

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

January 19, 2025

“Why Do Some Fail To Obey The Gospel?” Pt. 2

By Brian Meade

As we continue our study of the question about why it is that some people hold back from going on to full obedience to Christ, it is important to remember our obligation to reason with and attempt to persuade those clinging on to these false reasons or excuses. Our goal is to get them to let go of what stands between and their salvation in Christ.

It often can be very challenging to strike down every argument or excuse that some feel justifies or excuses their disobedience.

It reminds us of what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*

Let us begin again by saying....

III. Some Don't Think They Can Be Forgiven.

Some may feel like they have done too many bad things for so long that they cannot get forgiveness from God. They may have even done some very wicked deeds to feel this way.

They may have a lot in common with the apostle Paul, who was formerly one who committed many sins against the Lord and His people. Paul would say in Acts 26:9-11, *“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.”*

But Paul would later say about his former life, *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”* (1 Timothy 1:12-15).

People sometimes forget the whole purpose of the gospel— to save us from our sins (Romans 1:16-17; Acts 2:38-41). It is up to us to remind them that God wants them to be saved from the past guilt, shame, and remorse of their sins.

And if God can save Saul of Tarsus, the “chief” of sinners, then He can show mercy and forgiveness to us today! No matter how many sins you have committed, no matter how grievous the crimes, God's grace will abundantly pardon our iniquities (Micah 7:18-19; Romans 5:6-11; Revelation 22:17).

Anyone can come to Christ for salvation, they must be willing to obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38).

IV. Some Don't Want To Believe In God.

We all know we live in a world where not everyone believes in the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ, or in His Holy Scriptures. Paul faced that same problem in his day. It was what prompted him to say in 2 Thessalonians 3:2, *"and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith."*

Some will try to hide behind science and the scientific method to justify not believing in a God they cannot see or prove His existence through science. It is because they choose to walk by sight, and not by faith.

But the Scriptures teach us to do the opposite, as Paul would say, *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* (2 Corinthians 5:7). Therefore, many who trust in science, will have a very hard time with acting on faith like many of those in Hebrews chapter 11:4-40.

But it is really a matter of not understanding (or not wanting to understand) what real faith is all about. To them, faith is trusting in something that is not logical and has no evidence of being true. They look at Bible faith as "wishful, hopeful dreaming."

Even sadder than this, they look at Christians who follow the Bible as superstitious, ignorant, and completely deceived. They may even mock and laugh at the Bible and its warnings to prepare for the Judgment Day (2 Peter 3:9-11). But this is the fruits of faithlessness!

It is up to us to teach them about what real faith actually is— It is based on real evidence and the witnesses of men who saw God at work!

That what the Hebrew writer introduces in Hebrews 11:1, *"Now faith is the realization of what is hoped for, the proof of things not seen."* (LEX Bible).

In other words, there is something for the basis of our trust that faith us to be true. Most translations use the words assurance and conviction in this verse to show us that God has given us some real assurances that what He is saying to us is real. The fact that God exists can be proven by scientific method by indirect evidence. God's fingerprints are all over planet earth, if one is simply honest with the data (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-21).

We have the eye-witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus, God's Son, in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. The testimony of credible men who were with Jesus and saw many miracles performed by our Savior (2 Peter 1:16-19).

But even when faced with the real nature of faith, there are those who simply refuse to believe in a loving God who wants to save them from their sins. They want to refuse God's existence on the basis that if God is real (and He is), then they would have to obey His will and not their own. They simply refuse to acknowledge what Hebrews 11:6 teaches, *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*

Some will come out of their unbelief— but sadly, many will stubbornly hang on it disbelief and be lost. We must seek to save those who will listen. (Luke 8:15; Acts 16:14-15).

V. Some Don't Want To Be Bothered.

This is root cause of a lot of disobedience in many today! Some just don't want to be inconvenienced by having to go to church every Sunday (Acts 20:7), make the sacrifices of money and time in serving Christ (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), reading the Bible everyday (Acts 17:11), and going out to visit the sick or in prison that Jesus calls us to do (Matthew 25:36).

For them, it is too much for them to be that involved in the level of discipleship and service that they know they should do to be a faithful Christian. In other words, they don't really want to give up self to serve Jesus.

They like freedom to sleep in on Sunday mornings, go camping, boating, or shopping on Sundays. They have never learned, as Jesus taught His disciples, to "deny himself and take up his cross and follow" Jesus "daily." (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23).

We must emphasize, *"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."* (Matthew 16:25).

The sad reality is, there will be those lost because they would not be bothered with Jesus now. But in the Judgment Day will be regretting that decision when Jesus says to them, *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'" (Matthew 25:41).*

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann.

Miss Robbie Doles had a fall last week and is home recovering.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is still recovering and needs our prayers for her continued pain.

Tim Harris Sr. has had issues still with his leg infection and still having treatments for his eyes.

Blake Briggs is recovering from major dental work from Friday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Conner Whittemore

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1:

"The Need For Patience"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:

Fred Johnson

Author:

The Books Of James

Starting Page & Question:

Rick Billingsley

Page 41, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Russell Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Tim Harris Jr.

Scripture Reading:

John 3:14-17

Song Leader:

Paul Busby

Lord's Supper:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

— —

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2:

"God's Love For Us"

Closing Prayer:

Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 22, 2025

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby

Workbook:

Great Bible Characters: Paul

Author:

By Bobby L. Graham

Starting Page & Question:

Page 19, Question #1

Invitation:

Russell Briggs

Song Leader:

Tim Harris Sr.

