

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

**December 15, 2019**

### ***“Love Demonstrated”***

By Paul C. Keller

*“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”* (Romans 13:10) The Bible contains much teaching about love. The necessity for genuine love for God, for brethren, and for our fellowman is clearly taught.

Without such love we cannot please God. Hence, there is a continual need for teaching what the Bible says about love.

There is also the need for the practice of love taught in the Bible. Mere teaching and talking about love will not suffice. There are some who seem to think that their talking about love will excuse their failure to practice it. How deceived they are!

One may *claim* that he loves God and the brethren when his actions deny it. Love is not something that is merely expressed by the lips— it is something which is manifested by what one does. One may claim to love the Lord, but if he does not keep the commandments of the Lord, and if he does not the brethren, his claim is false. (See John 15:4; John 14:15; 1 John 4:20-21; 4:2-3) He may claim to love his brother, but if he does not *act* toward him as love demands (Cf. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 3:14-18), his claim is not true.

Love does not ignore, condone, cover up, or “whitewash” sins. Apparently, some think you do not love them unless you are willing for them to slander you, backbite, undermine, revile, and do anything they want to harm you and others without your seeming to notice that they have done anything wrong.

If you oppose their ungodly conduct, expose their sins, and try to bring them to repentance— they try to make it appear that you do not love them.

It is true that we should love even our enemies and pray for them that despitefully use us (Matthew 5:44), but if we love them, we will not ignore nor condone their sins.

Sins are not hidden by ignoring them, nor by “whitewashing” them. Sins are hidden (covered properly by the blood of Christ BM) by converting the sinner and causing him to turn “from the error of his way.” (James 5:19-20)

Jesus opposed, exposed, and condemned the Pharisees of His day by using plain, piercing language in so doing (See Matthew 23), but this did not mean that He did not love them— “He tasted death for every man.” (Hebrews 2:9)

Paul found it necessary to rebuke brethren at Corinth, not because he did not love them, but because he did! (2 Corinthians 6:11; 7:2-3; 11:11; 12:15) Love does not condone sin, but rather seeks the salvation of those who have fallen into its clutches!

Paul said in Romans 12:9, “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*” Such teaching is still needed today!

Paul indicates that pretended love is hypocrisy. Remember, it was with a kiss that Judas betrayed the Lord (Luke 22:48). Love should be unfeigned and un-pretended among the people of God (1 Peter 1:22).

The Love of the brethren which God teaches us consists not merely in “lip service,” but is to be manifested in what we do. “*Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*” (1 John 3:18)



## ***“Why Hesitate To Change?”***

by Bobby K. Thompson

Every case of conversion recorded in the New Testament is that of a person who found out that they were wrong and made whatever changes were necessary to get right. From positions of unsafely to safety— they changed! Pride, prejudice, and public opinion could not stop them from doing right when they learned their error.

I suppose all people take certain amount of pride in their religious convictions. A person who will entertain no religious belief is worthy of less admiration and respect than he who devoutly entertains a creed or doctrine in both heart and life. But the fact that one possesses certain convictions does not mean that they are right or they are safe in so doing. Since “many false teachers have gone into the world” and since the “blind may lead the blind,” many good people are caused to believe things that are not right in matters of salvation.

That a thing may seem right is no assurance at all that it is the will or way of God. Solomon wrote: *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* (Proverbs 14:12)

We are repeatedly warned in the Scriptures not to believe every doctrine, but to investigate, prove, and see whether these things are so (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11). *“The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.”* (Proverbs 14:15)

Many of the conversions in the book of Acts were conversions of people who were already religious and sincere, but who had not learned some things about the Lord’s religion that they needed to know.

Take those who were baptized on Pentecost in Acts 2, the Bible says they were *“devout men from every nation from under heaven.”* (Acts 2:5), yet in the same chapter we find these very men being told by the apostle Peter to be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of their sins (vs. 38).

About 3,000 were baptized that day— devout men who had not learned before that day what to do in order to be saved by the blood of Christ— but they saw that they were wrong and did not hesitate to change! (Acts 2:37-41)

Acts 8 reveals the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch, who had been hundreds of miles to Jerusalem to worship and who was doubtlessly as sincere as anyone could be expected to be. Phillip preached Jesus to him (Acts 8:35), and he heard the simple plan of salvation for the first time. He obeyed the gospel of Christ and continued his journey home in Christ (Acts 8:35-39).

Here again was a person religious and faithful to all he knew, but was wrong. He didn’t hesitate to change when he learned the truth!

Saul of Tarsus, who later was known as Paul— an apostle of Jesus Christ, was a strict religionist after the order of the Pharisees and always maintained a good conscience (Acts 23:1). Yet, he was the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), and was told by Ananias to “arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins.” (Acts 22:16) He changed to the truth!

Cornelius was a devout man, one that feared God with all his house, that prayed to God always, and who gave much alms to the people, yet he need to be saved (Acts 10:6, 33). He was told by the angel in Acts 10:5, to send men to Joppa for Peter, who would tell him words whereby he should be saved (Acts 11:14). Peter came and preached the gospel of Christ to him and his household, commanding them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48). Cornelius wasn’t afraid to change for Christ!

Lydia, just like Cornelius, was a worshipper of God before she ever learned the right way. By preaching God’s word, her heart was opened (Acts 16:14). She understood the truth and recognized that she needed to change, and that’s what she did! That was enough for this sincere soul to know what to do and do it. She obeyed the gospel and started serving Jesus as her Lord (Acts 16:14-15).

Even to this day, whenever a sincere, honest, humble, and earnest person learns that he has been mistaken and wrong in his religious beliefs— he gladly accepts the correction, profits by it, and corrects any mistakes.

It is such men that have the *spirit* of Apollos, who when he was taken aside and explained “the way of God more accurately” by Aquila and Priscilla— he profited by their help in correcting his honest error (Acts 18:24-28).

Pride, parents, prejudice, and the pressure of public opinion can all be factors in why many do not change, as they stubbornly hold on to traditional religious error. For them the cost may be too high to want to change, but they need to!

But if one truly wants to go to heaven when this life is over, nothing will keep them from obeying God— and they won’t hesitate to change.



**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, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom) is still recovering. Brandi Meade is home recovering from the back surgery she had last week.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Sam Johnson  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Some Bible Fools"

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

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Fred Johnson  
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)  
*Page #43 Question #1*

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Jerry Kennemur  
*1 Peter 4:3-6*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Doug George  
**Assisting:** Russell Briggs & Nathan Meade  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Walking With God"  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Busby

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

**December 18th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)  
*Lesson #4, Page #18, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Dan Cottrell  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Johnson