

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Staying Focused or Being Distracted?”

By Brian Meade



Staying focused on the task at hand requires that we put our full attention to what we are currently doing. The enemy of keeping our focus is often called a *distraction*— and Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines it as, “*to draw or direct (something, such as someone’s attention) to a different object or in different directions at the same time.*”

When we’re driving down the road in an automobile, we should not be constantly drawn away from the road for unnecessary distractions. There is the danger of letting our cell phone, the radio, the temperature controls, or even that mocha latte from Starbucks distract us from being a safe driver.

The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year. Nearly 330,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving. 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

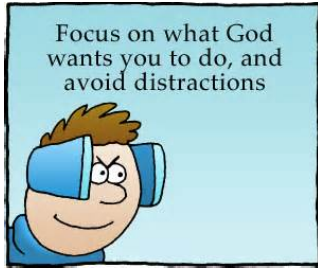
The application of this is obvious to us in the spiritual realm, and with even greater consequences. When (or if) we lose our focus, it can have the potential to ruin our spiritual productivity and thus, can ultimately lead to our condemnation in the Day of Judgment.

In the parable of the sower in Luke 8:14, Jesus makes the spiritual application for us when He said, “*The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*”

Jesus teaches us that the *seed*, when planted in the *thorny heart*, will not produce any fruit to maturity because they are too worried and concerned about the things of this world only. In Mark’s parallel account of the sower parable, Jesus says, “*...and the desires for other things enter in...*” (Mark 4:19). It can very well be that some people are just too concerned about making money to the point that that is their number one goal in life! They will voluntarily work as many hours as possible and overtime too, just to chase the “*almighty dollar.*” To them, that is the only pursuit that really matters in this life, and have no time for spiritual pursuits. Some will be more concerned with keeping up with their material goods of this life— they are always cleaning and washing their automobiles, slaving to keep their house immaculate, mowing their grass, raking the leaves, and maybe working on a new project to improve their home. These things are not bad in and of themselves, but if people choose to neglect their spiritual life to do these things— it becomes a distraction! It is often that people will choose Sunday as a day to catch up on yard-work and never dream of going to church to hear God’s word. Or they choose Sunday as a day to go fishing, boating, camping, and recreating with the family at the lake. These are not bad things to do with our family, but there is a time and place to do everything.

Some want to pursue fun and entertainment over the things of Christ kingdom. Their goal in this is pleasing self and is somewhat hedonistic in nature. To them, going to church services is not fun or entertaining, therefore it is neglected completely! Even Christians have been known to put on the spiritual blinders of worldliness and have paid the price in being unproductive and unfruitful in Christ’s kingdom. That is a dangerous thing to do since Jesus tells us plainly to be fruitful in our service to Him. Notice in John 15:2, “*Every branch in Me that does not bear*

fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.” God wants and expects all Christians to bear much fruit in the kingdom (John 15:8; Titus 2:14).



Distractions are to be Avoided.

Paul the Apostle taught us to avoid distractions in what we do for Christ in 2 Timothy 2:4, “*No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*”

Paul is basically telling Timothy to do as soldiers do when they are active in the service as a soldier. As we know, a soldier who is fighting the enemy has to have complete focus on the battle at hand. If there is something that is drawing away his attention away from fighting the enemy, he will be an easy opponent for them to defeat. That’s why soldiers of today can’t be reading the newspaper, looking at photos of the wife and kids, or talking on their cell phones when the enemy is attacking! Can you imagine the ineffectiveness of such an army that is more concerned about worldly affairs of this life than winning the battle?

But God wants us to be effective soldiers who will win many battles over temptation, sin, religious error, and worldly behavior or conduct. The only way we can really be effective and productive in Christ’s service is to stay focused on our mission to save souls, be a good example to others in zeal, and grow as a Christian should. To do this and please the Lord, we must avoid any distractions that will only hinder us.

GOSPEL MEETING

Kevin Kay
April 22nd–27th
7:00 PM Nightly

Who May Abide in Your Tabernacle?

By Jim Walsh

Some of the greatest discussions which take place in the Religious World, are those that deal with man’s relationship with God. This is not something new, for men have been concerned about their relationship with God ever since the Creation. Yet, possibly it was David who was privileged to pen God’s thoughts about who has a right to dwell with Him for all eternity:

*“Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;
He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.”*

God is looking for a certain type of person to have fellowship with. The type of person God is looking for is one who is not selfish. One who has a genuine concern for others. Whose desire is to please God, even if it means that they must sacrifice to do so. In every sense, this is a person who always puts God and His people first in their lives.

This makes sense to us, for even we prefer to be in the company of such a person! Why then should God be expected to settle for less He has already established his will, and those who seek to be with Him for all eternity, will be those who are already about the business of changing their lives to conform to His will. What about you? Are you now living a life that follows God’s will? If so, then you can have every expectation of abiding in His Tabernacle forever!

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn (had a fall), Robbie & Delain Doles, Amy Carmichael (awaiting test results), Paul Johnson was sick last Wednesday, as well as Tim Harris Jr., Haley Harris, and Andrea Harris.

Local Meetings:

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay from East Cloumbus. 7:00 PM Nightly.

A singing service will be held **May 12th** in Middleton, Tn. at 2:00 PM.

Jim Deason will leading the song service. (contact Dwain Barnes for additional info.)

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "What's So Wrong About False Teaching?"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Paul Johnson
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 69, Question #10

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Proverbs 14:12
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Table: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: Russell Briggs & Adam Harris
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Ways That Seem Right...."
Closing Prayer: Chris Callahan

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 21st:

Auditorium Bible Class: Brian Meade
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 31, Question #8
Invitation: Chris Callahan
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs