

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
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May 14, 2023

### ***“God Has Placed Eternity In Man’s Heart”***

By Guy Roberson

Solomon said that God set eternity in the hearts of men (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Solomon experienced every earthly pleasure possible and made this tremendous statement. “Eternity” refers to a deep abiding awareness of something beyond this life. In every human soul is a God-given awareness that there is “something more” than the darkness of this world.



Michael Eaton said, “Our consciousness of God is part of our nature, and the suppression of it is part of our sin.” Mankind hungers for something that cannot be supplied by this world—a quest for eternity. Anthropological evidence suggests that every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal—that this world is not all there is (Randy Alcorn, in his book, Heaven).

Augustine said, “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they can find peace in you.” Blaise Pascal said, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man that cannot be filled by any created being, but by God alone made known through Jesus Christ.”

The problem that the world deals with is that humanity attempts to fill this restlessness with things other than God. Solomon declared that *“Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead”* (Ecclesiastes 9:3).

I believe that God designed us so we can’t find fulfillment or lasting enjoyment apart from knowing Him. Listen to the psalmist: *“O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water”* (Psalm 63:1).

Seeking after God should be our most important priority. Our God who created us, sent His Son to die for us, because He longs to have a personal relationship with us. Therefore, He carefully made man and placed in him an inner desire—a hunger—to know Him. The prophet Isaiah said, *“Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; and therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for Him”* (Isaiah 30:18).

In spite of the fact that God is self-sufficient and needs absolutely nothing to be complete He loves us so much that He wants us to benefit from His abundant blessings. Until we understand that very fact and respond to His love, we will continue to be like the prodigal son, searching through all of the pleasures, riches, drugs, jobs, and relationships this world has to offer. Too many spend their lives looking for something other than God to fill their longing for meaning and remain unfulfilled and wonder why their lives never seem fulfilled.

Solomon, who had all the riches, success, esteem, and power in the world — in short, all that men seek after in this life — we see that none of it fulfilled his longing for eternity. He declared it all “vanity,” meaning that he sought after these things in vain because they did not satisfy. In the end he said, *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

I want us to consider a passage from Zephaniah: *“The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing”* (3:17).

Just as a loving parent cradles a child and sings out of love, so God's song over His people is born of His great love. After a time of hardship, our loving Lord dries His people's tears, comforts their hearts, and welcomes them into His love and care. Who wouldn't want this Almighty God loving us in this fashion? All of the baubles of this world cannot love you and care for you but God can. God doesn't love one out of some constraint or coercion. He overflows in joy to bless and help those who seek a relationship with Him.

One of the problems we face is believing that knowledge about God is the same as knowing God. It is not the knowledge about God that is the key to eternal life, it is a real hunger to be embraced by God and know Him as our Father and enjoy an intimate relationship with Him. It is this relationship with our Father through Jesus Christ that makes it possible to be filled with His presence, and to be changed into His likeness.

Paul said, *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 3:18). There is no need for things to go on in your life as they have been. God can change you, regardless of how corrupt your life may have been. First John 3:1-2 tells us that *"when He appears we will be like Him,"* and *"we will see Him just as He is."*

Philippians 3:20-21 reminds us of that glorious day when Jesus appears and He *"will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."*

Are you filling that longing for eternity by seeking God and having a personal relationship with Him?

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## "SIN"

by Carl Allen

Sin is defined: "A transgression of the law," I John 3:4 (KJV). The American Standard Version says: "sin is lawlessness," I John 3:4 (ASV). Sin, then, is a "crossing" of the law; or, "a missing of the mark." God has extended the law and when we violate the law, walk contrary to, we have "missed" what God has intended. Thus you have a defining of the word, "SIN." The New Testament defines the word itself, I John 3:4.

Every person, in the Bible, has sin charged to them; because they "missed the mark," as God has provided. Adam & Eve, I Tim. 2:13-14, they both "transgressed," it is said in the OLD TESTAMENT that Eve, *"gave also to her husband with her, and he did eat,"* Gen. 3:6. Paul states, "For until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law," Rom. 5:13. From this we learn there was sin from Adam to Moses; so, there was law from Adam to Moses. At this point there was an adding of the law. This was the Law of Moses and it continued until Jesus and was taken away on the cross of Christ, Col. 2:14. So there was law from Adam to Christ and where there is law, there is sin! This is the reason for the statement in Rom. 3:23, *"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."* This is making the point that there has been law and so there has been sin, from Adam to Christ.

Through the years there has been a change of laws; but sin continues to prevail. Whatever the law may be, when one violates that law, God's law, it is attributed to him as sin.

There are those who want to make the New Covenant a covenant of grace and not of law. It is simple what they want-if there is no law there is no sin, Rom. 5:13. But the New Testament is referred to as a LAW!

The New Covenant is referred to as: (1) "The Law of Christ," Gal. 6:2; (2) "The law of liberty," James 1:25; (3) "A law of faith," Rom. 3:27; (4) "The royal Law," Jas. 2:8, - note the word "Royal," it is a regal term and is associated with a King, King Jesus, I Tim. 6:15; (5) "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus," Rom. 8:2. Now, should I go farther to show that under Christ there is a law and when people transgress that law, sin is attributed to them! Jesus died for the world and thus extended us the "Scheme of Redemption," so, we may be free from sin, Rom. 5:8-9.

Sin has not changed; so the remedy for sin has not changed. The blood of animals, bulls, and goats could not take away sin in the world; but, the blood of Christ did, Hebrews 10:4; I Pet. 1:18-21. In Heb. 9:15, we have the following statement, "And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance." This is all accomplished through the blood of Christ, Rom. 5:9.

