

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

March 12, 2023

“Selfishness—The Greatest Curse Of The Human Race”

By Bobby K. Thompson

Selfishness is defined: "Caring unduly or supremely for oneself; regarding one's own comfort in disregard, or at the expense of that of others." Synonyms of selfishness are: "ungenerous, narrow, narrow-minded, self-indulgent, grasping, piggish, hoggish, miserly and covetous."

Tertullian once said, "He who lies only to benefit himself, confers on the world a benefit when he dies." Why would this be so? Because a selfish individual is despised by all and is therefore his own greatest enemy. He is miserable and unhappy and makes no worth-while contribution to society. "Otherism" is no part of his philosophy of life. The following depicts his view of life: "I had a little tea party this afternoon at three. Twas very small, three guests in all. Just I, myself, and me. Myself ate all the sandwiches, while I drank up the tea. 'Twas also I who ate the pie and passed the cake to me." If not for me, then not for anyone! All the carnage, cruelty, and crime which has cursed the earth for over six thousand years has grown out of a spirit of selfishness. The scriptures abound in revealing the disastrous results of selfishness.

Cain became the first murderer due to his selfishness and envy of his brother Abel's sacrifice being accepted and his being rejected. (Genesis 4:3-13), Lot chose all of the well watered plain of Jordan, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. He barely saved his life when the city of Sodom was destroyed. (Genesis 13:7-12, Genesis 19).

Rehoboam lost the greater part of his kingdom by selfishly denying the request of the people to make their yoke lighter than what his father had placed upon them. (I Kings 12:1-16). We read in the book of Esther that the gallows which wicked Haman had built to hang Mordecai were the same gallows on which his selfishness caused him and his sons to be hanged. His selfishness returned upon his own head. (Esther 9:25).

Christ, our example, lived an unselfish life.

No one has ever lived a more unselfish life than Jesus Christ. *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:4-8).

Selfishness drives Christ out of one's heart. Doing nothing for others is the undoing for our own selves. A person centered on self lacks a lot being well balanced in life. Paul was thinking of an unselfish life when he wrote: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20).

Material possessions have their limitations.

They cannot satisfy, and they offer a false hope. *"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."* (John 6:27). *"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content"* (I Timothy 6:7-8).

God has promised to provide. There is no need for His children to be selfish with what He provides for them. *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* (Hebrews 13:5). Of what should Christians not be selfish?

We Should Not Be Selfish With: Our love...

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" (Matthew 5:43-44).

"For if ye love them which love you what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?" (Matthew 5:46-47). There is selfish love which is not often considered. We are given to consider our resources and the use of them, but we often ignore the thought of being selfish with our love. Jesus stressed this, and wanted us to realize that if we only love those who love us, we are no better than the publicans, for they love their own. Our love is to reach out to our enemies, to those who would hate us, and despitefully use us and persecute us. Jesus never said that the practice of such would be easy. To the contrary, He said, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow after me."* (Matthew 16:24). The cure for selfishness is love. Love *"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil."* (I Corinthians 13:5). Selfishness can keep Christ out of our hearts. Selfishness can keep us from having a home in heaven. We need to stop looking out for our own interest only, and also start thinking about the interest of others!

Selfishness keeps folks from following Christ and becoming Christians. *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."* (Matthew 16:24). The selfish person finds no ground on which to deny himself and bear his cross that he might follow Christ. *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden."* (Galatian 6:2-5).

The unselfish man is concerned with bearing the burdens of others. "Lord help me to live from day to day in such a self-forgetful way, that even when I kneel to pray, my prayers will be for others." The unselfish man does not deceive himself, but he proves his own work and has rejoicing in himself alone. He accepts his own responsibilities and does not exempt himself from his obligations to God and man. To God he prays, "Help me in all the work I do to ever be sincere and true, and know that all I do for You, must needs be done for others."

We Must Not Be Selfish With Our: Resources.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-20). Laying up treasures in heaven involves doing those things which are righteous with the resources of which we are the stewards on this earth. We are to be unselfish with our resources!

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (I Timothy 6:6-8). Godliness with contentment is great gain because such is the formula of an unselfish life in Christ. *"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"* (I John 3:17).

The love of God does not dwell in the unselfish brother's heart, who refuses to help his needy brother. The Macedonians were unselfish in their giving because *"this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."* (II Corinthians 8:5). Selfishness did not rule or control the use of their resources. They first gave their own selves to the Lord! When brethren do this, the proper governing will be made of their resources. Paul told the Corinthians, *"Receive us, we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man."* (II Corinthians 7:2). He wanted them to know that they had obtained their resources honestly, and they intended to use them in an unselfish, godly manner.

GOSPEL MEETING

Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **April 16th -- 19th** (Sunday To Wednesday)

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly** (Except Sunday)

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, 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, and Jamie Jones.

Danny Cottrell had his surgery last Monday and is recovering.
Congratulations To Sheena And Lee Busby for their son Levi was born last Thursday!!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Paul Busby
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Words Of Jesus From The Cross"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur
Workbook:	Colossians
Author:	Donnie V. Rader
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #9, Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading:	<i>1 Peter 2:1-3</i>
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Brian Meade
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"As Newborn Babies..."</i>
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 15th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
Workbook:	The Miracles Of Jesus
Author:	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #94, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Doug George
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.



Visit our YouTube Channel:

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

[UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber)

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Words Of Jesus From The Cross”

Lesson Text: Matthew 27; Luke 23; John 19.

I. Words Of Forgiveness.

- **Luke 23:34.**
- Jesus Came To Die To Achieve Our Forgiveness **Ephesians 1:7; Acts 5:30-31.**
- Instead Of Curses, Jesus Extends A Heart Of Forgiveness **1 Peter 2:21-24.**
 - General Oglethorpe once said to John Wesley, “I never forgive and I never forget,” to which Wesley replied, “Then, sir, I hope you never sin.”
- His Prayer To The Father That They May Be Forgiven:
 - Because Of The Ignorance & Unbelief- **1 Corinthians 2:8.**
 - That They Also May Be Forgiven By Coming To Him- **Acts 13:38; Acts 26:18.**

II. Words Of Assurance.

- **Luke 23:43.** Assurance To A Dying Thief Who Repented.
- We All Need Assurance— It Is Found In God’s Word:
 - **John 11:25; 1 John 2:17; 1 John 5:3-4.**

III. Words Of Love And Provision.

- **John 19:25-27.** Jesus’ Death Was Prophesied By Simeon **Luke 2:35.**
- Jesus Wanted To See His Mother Provided For After He Was Gone.
 - Jesus Was Not Like The Scribes And Pharisees- **Matthew 15:3-6.**
 - But Did As Moses Commanded- **Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16.**
 - We Do The Same Today- **1 Timothy 5:8.**

IV. Words Of Agony.

- **Matthew 27:46.** Jesus’ Word Spoken From One Separated From The Father.
- God’s Hand Of Protection Was On His Son- **Matthew 4:5-6; 26:53.**
- The Father Allowed His Son To Die For Us! **Hebrews 2:9.**

V. Words Of Suffering.

- **John 19:28.** Jesus Thirsted Like You And I Can Suffer Thirst- **John 4:7.**
- Jesus Can Give Us Living Water- **John 4:8-15.**

VI. Words Of Fulfillment.

- **John 19:30.** His Death Fulfilled Prophecy (over 300) And His Mission.
- **John 12:27.**
- **Hebrews 12:1-2.**

VII. Words Of Trust In God.

- **Luke 23:46.**
- **Hebrews 5:7.**
- **2 Timothy 1:12.**

“As Newborn Babes....”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 2:1-3.**

I. The Physical Birth.

- **Genesis 4:1-2; 4:16-17; 4:25-26.**
- Abraham Waited 25 years To Have Isaac- **Genesis 12:4–21:5.**
- Moses Was Born- **Exodus 2:1-10.**
- Mary Was To Be With Child- **Luke 1:26-33; Jesus’ Birth- Luke 2:1-7.**
- Why Do We Have Children? **1. Genesis 1:28. 2. To Have A Family Genesis 15:2. 3. To Give An Inheritance- Proverbs 13:22; Luke 15:11.**
- Children Are A Blessing- **Psalms 127:3-5.**

II. The New Birth.

- **John 3:1-9.** Not The Same As The Physical Birth— Spiritual.
- **1 Peter 1:22-25; vs. 18-19; 2:1-3.**
- The New Birth Puts Us In God’s Family- **2 Cor. 5:17-; Galatians 3:26-29.**
- It Was What Was Preached From Pentecost Onward— **Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:37-41.**
- What Is Required? **1. God’s Word. 2. Faith. 3. Repentance. 4. Confession. 5. Baptism.**

III. The Differences Between The Two Births.

- Illustration Of Difference Between Jews In O.T. And Becoming A Christian.
- One Born Physically, Then Taught To Be A Jew. **Hebrews 8:8-11.**
- We Are Taught First, Then Obey The Gospel **Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 16:14-15.**
- We Are Born Of Our Own Free-will To God- **John 1:12-13.**
- You Can Actually Choose The New Birth And Have God As Your Father.
- We Cannot Choose Our Physical Parents— They Chose To Have Us!
- **James 1:18?** How Does God Do That? God’s Desire And Ours? **1 Timothy 2:4.**
- The New Birth Requires Obedience—The Physical Birth Does Not- **Rom. 6:17-18.**
- One Birth You Can Definitely See, The Other Takes Place In Inner Man. **Col. 2:12-13.**

IV. The Similarities Between The Two Births.

- Both Require Seed Implanted And A Birth- **Luke 8:11-15; 1 Peter 1:22.**
- Both Are A Beginning Of Life. **2 Corinthians 5:17.**
- We Are Born Without Sin— Pure, Innocent, And Guiltless. **Matt. 18:3-4; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.**
- Both Have A Growing Process To Maturity- **1 Peter 1:2-3; Hebrews 5:12-14.**
- Brings Us Into A Family To Belong To. **Luke 2:4; Romans 8:14-15.**
- Being A Son Has Privileges- **Luke 15:18-19; 1 John 5:14-15.**

V. Why You Must Be Born Again.

- To Be Saved And Enter Heaven- **John 3:5; 2 Peter 1:11.**
- To Be A Joint Heir With Christ- **Romans 8:16-17.**
- To Have the Inheritance Of Our Father- **Acts 20:32; Matthew 25:34.**