

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### Trusting God Through the Storms of Life

By Brian Meade

In the past few weeks and days, storms have been foremost on our mind because of storm *Harvey*. We may have watched the news or heard on the radio about the devastation of Texas by that great storm. It really packed a one, two punch for several cities in the Lone Star State! Our concerns and prayers go with the people, family members, and brethren in Christ who have been affected greatly by damage and loss of life.

While Texas had the hurricane and flooding hit them, we have had the remnants of storm *Harvey* in the form of tornado watches and warnings here in Mississippi. Many sought shelter from the storms in cellar, basements, and places especially designed to weather the storms of life.

That's what shelter does, it helps us to *ride out* and *hide out* from the danger.

Shelter gives us a safe place to go until the storm subsides and is gone.

And even though the shelter is temporary, we are thankful for a place to go when we need it!

In Psalm 57:1, David spoke a long time ago concerning the storms in his life when he said,

*“Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,  
For my soul takes refuge in You;  
And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge  
Until destruction passes by.”*

The spiritual application to storms we face in life is not hard to realize when we are in the eye of the storm. Several times the Bible uses this analogy to show us our need to trust in God to weather through the storm. (Matthew 7:24-27; Ezekiel 13:10-15; Psalm 57:1)

After Jesus calmed the storm in Luke 8:22-25, He asked the disciples the question “*Where is your faith?*” This question reminded them to trust in God and His Son through this great storm. Jesus was not going to die until the cross and the disciples were with Jesus. Even further, Jesus was preparing the disciples to preach to all the nations and continue the work of God in the future— hence they should have known that God would preserve their lives for His purposes.

That great storm would not claim any disciple on that day!

But what storms do we face that test our faith?!

**(1) The loss of a loved one** we cherish so dear can cause a great storm to suddenly appear. Death can be a great storm that we must seek shelter from the Lord to endure. We need God to help us through such times! Let us seek the comfort & safety found in God's word (Psalm 23) and in being among His people (Psalm 29:11; Romans 12:15).

**(2) The heartache of a divorce** can be a strong storm that we must go through. We know the Lord can and will help the hurting hearts of those going marital problems, separation, and divorce. It can stop everything around us and we may not even see the end of this storm in sight. Christians will seek shelter that God gives

and will not let this devastate their lives! We press on to the prize before us (Philippians 3:13-14) despite all that might hinder our way.

**(3) The loss of our job** is a storm can come without warning and leave us in a panic to seek shelter. The worries and fears about how will we make *ends meet* can be overwhelming! But is precisely these times that show us who we really trust in (Matthew 6:25-33). David said in Psalm 37:25, *"I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread."* Those are words of comfort to the people of Jehovah—who provides for us.

**(4) Our own sickness and death** is a very personal storm that all of us face! Sicknesses can come and go as storms that rage for a while and cease, but eventually we know death claims 100% of us all on planet earth (Ecclesiastes 3:3). The only exception is if we are alive when Jesus comes back (I Corinthians 15:51). But what gets us through the storms that ravage our body with sickness, pain, and loss of life? It can only be in God for a better life beyond the grave. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:54-55, *"But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"*

God can help us to walk that, *"valley of the shadow of death"* (Psalm 23:4), when we are faced with our demise.

But only if we have our faith anchored in God (Hebrews 6:19).

# GOSPEL MEETING

Meeks Street Church  
of Christ

With Billy Randolph

October 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

7:00 P.M. Nightly

## The Wrath of God

### #1 It is Because of Our Sins

The apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 3:5-6, *"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience."*

God's wrath will not be without reason, as the Bible clearly warns us of its purpose. God will punish sin. According to Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* That is the reward for sin!

Paul explains very clearly why wrath comes to the children of disobedience in Romans 2:5-11, *"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God."*

God is without partiality, direct, and very specific about why he will pour out His wrath on the Day of Judgment—it is for Sin, plain and simple!

Brian Meade

**News and Notes:** sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr., Tim Harris Jr., Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Luanne Parrish, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Joe & Tommie Nell Roberts, Delain Doles, Barbara Doles, Crate Meade, Kerrie Anne Barnett, Judy King, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, and Crystal Harris had surgery Tuesday.

Remember the family of Tony Allen who passed away Sunday night.  
Also Remember the Gentry Family for their loss as well.

**Those Who Serve**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** *"Building Up the Church"*

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

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

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs

**Lord's Table:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** Adam Harris & Russell Briggs

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Chris Callahan  
Matthew 26:30

**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Song Service:** Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)  
**Invitation:** Fred Johnson

**Closing Prayer:** Tony Whittemore

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

**August 23rd**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
**Invitation:** Chris Callahan  
**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Closing Prayer:** Russell Briggs