Under the New Covenant it is stated, "17 But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of doctrine (KJV) whereunto ye were delivered; 18 and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness," (Rom. 6:17-18).

God accomplished what was intended-the remission of sins. This is provided through *"the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus,"* Romans 8:2.

**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, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, David Boren, and Dianne Johnson.

Tim Harris Sr. had his surgery last Monday and is recovering.  
Vicki Sullivan was baptized at 2:00 PM last Sunday!

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "What Can Happen To Your Faith"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Fred Johnson  
**Author:** Colossians  
**Starting Page & Question:** Donnie V. Rader  
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**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Fred Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Danny Sheffield  
**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 11:23-27  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Doug George  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Jochebed: A Woman Of Great Faith"  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

May 17, 2023

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** The Miracles Of Jesus  
**Author:** Mike Willis  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #116, Question #7  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade



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# ***“What Can Happen To Your Faith?”***

Lesson Text: **Luke 22:31-32.**

## **I. Your Faith Can Increase Or Diminish.**

- Increased: **Luke 17:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:3.**
  - How? **(1) God’s Word- Romans 10:17; Acts 20:32; Jude vs. 20.**
  - (2) Being With Brethren- 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3.**
- Diminished: **Matthew 14:25-31.**
  - By Anxieties And Distractions- **Mark 4:16-19.**
  - By Persecutions And Afflictions- **Matthew 24:9-13.**
  - Not Studying God’s Word- **1 Timothy 4:13-16.**
  - Not Being With Brethren- **Hebrews 10:22-25.**

## **II. Your Faith Can Be Seen Or Not Seen By Others.**

- Faith Seen: **James 2:18; Mark 2:1-5; Romans 1:8; 16:19; Luke 23:50-53.**
- Faith Not Seen: **Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 12:8-9; Matthew 27:69-75.**

## **III. Your Faith Can Pass Or Fail The Test.**

- Faith That Passes- **James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:7.**
- Faith That Fails- **Hebrews 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:10.**
- Does Our Faith Pass The Self-Examination? **2 Corinthians 13:**

## **IV. Your Faith Can Be Made Complete Or Be Lacking.**

- Faith Made Complete- **James 2:21-22; 2 Peter 1:5-8.**
- Faith That Lacks- **2 Peter 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10.**

## **V. Your Faith Can Be Kept Or Neglected.**

- Faith That Is Kept- **2 Timothy 4:7-8.**
- Faith That Is Neglected- **Hebrews 2:1-3.**

## **VI. Your Faith Can Be Firm Or Be Overthrown.**

- Faith That Is Firm- **1 Peter 5:8-9; Colossians 2:5; Romans 11:20.**
- Faith That Is Overthrown- **1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:16-18.**

Conclusion: The Choice Is Yours To Make.

# **“Jochebed: A Woman Of Great Faith”**

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 11:23-27.**

## **I. Who Is Jochebed?**

- Her Name Means “*Yahweh’s Glory.*”
- A Daughter Of Levi **Exodus 2:1.**
- The Sister Of Kohath **1 Chronicles 9:32; 2 Chronicles 20:19; Numbers 3:31.**
- The Wife Of Amram.
- The Mother Of Miriam, Moses, And Aaron.
- Although Only Mentioned By Name Two Times In Scripture (**Exodus 6:20; Numbers 26:59**), She Is One Of The Great Unsung Heroines Of Faith.

## **II. A Mother’s Love For Her Son.**

- **Exodus 2:1-4.**
- Love In Protecting Her Son, Even At The Risk Of Her Own Life- **Hebrews 11:23.**
  - Exactly What All Mothers Should Do For Their Children, But Don’t- **2 Timothy 3:1-3.**
  - Abortion Of Today Shows A Total lack Of Love For The Children killed!
- She Was Willing To Give Him Up, So That He Might Live.
- It Also Shows Her Great Faith And Trust In God To Save Her Son- Moses. (**Heb. 11:1**).
- She May Have Not Then Realized Moses’ Role In Delivering His People From The Egyptians.

## **III. God’s Providence In Moses’ Life.**

- **Exodus 2:5-10.**
- God’s Providence Is Seen In Several Aspects Of Moses’ Deliverance:
  - The Mid-Wives Had To Have Disobeyed The King’s Edict To Let Him Live (**1:17**).
  - Was It Happenstance Or Coincidence That Pharaoh’s Daughter Found Moses? And...
  - And After Finding Him, She Decided To Adopt Him As Her Own Child?
  - Miriam Was There To Ask About Getting A Hebrew Woman To Nurse Moses (**vs. 7**).
  - Jochebed Nursed Her Own Child For Wages (**vs. 8-9**).

## **IV. Jochebed’s Teaching To Moses.**

- **Exodus 2:9-11.**
- We Can Infer From What Happened In Moses’ Life, What She May Have Taught Him:
  - Where Did Moses Learn About His Jewish Brethren? (**Vs. 11**).
  - Did Jochebed Teach Moses About The True God Of The Hebrews (**3:1-6**).
  - Did She Teach Moses About The Promises To Abraham, Issac, And Jacob?
  - Did She Teach Moses About Sin’s Temporary Pleasures And God’s Eternal Reward?
  - **11:24-26** Moses Just Figured It All Out On His Own? Or Intentional Teaching?
  - **11:27** Moses Did Not Fear The Wrath Of The King... **11:23?**
- Godly Mothers Of Today Still Teach These Things To Their Children!

## **V. Moses Honored His Mother.**

- **Hebrews 11:28-29.** Moses Would Go On To Deliver And Lead God’s People.
- **Proverbs 23:24-25.** If You Want To Honor Your Mother And Father, Make Wise Decisions!