

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

April 23, 2023

“The Power Of Saying No!” #2

By Brian Meade

Last week we looked at examples of those who said no, and it was what God expected them to do. We also saw the disastrous results of not saying no. Now I want to make application to us who follow Christ.

There are many times we have to say no to be pleasing to God in the 21st century. Let's look at some:



1. Saying No To Satan's Temptations And Desires For Us.

Jesus told Peter in Luke 22:31-32, *“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”* Jesus was warning Peter of the foreboding danger that was awaiting him behind the scenes. Satan has many desires for us, but they all are for our destruction and ruin. Later on, Peter compares the devil to *“a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8).

The next verse even tells us that we must say no! *“Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”* (1 Peter 5:9). Resisting the devil is all about not giving in to what Satan wants us to do. Staying strong in the face of temptations and enticements to sin against God's word is a lifelong fight.

Jesus is our perfect example of saying no to Satan in Matthew 4:1-11. Each time the devil tempted Jesus to do things that would cause him to be compromised and sin, He answered back with *“It is written....”* every time! (Matthew 4:4, 4:7, and 4:10). God's word is our greatest help to say no to the devil, and we should never neglect to use it in dealing with temptations (Psalm 119:11).

Another way of saying no to Satan is by taking the *“way of escape”* that God provides for us. Paul tells us 1 Corinthians 1:13, *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

We must do whatever it takes to say no to temptations and sin, so that we may be found faithful to our God (James 1:12; 4:7-8).

2. To Our Friends, Family, And Peers In Doing Wrong.

Proverbs 6:14-16 warns us, *“Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.”* But what if we don't heed the warning from Scripture and fall into the trap of giving in to peer pressure to do evil.”

The Bible teaches, from even the time of Moses, to not go along with others who want to do evil things. Moses wrote in Exodus 23:2, *“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.”* But sadly, how rare is it that we see young people who stand up to be different from

the crowd. It still happens, but the majority of the time people don't want to be out of step with the crowd. But if we don't say no to sinful activity, we are out of step with God (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Our family members can very hard to say no to, especially when there is strong pressure to conform to their behavior. It may even saying no to the family religion, when it conflicts with Jesus' teachings. And no matter how many generations it has been the accepted beliefs— if it wrong, it must be rejected. If our family wants us to do some immoral behavior, we must put Christ first and say no! (Matthew 10:37).

3. To Spoiled Children Who Want Everything.

When parents fail to ever say no to their children from a young age on, we often will remark about how "spoiled" that child behaves. The word spoiled refers to children who always are used to getting their way, and never hear the word no. Sadly, the word no is not in the vocabulary of some parents., but it needs to be. We can do our children a major dis-service by saying yes to them all the time.

Children need to know that they don't need everything they might want, and if they get everything, that can lead to them growing up into a materialistic adult. Parents must make decisions about what they will and will not do for their children and stick to it! When parents give in to all their wants, they become accomplices to the child's bad behavior. To be clear, it's not wrong for parents to say yes to an appropriate amount of things they may want, but it is the excessive desires, or even for things harmful to the child we have under discussion. That's where the knowledge and wisdom of the parents plays a major part in what is best for the child.

Having said all of that, what does the Bible say about this? In Proverbs 29:15, the wise man said, "*The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*" (NASB). Without any discipline or hearing the word no, the parents will have shame from a spoiled child.

We see an example of this with one of King David's sons, Adonijah. Many a Bible student has looked at his behavior in 1 Kings 1:5-10, as being the actions of a spoiled son who couldn't take no for an answer. He exalted himself and did everything to try to usurp the throne from his brother Solomon, the rightful son to the throne (1:30). David had promised it to Solomon, and Adonijah should have respected that decision by his father, but he didn't and it led to his own death (1 Kings 2:24).

4. To False Teachers And Their Doctrine.

False doctrine is not innocent or harmless to our spiritual life. It causes us to act in erroneous ways, and to believe things that are not true. It can make us think we are saved when we just believe (faith only), that we can never lose our salvation (Once in grace, always in grace), that the church is only a temporary "stand-in" until the kingdom finally comes (premillennialism), and that all denominations are good in their own way (Unity in diversity) And many more false teachings. For these reasons, and more, we should say no to it!

False teachers will promote and try to peddle false teaching any way they can to deceive us into thinking it is the truth, but don't believe it! (Ephesians 4:14; 2 Peter 2:1-3). We don't need to support them by willingly listening to them at church services, by greeting them as faithful preachers of the gospel, when they don't preach truth, or have any fellowship with them (Romans 16:17-18; Ephesians 5:11; 2 John 9-11).

