

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

August 8, 2021

“Young People's Program”

By Robert Turner

In the small town of Sundridge, Ontario, Ca. 300 miles north of the U.S. — Canadian border, the young folk of a small congregation (45-50) put many of their U. S. counterparts to shame. They are High School and under: with the same love for and participation in sports, parties, etc., that is common with this age. But they also — and preeminently — love the Lord.



They sat together, listening to my sermons and taking notes. That's fine “stroking” for a preacher. But it became apparent they had more serious things in mind than pleasing a visiting speaker. I began to hear of their teaching “sessions” at school and in their homes. They had “taken aim” on this or that boy or girl and were working to convert them to Christ.

On one occasion I went to a home for a meal and was told to bring information on the Jewish Sabbath, etc., for a young man would be there to talk about this. I made some notes, and as I began to present them, I found only a few things in my “outline” that had not already been worked out by the young people who were interested in teaching their Adventist friend. It was gratifying to see the mutual respect shown in such studies. When the prospect showed signs of having “had enough” for the time, they let up. “Let it cool awhile” as one of them put it. Older folk should learn that.

I heard them speak of a young man who was much interested in the gospel of Christ, but whose parents were opposed to his being baptized. They had a “feeling” for the boy, and for the parents too.

There were rumors the boy would have to leave home if he obeyed the gospel, but one night he walked boldly down the aisle and confessed his faith in Christ. We went to Lake Bernard for the baptizing. As car lights played on the fog-shrouded waters, and a wild duck swam small circles in the edge of the light, the boy and the preacher walked into the cold waves, and we witnessed a burial and a resurrection. Joy swept the band of witnesses like an electric current, and as they sang “Oh Happy Day” — there was scarcely a dry eye.

It was only after the baptizing, that I learned that the boy's parents had been present at the service, and showed approval of the deed. The new brother was welcomed into the circle of Christian boys and girls and soon I heard they were “taking aim” on another lost soul — using their fresh reinforcement.

Want the punch line? This church has no “Recreation Hall” or other unauthorized “church socials.” It has, instead, converted young people.

“If The Dead Are Not Raised”

by Matthew W. Bassford

Recently, I attended this year's Truth Lectures, which had as their theme eschatology, the study of the end times. Many of the lectures addressed preterism, the belief that the prophecies of the Bible all already have happened. In particular, preterists claim that the prophecies about the final judgment, the resurrection of the dead, and the dissolution of the physical universe were fulfilled (in a figurative sense) during the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

I believe that preterists are correct to recognize the importance of the first-century destruction of the temple and the downfall of the Jewish nation. In many ways, the ministry of Jesus is a last-ditch effort to turn the Jews aside from their destructive course. Their refusal to listen to Him (and the consequences of that refusal) reverberates throughout the New Testament. When we try to make everything in the Bible about us instead of its original first-century recipients, we fall into error.

However, it is equally erroneous to assume that all the climactic events of spiritual history already have occurred. Often, the falsity of false teaching becomes most evident not in the teaching itself, but in its ripple effects. In the case of preterism, I believe the biggest problems it creates arise through its denial of a general, bodily resurrection of the dead.

Among other serious difficulties, denial of the resurrection of the body casts doubt on the resurrection of Christ. As Paul says in I Corinthians 15:13, *“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.”* Preterists argue that the general resurrection of I Corinthians 15 is the figurative union of Jew and Gentile Christians in 70 AD. Before we accept this interpretation, however, we must reckon with Paul’s use of “not even”. This indicates that the resurrection of Christ is the most prominent example of a larger class, as in, “If no gymnasts can land that jump, then not even Simone Biles can.”

“Not even” allows for two interpretations. Either the larger class of resurrections is literal, and the resurrection of Jesus is literal along with it, or the larger class of resurrections is figurative, and the resurrection of Jesus is figurative along with it. It does not, however, permit a mixed figurative/literal reading.

Let’s suppose for a moment that the first part of v. 13 is about the figurative, invisible, unprovable union of Jew and Gentile in the church in AD 70. If it didn’t happen, how does that in any way undermine the bodily resurrection of Jesus in AD 30? A bodily resurrection can’t be a “not even” for a figurative class.

Therefore, in arguing for a figurative general resurrection, preterists imply that the resurrection of Christ also was figurative, a fatal problem for Christianity. As per Romans 1:4, the [bodily] resurrection of Jesus declares Him to be the Son of God with power. By contrast, the “resurrection” of Jesus only in the visions, dreams, and fond imaginings of His followers is useless as proof of His divinity. If that’s all the evidence we have, none of us should be Christians.

Preterists do well when they call us to consider the New Testament in its first-century context, but they err disastrously when they undermine the central conviction of Christianity. If the dead are not raised, not even Christ is raised, and if Christ is not raised, our faith is vain, we are still in our sins, and of all people, we are most to be pitied. Don’t take my word for it. Take the Holy Spirit’s.

“The Wisdom Of Winning Souls”

By Charles N. Spence, Jr.

Proverbs 11:30, *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.”*

How does winning souls demonstrate wisdom? When Christians involve themselves in this task, they understand that they are doing that which the Lord has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). This brings assurance to the minds of God’s people in that they understand that the Lord will be with them. Christians who seek souls to save understand that this is one purpose for which they were called (I Peter 2:9). In this, the Christian seeks to emulate their Master (Luke 19:10). Seeking souls gives every indication that the child of God is concerned for the lost and understands the terribleness of God’s judgment (II Corinthians 5:11). Even in restoring the erring brother the one who is a soul winner understands that he has saved a soul from death (James 5:19-20).

With all the understanding that Christians show when they seek to win souls to the Lord, is it any wonder that they are called “wise”?

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, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Remember the Harris family in the loss of Mollie Harris last week.

We rejoice last Wednesday when Blake Briggs obeyed the gospel!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Sam Johnson
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"In The Name Of The Lord"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 50, Question #11</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Nathan Meade
	<i>Isaiah 1:18-20</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper:	Paul Busby
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Seven Marvels Of God's Mercy"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Adam Harris

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

August 11th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Russell Briggs
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #12, Question #11</i>
Invitation:	Paul Johnson
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**

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

“In The Name Of The Lord”

Lesson Text: **Colossians 3:17.**

I. What Does It Mean To Do Something In Someone's Name?

1. In appeal or reference to. 2. by the authority of; as the representative of. 3. as belonging to.

II. What Was Done In The Name of the Lord In Scripture:

A. In The Old Testament:

- The Levites Serve God- **Deut. 18:5-7**
- The Prophets Would Speak- **Deut. 18:22; 2 Chronicles 33:18.**
- David came to Fight Goliath- **1 Samuel 17:45.**
- David And Jonathan Swore An Oath- **1 Samuel 20:42.**
- David Blesses the People- **2 Samuel 6:18.**
- Elijah Built the Altar- **1 Kings 18:32.**
- Ahab Adjured Micaiah to Tell the Truth- **1 Kings 22:16.**
- Elisha Cursed the bad Children- **2 Kings 2:24.**
- Prophecy of the Coming Savior- **Psalms 118:26.**

B. In The New Testament:

- Fulfilled Prophecy In Jesus- **Matthew 21:9; Matt. 23:39.**
- Faith In Jesus' Name- **John 1:12; 2:23; 1 John 3:23.**
- Demons Were Subject to the Disciples- **Luke 10:17.**
- Repentance and Remission of Sins Proclaimed- **Luke 24:47.**
 - Prayer Is In The Name of Jesus- **John 14:13.**
 - The Father Sent the Holy Spirit- **John 14:26.**
 - We Have Life In Jesus' Name- **John 20:31.**
 - We Are Baptized In The Name of Jesus- **Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5.**
 - The Apostles Healed- **Acts 3:6; 3:16; 4:7; 4:10.**
 - Preaching In The Name of Jesus- **Acts 4:18; 9:27.**
 - The Unclean Spirit Cast Out- **Acts 16:18.**
 - Paul Exhorted Christians- **1 Corinthians 1:10.**
 - Church Discipline Enacted- **1 Corinthians 5:4; 2 Thess. 3:6.**
 - Giving Thanks For All Things- **Ephesians 5:20.**
 - Every Knee Bows and Confesses Christ- **Philippians 2:10.**

III. Does It Matter Whose Name We Do Things Today?

- Salvation is Only in the Name of Christ- **Acts 4:12.**
- We Cannot Come To God In Our Own Name- **John 5:43.**
- We Cannot Make Disciples In Our Name- **Acts 20:30; 1 Cor. 1:12-13.**
- The Only Authority That Matters Is Christ's- **Col. 3:17; Matt. 28:18.**

“Seven Marvels Of God’s Mercy”

Lesson Text: **Isaiah 1:18-20.**

Mercy: kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them. (Thayer)

– It Is A Marvel Of God’s Mercy That God Should:

I. Offer To Forgive Man.

– Psalm 103:10-13; Romans 5:6-8; Hebrews 10:16-18.

Notes: _____.

II. Reason With Sinners.

– Psalm 82:1-5; Jeremiah 2:26-32; Ezekiel 18:30-32.

Notes: _____.

III. Reason With Us Despite Our Rebellion.

– 1 Kings 19:10; Nehemiah 9:26.

Notes: _____.

IV. Show Any Interest In Man At All.

– Psalm 8:3-4; 1 Timothy 2:3-6.

Notes: _____.

V. Still Bear Patiently With Us.

– Matthew 23:37; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:9.

Notes: _____.

VI. Forgive On Such Simple Terms.

– Titus 3:4-7; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 22:16.

Notes: _____.

VII. Not Only Forgive— But Transform Us.

– 1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 12:1-2.

Notes: _____.