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Jr.



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXjxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Need For Patience”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 10:34-36.**

I. What Is Patience Or Endurance?

1. The quality of forbearance and self-control which shows itself particularly in a willingness to wait upon God and his will. Believers are called upon to be patient in their expectations of God’s actions, and in their relationships with one another. (Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes).

2. Ability to take a great deal of punishment from evil people or circumstances without losing one’s temper, without becoming irritated and angry, or without taking vengeance. It includes the capacity to bear pain or trials without complaint, the ability to forbear under severe provocation, and the self-control which keeps one from acting rashly even though suffering opposition or adversity.

3. The usual Hebrew expression for patience is related to the verb “to be long” and involves the idea of being long to get riled or slow to become angry. Two different Greek words are translated by kjv translators with the word “patience.” One of the words has the idea of “remaining firm under” tests and trials and is better translated “endurance” or “steadfastness.” The other Greek word is related to the above Hebrew meaning and refers to patience as “long-spiritedness” or “calmness of spirit” even though under severe provocation to lose one’s temper.

2 And 3 (Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 2, p. 1619).

4. Synonyms: Perseverance, Endurance, Steadfastness.

II. Why Do We Need It In Our Lives?

(1) To Endure Suffering And Trials.

- Trials And Suffering Will Come Our Way: **Rev. 1:9; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-16.**
- We Must Endure To Be Saved: **Matthew 10:22; Mark 13:13; James 1:12 (ESV).**
- How Do Bear Up Under Trials? **Luke 21:15-19; James 5:13; Acts 16:25; 1 Peter 4:19.**
- Don’t Let Satan Change Your Character: **Romans 12:10-15.**

(2) To Be A Good Example Of Patience.

- The Prophets & Job As Great Examples Of Endurance: **James 5:10-11.**
- Paul Was A Good Example To His Brethren:
- We Can Be A Good Example Of Courage Under Fire: **Philippians 4:5.**

(3) For All People To Come To The Truth.

- **2 Timothy 2:24-25.**
- **2 Timothy 4:2-5.**
- **Ephesians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 13:4.**

(4) For A Happy Home & Family Life.

- Husband And Wife Patient With Each Other: **Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7.**
- Raising Children: **Proverbs 22:6; Colossians 3:20.**

(5) For The Church To Be United.

- **Ephesians 4:1-3; 4:32.**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Peter 4:8.**

“God’s Love For Us”

Lesson Text: **John 3:14-17.**

I. Some Big Misconceptions About God’s Love.

- **God’s Love Equals Forgiveness.**
 - *“Since God Loves Me, That’s All I Need To Go To Heaven.”*
 - Proof Texts Used By Some To Say This: **Ephesians 2:4-6; Titus 3:4-6.**
 - God’s Unconditional Love- **Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10.**
 - Forgiveness Has Conditions:
 - **Deuteronomy 7:9; Acts 2:37-38; 40-41; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
 - Many People Whom God Loves Are Still Unforgiven & Lost- **Mark 10:21-22.**
- **God’s Love Overlooks Sin In Our Lives.**
 - *“Since God Loves Me, He Will Overlook My Sin.”*
 - **Exodus 34:6-7; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:7-9.**
 - God Did Not Overlook Sin: **Acts 5:1-9; Acts 8:18-24; Acts 17:30; Galatians 6:7-8.**
- **God’s Love Is Not For Everyone.**
 - *“God Only Loves And Died For The Saved, The Elect.”*
 - **2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4; Revelation 22:17.**
- **God’s Love Doesn’t Stop Us From Walking Away.**
 - *“God’s Love Will Always Keep Me Saved— Period!”*
 - Proof Text: **Romans 8:35-39.**
 - But We CAN Choose To Leave- **1 John 2:15-17; 2 Timothy 4:10; 1 Timothy 4:1-2.**
- **God’s Love Is Not Good.**
 - *“God Is Not Good Or Loving If He Allows Evil In This World.”*
 - Human Suffering Is The Proof The Atheist Uses To Disprove A Loving Creator.
 - But Not So! God Loves Us. We Have Brought Suffering On Ourselves By Sin. (**Gen. 3**).
 - God Will Redeem Us— **Romans 8:18-23.**
 - Men Make The Assumption That All Suffering Is Bad- **James 1:2-4.**

II. The Bible Facts About God’s Love.

- God’s Love Is Pure & Good.
 - God’s Love Is Rooted In His Character:
 1. God Is Holy, Righteous, Pure, & Good. **Psalm 86:5; 145:9.**
 2. Therefore, God’s Love For Us Is Consistent.
 3. Never Any Hypocrisy, Feigned Or Deceit In His Love. **James 1:17.**
 4. No Hidden Motives Or Agenda.
- God’s Love Is Steadfast & Reliable. **Psalm 143:8 (ESV); Romans 8:35.**
- God’s Unselfish Love Seeks The Best For Us. **John 3:16.**
“Agape” Love; **Psalm 107:9.**
- God’s Love Will Draw You To Him. **John 12:32; 2 Corinthians 5:14.**
- God’s Love Will Save You, If You Faithfully Serve Him. **Jude 20-21.**
- But God’s Love Must Not Be Rejected! **Romans 2:4.**