

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

[MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com](http://MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com)

August 11, 2019

### ***“The Destructive Power of Alcohol & Drugs”***

By Brian Meade

*“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.”* (Proverbs 20:1)  
The wise man’s warning concerning the real dangers of strong drink are often ignored in our culture today.

Consequently, many are the lives that have been completely ruined by the power that alcohol and drugs had to destroy them! Many are the marriages that have suffered by the controlling influence of substance use and abuse. Many are employers who have had to endure workers who let their addictions to drugs or alcohol spill over into their professional life and were afterwards fired.



And sadly, many are the deaths attributed to overdoses of recreational drugs or alcohol poisoning.

Many famous names of celebrities have died from drug abuse, such as: Chris Farley, John Belushi, Heath Ledger, River Phoenix, Brad Renfro, Corey Haim, Anna Nicole Smith, Marilyn Monroe, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendricks, Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, W.C. Fields, Judy Garland, Keith Moon, Keith Whitely, Jim Morrison, and Tom Petty. Many of these people named would still be alive today, but they let their sin destroy their length of days on the earth.

People are often introduced to drugs and alcohol at an early age. If it is not directly introduced to them, it is usually in the form of advertising or in movies on television shows where drinking is glorified in some way. Advertisers usually want to spin the best light on drinking. Most commercials will often show people having a good time while drinking beer or wine at campfire scenes or other celebrations. All of this makes it attractive to young impressionable minds.

Many young people are introduced directly to these substances through their friends, who are experimenting with these themselves, and are quick to share these “new experiences” with others. The peer pressure to try out alcohol or drugs can be a very strong pull to join in with the “fun” that other seem to have.

Some are curious about what “all the fuss” and “the big to do” is all about with alcohol and drugs. Too often, they are attracted because it is forbidden and taboo for them to do what others do. But they forget the apt saying, “Curiosity killed the cat.” And sadly, there have been some instances where someone tried some form of drug and died from such curiosity. Some drugs are just that dangerous!

Many start using drugs as means to relieve boredom and fill their lives with excitement and fun. Like one man who set out to have “a good time” one night and never broke away from a powerful addiction for several years! His own words was “He could not find the path back” to a normal life! He was all along saying to himself, “Someday it will be different, but not today.” That is just how powerful a stronghold Satan can build into our lives!

It reminds us of what is said long ago in Proverbs 23:29-35, *“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. “They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.”*

They are trapped in the “cycle of addiction” that begins with the:

**(1) preoccupation and Planning Stage** of the use of drugs. This is where the one addicted is obsessed in their mind with their drug of choice. They may be working a job during the week, but on their mind the whole time is their drugs!

Next comes the **(2) Acquisition Stage** where now they have their payday for the week and know exactly what they will do with it! They may have felt miserable all week, but now they are even giddy as they can’t wait until they can get their supply of drugs to use. Then there is the **(3) Use and Abuse** where the addict finally gets to be on their “high!” To them, this is the best part of the week, and their lives for that matter. They live for their drugs and they control their lives to the point that nothing else matters! And lastly, there is the **(4) Loss of the High** when the drugs wear off and the addict comes down from the high. This is when the cycle starts all over, as in Proverbs 23:35. The cravings, the preoccupation, and acquisition stages begin all over again week after week.

It may be at the beginning, the ones addicted to substance abuse never think they will be completely overwhelmed and given over to a life of addiction. That’s how deceitful this sin can be. Hebrews 3:13 tells us, *“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”* Many are in the pit and need out!

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 19.7 million American adults (aged 12 and older) battled a substance use disorder in 2017.

- Almost 74% of adults suffering from a substance use disorder in 2017 struggled with an alcohol use disorder.
- About 38% of adults in 2017 battled an illicit drug use disorder.
- That same year, 1 out of every 8 adults struggled with both alcohol and drug use disorders simultaneously.
- In 2017, 8.5 million American adults suffered from both a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders.
- Drug abuse and addiction cost American society more than \$740 billion annually in lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses, and crime-related costs.

Drugs and Alcohol Addictions Destroy Everything it touches:

**(1) It destroys good conduct.**

The one addicted begins a path of deception, where lying about their true condition becomes the norm. They often will cover up and keep secret their addiction, hoping no one will find out. There are many who begin a life of thievery and will steal from anyone they can to support their addiction. Some have even sunk into the depths of their addiction to the point of selling anything they own to feed their addiction— including their self-respect and dignity.

**(2) It Destroys A Good Reputation.**

When someone’s character changes from good to bad, people will begin to notice the changes in very negative ways. That person quickly gets to be known as the one who will rob your medicine cabinet, or anything else of value to get their fix! They become known as an addict, thief, liar, or town drunk. Once this type of reputation begins, it is extremely difficult to overcome!

**(3) It Destroys Relationships.**

Many marriages have suffered much and many divorces have occurred because of a spouse who let substance abuse rule their life! Families have been torn apart by Satan’s influence in their lives. It is true sad that there may be fathers and mothers who have had to limit, or stop their relationship with an abusing son or daughter because they can’t trust them anymore.

**(4) It Destroys Physical Life.**

Drugs and alcohol abuse takes a tremendous toll on the bodies of the addict. Once someone starts using certain drugs, it begins to age and decay their body to the point that they are unrecognizable in just a few years! They may have had beauty and a handsome appearance before, but the addiction drains the very life out of its victims. Their hair begins to fall out, their teeth begin to rot, and their skin develops lesions that mar them as the signs of out of control addict!

**(5) It Destroys Spiritual Life.**

The worst part of this life in the pit is the fact that living for the Lord is not possible as long as they remain in this condition. Their character is such that selfishness, pleasure, dishonesty, and worldliness has dominated their life to the degree of enslavement to sin. This is precisely what Satan wants— to completely destroy us! (1 Peter 5:8) And if we give in to his devices, we fall for his plan for our life.

We have to remember that God has a better way of life than this, as Proverb 12:28, *“In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.”* God offers us a way out by repentance and obedience to the gospel! (Acts 2:38).

**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, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry’s niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Katie Ward Coburn, Kathryn’s grandmother, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, & Allison (12 year old girl that received burns from a house fire/ 80% of her body was burned), Karey Trimble, Clois Wright (recent stroke). Marsha Briggs (Russell’s mother), and Dan & Linda Hunt.

Our Gospel Meeting begins September 30th and goes through October 4th. Jarrod Jacobs from Caneyville, Ky. will be our speaker for the week. Service times are 7:00 PM Monday through Friday.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *“Identifying God’s People Today”*

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

Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)  
*Page 68 Question #6*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Fred Johnson  
*Ephesians 6:1-3*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord’s Supper:** Sam Johnson  
**Assisting:** Russell Briggs & Chris Callahan  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *“Honoring Father And Mother”*  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

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

**August 14th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
The Book of Job (Mike Willis)  
*Page 32, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Cottrell