

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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**December 5, 2021**

### ***“Putting On The Lord Jesus Christ”***

By Matthew Bassford

As you work your way through Romans, hopefully, the extraordinary quality of the epistle becomes obvious. The Book of Romans has changed the course of human history, and with good reason. The substance of Paul’s argument is astonishing in its scope, and the skill with which he argues is no less impressive. He pulls out all the stops in presenting his case as persuasively as possible.

Some of the devices he employs are obvious, but others are quite subtle. Consider, for instance, the lead-in to the discussion of conscience in [Romans 14](#). In that chapter, Paul urges the Christians in Rome not to judge or have contempt for brothers who differ in conscience.

Much of the preface in Romans 13 is straightforward. [Romans 13:8-10](#) tells us to love one another. Romans 13:11-12 calls us to put on the armor of light because of the brevity of human existence. Romans 13:14 exhorts us to put on Christ and make no provision for the flesh.

All of this is good sound preaching, as the saying goes. We like to be told things like this. Sermons using these Scriptures inspire us and have us walking out of the church building humming “Onward, Christian Soldiers” to ourselves. It doesn’t seem to have much to do with walking wide around the conscience of others, though.

The trap is in Romans 13:13. There, Paul supplies us with a list of three pairs that are part of the works of darkness, the works in which we are not supposed to walk. The first two pairs are more of the same. We are not to walk in orgies and drunkenness. That sounds like a good idea to me! Likewise, we are not to walk in sexual immorality and sensuality. This may step on the toes of some Christians, but it probably doesn’t for most who are in the auditorium Sunday morning.

The third pair, though, is “not in quarreling and jealousy.” All of a sudden, “Onward, Christian Soldiers” kind of skips a beat, doesn’t it? Jealousy. Hmm. It’s awfully easy to find ourselves enviously regarding someone else’s attractiveness, prosperity, or position. Or good health, for that matter.

Quarreling is even worse. Brethren have been known to quarrel these days, sometimes, just a little bit. Perhaps we ourselves have exchanged a heated word or two with another Christian about. . . COVID, just to pick an example out of the air. Perhaps we have formed into factions with other like-minded brethren so that we can complain to them about the ungodly behavior of the other side. Perhaps we have Vague booked about how ungodly they are. Perhaps we have disturbed the peace of our congregation or even caused a church split.

The Holy Spirit says that’s walking in darkness. The Holy Spirit says that’s making provision for the flesh and its lusts. In fact, the Holy Spirit says that’s on the same level as participating in an orgy.

If that's where we find ourselves, we need to put some onward in our Christian soldiers. We need to rush into battle, not against those who disagree with us, but against the devil who has entrenched his self-righteousness, judgmentalism, and contempt in our hearts. Our sin may be sweet in the mouth, but it will be bitter in the stomach.

How can we win this desperate fight? Paul is so glad you asked.

Welcome to Romans 14.

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## **“Peace, Peace”**

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

“*They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace*” (Jer. 6:14). This text reveals that God, through Jeremiah, had to confront false teachers who tried to assure the people of “peace and safety” when no such thing was coming. Not in the immediate future, anyway! In another chapter, we read where Jeremiah would face the false teacher, Hananiah, who claimed God would return the people from Babylon in

“two full years” rather than the actual 70 years God had said (Jer. 28, 25:11-12, 29:10; Dan. 9:2)! Here is a man trying to proclaim “Peace” and “Everything will be all right” (NET) when that wasn't the case at all.

Why might men like Hananiah and others want to tell people such falsehoods as “*peace, peace*”? Could it be they thought men might pay them more to hear the pleasant message? Maybe they thought they would be more popular with the people? We know a message of victory and winning is much more popular than a message saying that we will lose! Jeremiah had the unenviable task of telling Judah that the best thing for them to do is give up and accept the punishment and be patient for 70 years (Jer. 27:1-11)! Who wants to have that job?

Jeremiah had an unpopular job, but it was for the best. His message was from God (Jer. 28:9, 15-17); the others' messages were not. In like manner, we who respect the word of God face an uphill battle because “*Peace, peace*” is the more prevalent message! Just as in Jeremiah's day, Paul warned of people who would “*not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables*” (II Tim. 4:3-4). Does this sound like the attitude we see among people today? Yes, it is alive well today, just as it was in days gone by!

We must make a choice. Will we listen to those who call and cry for “*peace*” when there is no peace? Yes, we ought to strive for peace with God and peace among others (Matt. 5:9). Yet, remember that Christ said His kingdom would bring a “*sword*” among the closest of family (Matt. 10:21-22, 34-39). There is no “*peace*” to be had between God and Satan. They are diametrically opposed, as are their teachings (II Cor. 6:14-17). Let us stop trying to be a friend of God and a friend of the world when this is impossible (Jas. 4:4).

It is high time we spoke the message of the Lord, that will hurt some, but bring healing to all in the end, as Paul did on the ship (Acts 27:10). At Ephesus, Paul said he spent three years preaching “*all the counsel of God*” and warning people, “*night and day with tears*” (Acts 20:27, 31). I wonder why Paul was crying? I wonder if he made those listening cry sometimes? What if it was a little of both? Why would Paul preach a message that caused people to cry, that made people “*tremble*” (Acts 24:25), and that caused some to run him out of town (Acts 17:10-15)? Wouldn't it have been easier just to tell people, “*peace, peace*”? We could ask Jeremiah the same question. Isn't it easier to say, “*peace, peace*”?

We know what is easier to say, but it does not mean it is a better message. The best message is the message that comes from the Lord (Jn. 17:17; II Tim. 4:2; I Pet. 4:11). The best message is the one that has not been diluted by men's thoughts and feelings (Gal. 1:6-10). The best message is the message that tells us what to do to be saved and then encourages us to continue to be faithful to God (Acts 2:37-38; I Cor. 15:58; Matt. 7:13-14)!

“*Peace, peace*” is, in our vernacular, sugar-coating the truth! As a friend of mine says, if you want sugar-coating, eat a doughnut! If you want the truth, listen to the Lord's words (I Pet. 4:11; Jn. 17:17), and be ready to repent and to obey (Jas. 1:22-25)! Jeremiah preached the truth, but people did not want to hear this and were destroyed. You and I have a chance to listen to God's word and obey (Ecc. 12:13). What will you do? Now is the time to decide!

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, & Lowell Gann.

LuAnne Parish is recovering at Corner Stone.  
The family of Betty Hurst, who passed away last Monday.  
Jimmy Briggs is home recovering from surgery last week.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *"What God's Word Can Do For You"*

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

Paul Busby  
2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
*Page #16, Question #11*

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

**Announcements:** Paul Busby  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Nathan Meade

**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Russell Briggs  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** *"How Do You Read The Bible?"*  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

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

**December 8th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
Book of Isaiah  
*Page #19, Question #2*  
**Invitation:** Russell Briggs  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

# ***“What God’s Word Can Do For You”***

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 1:23-25.**

## **I. What Is It?**

- The Truth- **John 17:17;**
- The Light- **Psalms 119:105.**
- The Seed- **Luke 8:11.**
- The Sword of the Spirit- **Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12.**
- The Law of Liberty- **James 1:23-25.**
- A Fire- **Jeremiah 23:29.**
- A Hammer- **Jeremiah 23:29.**

## **II. What Should We Do With It?**

- Hear It- **Luke 8:21; James 1:22; Acts 22:22.**
- Believe It- **Acts 4:4.**
- Read And Study it- **1 Timothy 4:13; Acts 17:11.**
- Handle It Accurately- **2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 18:26.**
- Obey It- **1 Peter 1:22; 2 Corinthians 10:5.**
- Trust In It- **Psalms 119:41-44.**
- Treasure It- **Psalms 119:11.**
- Love It- **2 Thessalonians 2:10**
- Share it With Others- **Acts 8:4; Romans 1:14-15.**
- Don’t Be Ashamed Of It- **Romans 1:16; Luke 9:26.**
- Don’t Suppress It- **Romans 1:18.**
- Don’t Twist It- **2 Peter 3:16.**
- Hold Fast To It- **1 Corinthians 15:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15.**
- Immerse Yourself In It- **1 Timothy 4:15-16.**

## **III. What It Can Do For Us.**

- It Give Us Faith- **Romans 10:17; Acts 16:29-33.**
- It Will Save Us- **James 1:21; Acts 2:40-41.**
- It Will Cause Us To Be Born Again- **James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.**
- It Gives Us A Relationship With God- **John 14:23; 1 John 2:3-5.**
- It Will Set Us Free- **John 8:31-32.**
- It Transforms Us- **Romans 12:1-2.**
- It Will Build Us Up- **Acts 20:32.**
- It Gives Us God’s Will- **Hebrews 10:7.**
- It Will Give Us An Inheritance- **Acts 20:32.**

# ***“How Do You Read The Bible?”***

## **Lesson Text: Luke 10:25-29.**

- What do we mean when we say, “How do you read the Bible?”
  1. Not talking about the ability or the eloquence of reading it.
  2. But the implication is that we must be about the reading of it (**1 Tim. 4:13**).
  3. Exegesis- the critical interpretation of the biblical text to discover its intended meaning.
  4. Eisegesis- is the process of interpreting text in such a way as to introduce one's own presuppositions, agendas or biases.
  5. Which is the proper way to read the Scriptures? \_\_\_\_\_.

## **I. How Do You Read About The Church?**

### **A. Matthew 16:17-19.**

- Some read that it is Peter’s church- **Matthew 16:17 and 19.**

### **B. Some read, “I will build Martin Luther’s church.....”**

- After all, “One name is as good as another” “Join the church of your choice”
- “It doesn’t matter what name is over the door” (**Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11**).
- Christ is the head and founder- **Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Matthew 16:18.**
- The Church belongs to Christ- **Acts 20:28; Col. 1:13; Romans 16:16.**

### **C. Some read, “Our church is a denomination.” John 10:16; 15:5; Revelation 2-3.**

- **John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 4:4-5.**

## **II. How Do You Read About Baptism?**

### **A. Mark 16:15-16.**

### **B. Some read it as, “Baptism does Not save, Christ Saves!”**

- **1 Peter 3:20-21; Acts 10:48; Acts 22:16.**

### **C. Some read, “Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace.”**

- But where does the Bible teach that? **Colossians 2:10-14; 1 Peter 4:11.**

### **D. Some read, “Baptism is because the remission of sins”**

- **Acts 2:37-38 & 40-41; Romans 6:1-6.**

## **III. How Do Read About Grace?**

### **A. Titus 2:11-12.**

### **B. Some read that, “Salvation is solely by God’s grace.” Acts 15:11**

- Qualification: Salvation is by grace, but NOT grace alone. **Rom. 6:23.**

Some reason that, “It’s all of God, and None of me!” **Titus 3:4-7.**

- **Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 19:1-5; Joshua 6:2 & 16.**

### **C. Some read, “God’s grace is irresistible.” John 6:44; John 12:32.**

- **John 6:45; Acts 4:8-11; John 5:39-40; 2 Peter 3:9.**

### **D. Some read, “You can’t fall from grace.” Galatian 5:4.**

- **Hebrews 4:1; Hebrews 12:15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:1.**