If we don't stand for the truth and so no to every false way, we will be lost with the promoters of error. Jesus warns us about this in Matthew 15:14, "*Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.*"

5. How Do We Say No?

- Learn To Courageously Say "No."

Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 16:13, "*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*" It takes a bravery and courage to say no, but say no we must!

- By Having Strong Convictions For Truth. Jude 1:3; Phil. 1:17.
When we truly are convicted about what the truth is, we should never settle for less (Proverbs 23:23).

- Don't Seek To Please Others, But Seek To Please God. Gal. 1:10.
When we seek to please everybody, we become a "yes-man." God doesn't need someone who always says yes and compromises their convictions.

- Say It With Love & Concern For Others— Not Arrogantly
Or Un-lovingly Ephesians 4:15. We are to speak the truth with love for others. Even when we say no to someone, we can still do it out of concern for their soul.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Wayne Bivens (recovering from double by-pass), Ricky Doles, Jamie Jones, and Janet Boren.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Jesus: The Prophet Like Moses"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Colossians
Starting Page & Question: Donnie V. Rader
Page #28, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Brian Meade
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Scripture Reading: Acts 17:24-27
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Seeking And Finding The Lord"
Closing Prayer: Paul Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 26, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: Page #109, Question #5b
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade



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“Jesus: The Prophet Like Moses”

Lesson Text: **Deuteronomy 18:15-19.**

I. Moses And Jesus Rejected By Their Own People.

– Acts 7:35—Exodus 2:11-15; John 1:9-11 (ESV); Luke 9:21-22.

II. Moses And Jesus Both Made Predictions For The Future.

– Deuteronomy 34:10; Luke 24:19;
– Deuteronomy 28; Matthew 24—25; John 16:1-4.

III. Moses And Jesus As Mediators To God.

– Exodus 20:18-21; Exodus 32:10-14.
– 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15; 7:25.

IV. Moses And Jesus Gave The People Their Laws.

– John 1:17; Exodus 20:1-7; Exodus 32:15.
– Isaiah 2:2-3; Hebrews 8:10; 1 Corinthians 9:21.

V. Moses And Jesus Were Followed By Disciples.

– John 9:28.
– Luke 6:12-17; vs. 40; John 8:31-32; Matthew 28:19-20.

VI. Moses And Jesus As Faithful In Their Work.

– Hebrews 3:1-6.

VII. Moses And Jesus Rebuke & Punish Disobedience.

– Hebrews 2:1-3; 12:25; Revelation 3:19; John 12:48.

VIII. Moses And Jesus As Deliverers From Bondage.

– Exodus 3:1-10; John 8:33-36; Romans 6:22-23.

“Seeking And Finding The Lord”

Lesson Text: **Acts 17:24-27.**

I. How Hard Is It To Find The Lord?

- Imagine If It Was Very Difficult To Find God....
- Easy As Looking To His Word, Going To Prayer, Being With His People.
- Why Does God Want It To Be Easy For Us To Find Him?
- But It Requires That:
 - (1) That Know About Him- **Acts 17:22-23.**
 - (2) That We Diligently Seek Him- **Hebrews 11:6.**
 - (3) It's Only Hard If We're Not Interested In Finding Him- **Acts 17:30-34.**

II. What Does It Mean To Seek The Lord?

- Finding God Is Our Most Pressing Need- **Isaiah 26:8-9; Psalm 63:1-2.**
- It Means Our Heart Is Fully In It- **Deut. 4:26-29; Jeremiah 29:12-14.**
- Looking To The Things Above- **Colossians 3:1-3.**
- Using Our Opportunity Now To Find Him- **Luke 13:23-29.**

III. Why Is It Many Don't Seek Or Find Him?

- They Don't Want God In Their Life- **Psalm 10:3-4.**
- They Are Too Busy Doing Other Things— **1 Corinthians 1:22.**
Not Like- **Proverbs 8:17.**
- They Are Seeking The Pleasures Of This World- **Proverbs 23:29-35.**
- They Give Up Searching- **Romans 10:18-20; Matthew 7:7-8.**

IV. Why Should We Seek The Lord?

- For Forgiveness Of Our Sins- **Isaiah 55:6-7.**
- For Eternal Life- **Romans 2:7.**
- For Entrance Into Our New Home- Heaven! **Hebrews 11:13-16.**