

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

November 22, 2020

“Growing As Disciples”

by Clint Crosier

Disciple: A learner, pupil, or follower devoted to the teachings of a master.



In John 14:6, Jesus said "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.*" Jesus holds the key to heaven and our salvation, and we can only be with God by following Jesus, his example, and his teaching; by being his devoted and committed disciple.

In this article, we will focus on "Growing as Disciples" -- learning more about Christ, being more devoted to Christ, and being more like Christ. There are four key elements:

1. Strengthening our relationship with Jesus as our Teacher, Master, and Savior.

We must first truly understand the depth of our need for Jesus. Romans 3:23 and 6:23 teach that we are sinners, and deserving eternal separation from God. But Jesus loved us so much, he volunteered to die in our place, in a cruel and horrible death on the cross. And, even more amazingly, he didn't do this for those who were worthy of his sacrifice, but specifically for those who were unworthy of it, for sinners (Romans 5:8). Christ died for us so we could be redeemed (Ephesians 1:7), and to bring us back to God (I Peter 3:18). He promised if we obey him, we will be saved (Hebrews 5:9). Jesus sacrificed himself in our place to give us everything and, therefore, we must give him everything — our obedience, our faith, and our love -- because he first loved us (I John 4:19).

2. Walking in the light, living a Christian life, letting others see Christ in us.

John 12:36 tells us that Jesus *is* the light, and we are to become "sons of light." I John 1:7 tells us that we are to "*walk in the light.*" Recall that Jesus said that he *is* truth (John 14:6) and III John 3 tells us we are to "*walk in truth.*" II John 4 tells us to "*walk in his commandments*" and John 14:15 tells us "*if we love Jesus we will obey his commandments.*" We are commanded to walk as Jesus would walk, and live as Jesus would live, and obey his teachings. Walking in the light also means that we are to be an example of good deeds (Titus 2:7) to all of those around us of what it means to be a Christian, and in so doing we will glorify God before all men (Matthew 5:16).

3. Loving each other, and putting others before ourselves.

Jesus commanded us to "*love one another*" and said that by loving one another all men will know we are his disciples (John 13:34-35). And fundamental to loving one another is serving one another. Christ himself set the perfect example that even as the Son of God, Jesus "*did not come*

to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). Galatians 5:13 tells us "in love we are to serve one another," and we learn from I Peter 4:10 that we are to employ every gift God gives us in serving others. This applies to all of us, whether we believe we have gifts to offer or not; recall that I Corinthians 12:12-27 teaches that every Christian has a role in the work of the church. Philippians 2:3-4 tells us that with all humility, we should regard others as more important than ourselves. That means putting others' needs ahead of our own. Jesus set that perfect example too, when he died on the cross so that we might live.

4. Teaching those who don't know Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples to "go into the world and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We have that same responsibility too. Jesus told the demon-possessed man in Matthew 9:19 to "go tell people what great things the Lord has done for you." How wonderful are the things God has done for us? Should we keep them to ourselves, or do like Paul instructed Timothy -- to teach others? (II Timothy 2:2). When Jesus addressed the need for people to spread the gospel, he told his disciples that "the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few" and then told them to pray to God to send workers into the field (Matthew 9:37-38). We, as Christ's disciples, have the responsibility to fulfill Jesus' prayer, and tend to the harvest.

"The Christian's Reign"

By Jeffery Hamilton

A large number of passages establish the reign of Christians. Paul tells us that Christians will reign with Christ after this life is over. "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us" (II Timothy 2:11-12). John expresses a similar thought in Revelation 3:21, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." It is a reign that will last through all eternity (Revelation 22:5; Ephesians 2:5-7).

Yet, there are also numerous passages which state that Christians currently reign on the earth. "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."" (Revelation 5:9-10).

Some translations render the last statement as "made them to be a kingdom," but the last phrase still states that they will reign on the earth. Peter talks of Christians being a royal, or kingly, priesthood (I Peter 2:9). Paul said, "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17). Daniel prophesied of this reign of God's people in Daniel 7:18, 22, 27.

It is not the fact that we reign which gives trouble, it is the question of how we reign. Most of us do not feel we have much authority in this world. So how does the Christian reign?

In one sense, we reign by sharing the blessings of our king. As Paul said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). As adopted heirs of God, we share the benefits of our elder brother's reign upon the throne of God.

Yet, there is more to the Christian's reign. The Bible is clear that we have been granted some authority. "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father" (Revelation 2:26-27).



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway (withdrawn from), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Gary Doles, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Melissa Felks and Star, Roy Robinson, and Meade family (quarantine ends on the 24th).

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Sam Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Busby <i>Psalm 19:7-11</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Preaching:	Adam Harris
Sermon:	<i>"About My Father's Business"</i>
Closing Prayer:	J D Griffin