cases in areas where they have not been given authority. The Supreme Court cannot hear cases where the Constitution is silent. It cannot decide to hear a case when it has no authority by the Constitution to do so. In this case, Justice Thomas argues that this is not a matter of Constitutional silence because it is a case where the Constitution has clearly given the Supreme Court authority.

Serious Bible students recognize this event in light of a very old simple statement about Bible authority. "Where the Bible speaks, we will speak; where the Bible is silent, we will be silent." The phrase is attributable to Thomas Campbell. He delivered this famous statement in 1809 in a speech which served as a motto for the Restoration Movement. Campbell, a Presbyterian minister, urged believers to abandon human creeds and use the Bible as their only guide.

Campbell's statement, even more profound and significant than Justice Thomas's, is founded in Scripture.

1. I Corinthians 4:6.

"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other."

2. Hebrews 7:14.

"For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests."

3. II Samuel 7:7.

Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

4. Jeremiah 32:35.

"They built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin." (See also Jeremiah 7:30-31).

5. Nehemiah 7:61-64.

Especially verse 64. These searched among their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood.

The concept that the silence of the Scriptures prohibit and do not authorize our work and worship is not some strange, manufactured doctrine by the church of Christ. We see the same concept used today in determining authority in our own Supreme Court. Let us contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

Let us respect the silence of the Scriptures.

"THE STRONGEST DEFENSE IS A FAITHFUL LIFE"

By Ian Rice

Few passages in the New Testament have generated as much discussion in apologetic circles as 1 Peter 3:15. Many readers approach this verse as a mandate to create sophisticated arguments, defend the existence of God, or engage skeptics in formal debate. While such discussions of the faith undoubtedly have value, was that Peter's primary concern?

To understand the true meaning of any passage, we must consider its historical and literary context. Peter's call for Christians to give a "defense" was not primarily concerned with constructing sophisticated apologetic arguments or engaging in formal philosophical disputes. Rather, it served as an exhortation for persecuted believers to maintain a resilient, Christ-centered hope amid unjust suffering. Their steadfast faith would naturally prompt others to ask about the source of their confidence, providing opportunities to explain the hope they possessed in Christ.

As Peter addressed the scattered Christians in Asia Minor, he instructed them in the previous verse on how to respond to hostile neighbors: "Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled" (v. 14). His primary concern was their response to intimidation and suffering, urging them not to be overcome by fear or anxiety, but to remain steadfast in their trust in God.

Observers might notice something remarkable about these individuals: despite their unjust suffering, faithful Christians remained resilient and did not succumb to despair. While their hope was rooted in the truth of the gospel, Peter emphasized how that hope was visibly expressed in daily life. Their endurance amid adversity would naturally lead others to wonder why they remained so hopeful despite their circumstances.

The term "defense," translated from the Greek word *apologia*, often refers to a legal defense or reasoned reply. In this context, it emphasizes the believer's readiness to explain the hope that sustains faithful endurance, even at great personal cost.

In summary, thoughtful reasoning certainly has its place, but the deeper meaning of 1 Peter 3:15 becomes much clearer when we examine it in context. Furthermore, understanding the context helps us grasp the principles God intended to communicate rather than allowing later concerns to overshadow Peter's original emphasis. Peter focused on encouraging suffering Christians to remain fearless, keep Christ central in their hearts, and be ready to explain the hope that sustained them through difficult times.

This principle is still relevant today. We need to understand our faith, but it is equally important to demonstrate a hope that persists even when we face difficult circumstances. Responding with gentleness, faith, and grace in the midst of suffering can serve as a powerful testimony, prompting others to inquire about the source of our confidence in God. In essence, 1 Peter 3:15 teaches us that the strongest defense of our faith lies not just in our arguments, but in how we live when following Christ requires sacrifice.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billie Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, Randy Ferrell (diagnosed with Parkinson's disease), & Greg Fields (Brandi Meade's uncle with Pancreatic cancer).

Updates: Billie Grisham is in Dogwood Assisted Living, here in Corinth.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is home and doing some better, still needs our prayers.

Russell Briggs is doing well with his recovery.

LuAnne Parrish is home now.

Lynlie Cottrell is doing well with her recovery.

Randall Oliver (Lynlie's dad) is doing well with his recovery.

Tim Harris Sr. had back surgery last week and is recovering.

Those Who Serve:**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

Opening Prayer:

Dan Cottrell

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1:

"Being Careful How We Build"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:

Jerry Kennemur

Author:

Passing The Torch

Starting Page & Question:

Mike Willis

Page 34, Question #10

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Blake Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Danny Sheffield

Scripture Reading:

John 4:19-22

Song Leader:

Tim Harris Sr.

Lord's Supper:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

— —

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2:

"Do You Know Why You Worship?"

Closing Prayer:

Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

July 8, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class:

Brian Meade

Workbook:

The Book Of Mark

Author:

By Mike Willis

Starting Page & Question:

Page #69, Question #1

Invitation:

Dan Cottrell

Song Leader:

Nathan Meade

Closing Prayer:

Brian Meade



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

[And Our Facebook Page.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber)

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Being Careful How We Build”

Lesson Text: **1 Corinthians 3:9-11.**

I. Authority— The Right To Act In Building.

- Before We Build, We Must Answer: *“Do We Have The Right?”*
- Permission- Acting By Authority.
 - **John 14:15; Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 28:18.**
 - We Ask First. - We Follow Instructions.
- Presumption- Acting Without Authority.
 - We Act On Our Own Ideas. - We Follow Our Own Methods.
 - **Leviticus 10:1-2; Proverbs 16:25; Galatians 1:6-9.**

II. God Always Gives A Blueprint.

- **Exodus 25:40**, *“And see to it that you make them according to the pattern...”*
 - Noah In Building The Ark- **Genesis 6:13-22.**
 - Moses In Building The Tabernacle- **Exodus 25:40; 40:16.**
 - David In Carrying The Ark Of Covenant- **1 Chronicles 15:13.**
 - Christ In Building His Church- **Matthew 16:18.**
 - The Church Belongs To Him- **Colossians 1:18.**
 - We Are Built On his Foundation- **Ephesians 2:20-23.**
 - We Are Living Stones- **1 Peter 2:5.**
 - We Build According To His Authority- **Colossians 3:17.**
 - We Speak As His Oracles Direct Us- **1 Peter 4:11.**

III. Restoration Is Possible Because God Has A Blueprint.

- **Jeremiah 6:16**- Stand, See, Ask, Walk....
 - Our Goal Is To Restore, Not Reinvent.
 - God Has Already Given The Plan- **John 16:13; Matthew 16:18-19.**

IV. There Are Wrong Ways To Build.

- Sincerity Is not Enough- **Matthew 15:8-9.**
- Becoming Our Own Standard- **Judges 21:25; Romans 10:1-3.**
- Following Creeds & Doctrines Designed By Men- **Matthew 15:8-9; Col. 2:20-23.**
- Ignoring God’s Proper Order- **1 Chronicles 15:13.**
- Going Beyond The Blueprint- **2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19.**

V. Being Careful How We Build Means....

1. A Heart That Wants God’s Ways. **1 Chronicles 15:13; Romans 10:3.**
2. Respect God’s Blueprint- **Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19.**
3. Test Everything; Hold Fast To What Is Good- **1 Thessalonians 5:21.**

VII. The Final Inspection: Every Builder Will Be Evaluated.

- **2 Corinthians 5:10.**
 - Approved Builders Rewarded- **Matthew 25:21.**
 - Rejected Builders Are Not! **Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 15:13.**

VIII. Let’s Build Jesus’ Way!

- **Matthew 7:24-27.**

“Do You Know Why You Worship?”

Lesson Text: **John 4:19-22.**

I. How Do We Worship The Lord?

- Even From The Early Church, There Was An Established Way Of Worship:
 - They Came Together For Congregational Singing- **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.**
 - They Came Together For Collective Prayers- **Acts 2:42; 12:5.**
 - They Came Together To Partake Of The Lord's Supper- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26.**
 - They Came Together To Give Their Monetary Offering- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7.**
 - They Came Together To Hear God's Word- **Acts 20:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

II. Why Are You Here To Worship?

1. Is It Just Out Of Obligation?

- Is It Like Something That You Just *Have* To Do? Like Mowing The Grass When It's High.
- My Name's On The Duty Roster, And So I *Have* To Be There.
- **Malachi 1:12-13.** The Danger Of Service Just Out Of Obligation & Not From The Heart.
- We Are Obligated To Be Here In **Hebrews 10:24-25**, But We Should Want To Be Here!

2. Is It Just To Please Someone Else?

- To Make Some Happy For Us To Come To Services. Our Parents, Friends Or Spouse?

3. Is It Just Out Of Routine?

- **Galatians 6:9.** Can we become weary in our routine of worship every week?

4. Is It Just Out Of Fear Or Guilt?

- Might Fear We Are Lost If We Don't, Or Brethren Call Us To Find Out Why We Were Absent.
- **1 John 4:18.**

III. Why Should We Worship?

1. Because Of Our Love For God.

- He Loved Us First- **1 John 4:19.**
- He Saved Us- **Hebrews 10:19-23.**
- We Show Love In Our Thankfulness & Sacrifice- **John 4:24.**

2.. We Worship To Please & Honor God.

- **Hebrews 13:15-16.**
- **Malachi 1:6-10**, Those Jews Forgot Why They Were Worshipping In The First Place!

3. Worship Benefits Us To Be More Spiritual.

- We Escape The World For A Time While At Worship- **Romans 12:1-2.**
- We Are Never More Spiritual In Our Thought & Deed Than When We Worship- **Psalms 29:2.**

4. Worship Prepares Us For Eternity.

- Heaven Is Place Of Worship- **Revelation 5:11-14.**
- Why We “Exhort One Another” as In **Hebrews 10:25.**