

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“If He Is Wrong, What Does The Christian Miss?”

By Ancil Jenkins

Doubt is a subtle demon. It creeps in at times of distress, pain, and fear. Doubting is not sinful; failing to act on doubts is. Honesty demands an examination and a resolution of doubts. As one examines doubts, his heart is comforted.

Truth will silence doubts, or will show a different path that should be taken. But often the search for truth is a long one, and doubts must be endured until the answer is found. During that interim, how should one reason? Must he abandon his faith until study has removed the last question?

Let me raise questions for consideration by those who may be wavering in their faith, plagued by doubts: As a Christian, even if the doubts are true, what have I missed through believing in God? Even if there is no God, no true Word, and no heaven, what does a Christian miss by living a righteous, faithful life?



1. A Christian is far better off physically than an Unbeliever. Our bodies, says Paul, are the temple of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1). A temple must be treated with respect and care. Proper diet, exercise, and preventive medicine should be a part of a Christian's life. He will not abuse his body with drugs and other harmful substances.

He will avoid putting himself in situations that are evil and hurtful to his physical well being. Drunken driving, fights, and other law-breaking activities cannot threaten him physically. Why? Because they are not a part of his life!

2. A Christian is better off materially because of his values. Basic honesty affects one's business. He does not seek illegal or unethical advantage. He is careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody (Romans 12:17). People will want to do business with him because they know they will be treated fairly and truthfully.

God's child is doubly blessed. He has enough for himself and enough to share with those who are in need (Ephesians 4:28). He enjoys the pleasure of having all he requires and the greater blessing of giving to help others.

3. The Christian loses nothing socially by his commitment to Jesus Christ. Like Jesus, he should grow in favor with men (Luke 2:52). He may not be liked for his faith and practice, but he will be respected for his dedication to what he believes.

A man once remarked that he intended to go and hear a certain preacher. Someone asked him why since he did not believe as that preacher did. His response was, "Because he believes what he preaches and I like to hear people like that."

4. Christian relationships are not corrupted by many of the practices of the world. Because he will be true to his marriage vows, the Christian will not know the attendant heartbreak of adultery or sexual perversions and a broken home.

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it . . . husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies ... " (Ephesians 5:25, 28). A stable marriage adds to life's pleasures and meaning.

A Christian is also a good neighbor since he loves his neighbor as himself (Matthew 22:37-38). Many are the bad friends in this world who pretend to care about us or betray us (Psalm 41:9; Proverbs 19:6), but a true friend *"loves at all times."* (Proverbs 17:17) We learn to be genuine in our friendships from God.

5. What about a Christian's emotional life?

Emotional turmoil may cause the Christian to seek counsel. There is no shame in this. Yet, Christian counsel will bring insights that will provide help and recovery faster and in a more meaningful, permanent way than the counsel of non-Christian advisors. With God at the center, the child of God is not disturbed and plagued by many of the world's emotional ills.

What does one lose by being a Christian? Nothing but negatives and problems! Even if there is no God, no heaven or hell, no biblical authority for moral values, the Christian's quality of life is still far better than that of the unbeliever.

The really important question is not "What does the Christian lose if the unbeliever is right," but "What does the unbeliever lose if the Christian is right?" Even if somehow the unbeliever managed to gain the world, he would lose his own soul, and that is the greatest loss of all.

Refusing to Enter the Ark

By Mike Thomas

Can you imagine what it was like for those outside of the ark once the *"fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."* (Genesis 7:11)? What were they thinking as the flood waters rose? Did they have time to think? If so, did any of them suddenly realize how right Noah was and how foolish they were for not entering the ark?

The tragedy of Noah's story is—it is being repeated today! Jesus said, *"For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."* (Matthew 24:38-39) The devices that occupy our attention are different from that generation, but the acts of being distracted and ungodly are still the same. The majority of the world refuses to fear God and keep His commandments; choosing rather to dismiss His promise of an upcoming judgment (Acts 17:30-31). When He does finally bring this world to an end, the majority of people will be doing the same thing as Noah's generation: living for everything else except God.

What Noah's ark was to his generation is what Christ is to our generation, in terms of salvation. The only ones who survived the flood were those in the ark. The only ones who will survive the fiery judgment of Hell are those in Christ. For, *"Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."* (Ephesians 5:23) Salvation and eternal life are in Jesus (Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 5:11).

Noah had to trust in God's word to build the ark, long before the flood waters encompassed the earth (Hebrews 11:7). The same is true today regarding Christ. It takes faith to believe in His saving power and to enter His body, before the final judgment. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* (Galatians 3:26-27) Unfortunately, many are dismissing these words by clinging to man-made doctrines instead. Many say, *"Just Jesus into your heart and you'll be saved,"* or *"Jesus saves—baptism will not save you."*

Those who reject water baptism for salvation to enter Christ are the same who would have criticized Noah for building and entering the ark. *"We're saved by faith through grace, Noah, not by works!"* (Similar to what we would hear today) But Noah ignored his critics and walked by faith in God's blueprint. Anyone who expects to be saved from sin must fear God more than man and walk by faith in Jesus' blueprint— which clearly requires faith, repentance, confession, and baptism for salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-39). Thus, if you are wise you will enter the ark before it is too late. Forget what your family and friends might think of you. Think about God and how much you should love Him more! Your family can't save you from your sin and its eternal, fiery consequences. You need Christ to do that. Be wise and submit to God in faith by moving with godly fear in obedience to His will. It may not seem like it now, but one day you'll be glad you trusted in God to enter the ark of Christ— as the flames of death encompass the earth

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Steve Switcher, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer) & Delain Doles is now home from Fulton.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"You Can Prove Anything By The Bible"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson
 The Book of John (Mike Willis)
Page 70, Question #20

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Jerry Kennemur

Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Table: Russell Briggs
Assisting: Adam Harris & Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"The Choice Between Heaven & Hell"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 12th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
 1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)
Page 18, Question # 1
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade