

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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September 10, 2023

“Living Without Regret”

By David Dann

The apostle Paul writes, *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death”* (2 Corinthians 7:10, NKJV). The English verb “regret” is defined as: “to feel sorry or unhappy about something you did or were unable to do” (Cambridge Dictionary Online).



A report on the findings of a recent study titled, “4 Out Of 10 Adults Regret Their Life Choices,” contains the following: “According to a survey of 2,000 British adults commissioned by UK charity consortium Remember A Charity, four out of ten people regret how they have lived their lives so far.

Spending too much time at work and not traveling enough were among respondents' biggest regrets. Other common regrets among those surveyed included neglecting their health and not spending enough time with their family. Many wished they had been a better parent to their children. All of that regret seems to be a big motivator as well, with 40% of respondents claiming that they want to make some positive changes in the near future” (John Anderer, Studyfinds.org).

How can we overcome the widespread problem of regret?

1. Be saved.

The apostle Peter exhorted the crowd on Pentecost to, *“Be saved from this perverse generation”* (Acts 2:40). Most serious regrets in life have to do with the guilt of the sins one has committed. Freedom from the guilt of past sin is found in believing and obeying the gospel of Christ. Peter spoke to those who had come to regret their rejection of Jesus, saying, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* (v. 38). While one may always regret having committed sin, remission of all past sin is the first step toward living without regret.

2. Set your mind on things above.

The apostle Paul instructed the church in Colosse, saying, *“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Colossians 3:2). While some may regret having missed out on a particular job opportunity, not having traveled enough, or having failed to invest a certain amount in the stock market, all such regrets have to do with temporary things “on the earth.”

By focusing on heavenly things, the child of God is able to live without regret concerning that which is permanent and lasting (1 Peter 1:4-5).

3. Press on toward the goal.

On the topic of leaving the past behind, Paul writes, *“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14). The goal of being resurrected to eternal life with the Lord when He comes again overshadows and outweighs any earthly objective toward which one may strive.

The faithful child of God minimizes regret by following Christ each day (Luke 9:23), by worshiping God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), by treating others properly (Matthew 7:12), by avoiding the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), and by producing the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-23). Even when sidetracked by sin, the child of God can turn from sin and turn to God for forgiveness (cf. Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Conclusion

While we may all wish we had made different decisions at various points in our lives, to live a life without regret ultimately means living a life of faithfulness to the Lord. On the other hand, a life of sin and reckless folly is a life that leads to eternal regret in a place where, *“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Luke 13:28). Which kind of life are you living?

“Distinctive Preaching”

By Terry Sanders

One of the greatest appealing characteristics of the Lord's church in years gone has been in the distinctive preaching. This preaching has been so distinctive that many people cannot believe the extent of it. So many times people come to the assembly for a visit and are amazed at the extent the Bible is referred to, studied, and read.

This reaction shows that in some circles there is apparently little Bible being taught. So, it shouldn't come as any surprise when the preaching of the Lord's church is found to be distinctive.

Years ago debates were common between the church and the denominations. At that time there was something mutual to debate--the Bible. Now there is no common ground. The church still respects the Bible, but the denominations have "moth-balled" it in favor of the social gospel and political correctness. Those who have decided to change plain gospel preaching ought to seriously consider Galatians 1:6-9 sometime. Those verses clearly illustrate that the gospel is not supposed to change and those who decide to change it have stepped into an area where man has no right to be!

Here's just one example of how this is done. The matter of ordaining active homosexuals to positions of ministry within their denominational hierarchies is a tacit admission that what was once sin no longer is (see Lev. 18:22; 20:13) and that God somehow or another actually approves of one involved in such activity.

That alone should be enough to prove that there is no longer any common ground! The word of God hasn't changed in nearly 2000 years. How did homosexuality suddenly become a sanctioned relationship? Someone may say that society's opinion has changed and so that is the way it should be. When this argument is made, it should be very apparent that there is no common ground. When gospel preachers say that God hates the sin of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), get ready for a lot of amazed people who are being led to believe that He actually approves of it!

We should not be too surprised when others are so amazed. Our Lord's preaching was different from what those of His day heard (Matthew 7:28-29). No doubt it sounded strange to them. We are only following His example when we preach the same message. You see, it is not that the message has changed and become different somehow. The message has remained the same for almost 2000 years. It is others who have begun to preach some other gospel that is so far removed from the original as to make the original seem strange to the ear.

When you examine the New Testament you will find that the proclaimers of the gospel all had a continuity and consistency of the message (1 Corinthians 1:10) and called for the same. We should do all we can to keep as close to that message as possible.

The preaching of the pure gospel of Christ will cause even skeptics to take note of it (Acts 17:18). It can change a persecutor (Acts 9:1-2) into an apostle (Acts 26:16-18). Let us not give up on it or think it needs to be "improved" on in some way. If we do that, it will lose its distinctiveness. Let's leave it alone. It's fine just the way it is.

Memory Verse of the Week:

Acts 26:17-18 (NKJB)

“I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”



News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, Fred Johnson, Mary Ann Holley, Anita Harris, Larsen Plyler, Willis Fields (Brandi Meade's Dad), and Sam Kennemur (Upcoming surgery October 6th).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Foolishness Of The Devil"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Author: Mark Mayberry
Starting Page & Question: *Page #41, Question #1*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: *Luke 24:13-16*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"The Walk To Emmaus"*
Closing Prayer: Adam Harris

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 13, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
Author: Max Tice
Starting Page & Question: *Page #19, Question #1*
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade

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“The Foolishness Of The Devil”

Lesson Text: **Proverbs 17:10.**

I. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If There Is No God, Jesus, Or Devil.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - To Convince Us That God, Jesus, And The Devil Aren’t Real.
 - To Lead Us Away From Finding God. **2 Corinthians 4:3-6.**
 - To Give Us Alternate Views Like Evolution, To Fight Creationism- **Genesis 1:1-31.**
- He Doesn’t Want You To Believe In Him (Devil), Jesus, Or God (**Luke 22:31-32**).
 - But It Is Foolish Not To Believe- **Psalm 14:1; Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:20.**
 - But The Devil Is No Fool, He Knows What **Hebrews 11:6** And **John 8:24** Says....

II. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If There Is No Power In God’s Word.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - To Steal The Word From Men’s Hearts- **Mark 4:15.**
 - To Attack The Credibility And Reliability Of The Scriptures.
 - To Attack The Genuineness Of Miracles- **John 9:17-18.**
 - To Attack The Witness Of The Apostles & The Resurrection- **2 Peter 1:16-18.**
- He Wants You To Believe That Men Wrote The Bible, Not God- **1 Thessalonians 2:13.**

III. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If Sin Cannot Hurt Us.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - Tempt All Men To Sin Against God; He Even Tempted Jesus To Sin- **Matt. 4:1-11.**
 - Convince Many To Willingly Forget Sin’s Consequences To Practice It- **Romans 6:23.**
 - Some Even Believe Christians Cannot Sin- **1 John 3:9.**

IV. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If A Christian Cannot Fall Away.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - To Destroy Our Faith- **1 Peter 5:8.**
 - To Get Us To Go Back Into The World- **2 Peter 2:20-22; 2 Timothy 4:10.**
 - To Be Successful, So Our Faith And Obedience Will Be Vain
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:5.**

V. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If One Religion Is As Good As Another.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - Get Us To Believe All Religions Are Right And Speak The Truth- **1 John 4:1.**
 - Get Us To Believe False Doctrines And Beliefs- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15.**
- The Devil Knows How This Belief Can Lead Us Astray.
 - Causes A Reluctance To Believe Anyone Is A False Teacher; “New Tolerance.”
 - **2 John 10-11.**

VI. The Devil’s Foolishness.... If There Is No Hell.

- Then Why Does He Try So Hard To:
 - To Convince People Not To Believe It.
 - Convince The Ones Who Believe In Hell, That Hardly Anyone Is Going There.
- The Devil Knows We Can Follow Him There- **Matthew 25:41.**

“The Walk To Emmaus”

Lesson Text: **Luke 24:13-35.**

I. The Setting Of The Walk To Emmaus.

- **Luke 24:13-14.**
- The Two Men, Only One Is Named in verse 18— Cleopas.
- “*That Very Day*” The Day of the Resurrection Of Jesus.
- A Seven Mile Walk From Jerusalem To Emmaus **vs 13.**
- The Two Were Talking About The Previous Events In Jerusalem- **24:1-12.**
- They Were Still Trying To Process All This Information.

II. The Encounter With Jesus— The Stranger.

- **Luke 24:15-17.**
- Jesus Approached Them As They were “Talking And Discussing” All This.
- They Eyes “Were Restrained” (NKJB), “Were Prevented” (NASB) From Recognizing Him.
– **John 20:14-16; 21:4-7.**
- The “Stranger” Joins In The Conversation; Asks The Question In **vs. 17.**

III. From Astonishment To Sadness.

- **Luke 24:17-24.**
- Jesus Remarks Concerning Their Obviously Sad Disposition—Tone Of The Conversation.
- He Asks Them Why? **Vs. 18, “What Things?”**
- They Explain What Happened In The Past Few Days in **vs. 19-24.**
- Irony: They Were Amazed That He Did Not Know What Just Happened In Jerusalem, But They Were Talking To The One Who Fully Experienced Those Events.
- It Was That Their Hope Was Lost, Despite The Report Of His Empty Tomb- **vs. 24.**
- Their Hope Seems To Be Based On A Misunderstanding Of Jesus’ Mission.

IV. The Rebuke By The Stranger.

- **Luke 24:25-26.**
- Jesus Rebuked Them And Begins To Inform Them That Their Hope Was Not Misplaced.
- **Proverbs 9:8-9.** They Were Made Wiser And Would Soon Regain Their Faith & Hope.

V. Jesus Opens Their Eyes!

- **Luke 24:27-31.**
- Their Eyes Were Opened In Two Ways- **vs. 27 And 30-31.**
- The Word Of God Can Open Our Eyes- **Acts 26:16-18.**
- Jesus Uses What Moses & Prophets Wrote Of Him: **Deut. 18:18-19; Isaiah 7:14; Isa. 53.**

VI. Their Reaction To This Encounter With Him.

- **Luke 24:32-35.**
- **Vs. 32-35** Says It All! Their Faith And Hope Was Restored!
- Whenever Our Faith And Hope Gets Weak, Let Jesus Open Our Eyes To These Truths!