

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

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“Walking In The Counsel Of God”

By Richie Thetford



Do you want to be happy? Do you want a peaceable, stress free life? Do you want to be free of worry? Surely every single one of us would answer a resounding "YES" to every one of these questions. Believe it or not, this is possible. When we are determined to walk in the counsel of God then we will become happy, peaceable, living a stress free, worry free life! The counsel of God was given to man for the very purpose of making our life easier, not more complicated while we live here on earth. When we allow God's counsel to guide our life, then we will understand peace.

The Psalmist wrote: *"You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory"* (Psalms 73:24). It is only when we let God's counsel guide us that we can gain true happiness because only God can provide this avenue for us. After all, He created us didn't He? Therefore, He should know what we (His creation) need to sustain our life and to live it more abundantly (John 10:10).

In addition, the counsel of God encourages us. The Hebrew writer says: *"Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us"* (Hebrews 6:17-18). God wants each one of us to be with Him in glory forever. In order for us to obtain this glory we must want to do only those things that God's counsel directs of us.

If we have the right heart, truly seeking to be pleasing to God, then we will WANT TO follow God's counsel. Do you really want peace, happiness, and a stress free, worry free life? If so, then listen to God.

What Should We Do With God's Counsel?

Don't reject the counsel of God. We'll never be any better off than we are today when we continue to reject God's message to us. To reject God's counsel is to be no better than the Pharisees and lawyers of Jesus' day. *"And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him"* (Luke 7:30).

Instead of rejecting God's counsel and continuing in our stress and worry of life, why not try to understand the message? Micah 4:12 says: *"But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor."*

When we fail to try to understand God's message to us then we can know our eternal fate. Understand now before it is everlastingly too late! When we open our hearts to learn and understand God's will for us then we can declare the whole counsel of God as the apostle Paul did (Acts 20:27).

God's Counsel to Us

God simply asks us to BELIEVE Him and OBEY Him (Luke 7:30; Acts 20:20,21,27). Listening to God's counsel is likened to the buying of fine gold. Jesus said: *"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that*

you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Revelation 3:18-19).

What does this mean? This passage means that we should invest in those things that will store up treasure for us in heaven, not on earth. It means that we should strive to be pure in every area of our life. It means that we should keep our eyes constantly looking, aware of the evil one, lest we be consumed. It means that each day of our life we should be determined to allow God's law to counsel us and be willing to repent when we sin.

Why Follow God's Counsel?

The only way we can stand guiltless before God's judgment seat is to follow His will. Jesus said: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

To be God's people, we must follow His commands (Acts 13:22,26). Of course the only way to enter into heaven is to be well pleasing to God, and that only occurs when we obey God, listening to His counsel. Are you happy? Are you at peace? Are you free of stress and worry? If not, you are not letting God truly guide your life.

Jesus said: *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30).

“The Precious Blood Of Christ”

By Brad Phillips

In 1 Peter 1:19, the inspired apostle Peter informed that the blood of Christ is precious (i.e. of great value or high price). So, with that thought in mind, let's take a look at why the blood of Christ is precious. Starting with, the blood of Christ is precious because...

It Redeems. To “redeem” means, “to gain or regain possession of something in exchange for payment.” A “redeemer” is, “one who rescues another from bondage, or liberates another from any condition wherein one is held.” My friend, Christ is our redeemer, because His precious blood paid the payment for mankind's deliverance from the bondage of sin. Therefore, the blood of Christ is precious in the fact that it redeems us (1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14).

It Justifies. Not only does the blood of Christ redeem us, but it also justifies us. In Romans 5:9, Paul informed that one is justified by the precious blood of Christ. What does that mean? Well, it means that through the precious blood of Christ one is made righteous in the sight of God.

It Sanctifies. The precious blood of Christ also sanctifies us. To “sanctify” means, “to set apart or declare holy.” In Hebrews 13:11-12, the Hebrew writer penned, *“For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”* You see, it is through the precious blood of Christ that we become sanctified (i.e. set apart).

It Cleanses. We are also cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. When defined, the word “cleanse” means, “to make something thoroughly clean or rid of something unpleasant or defiling.” You see, sin makes one unclean and or defiles one. However, thankfully for us, the precious blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

It Remits. Another thing that the precious blood of Christ does is it remits. To “remit” means, “to cancel or refrain from exacting or inflicting a debt or punishment.” Friend, to be simply put one receives remission (i.e. the forgiveness) of their sins through the precious blood of Christ (Matthew 26:28).

It Saves. Last but certainly not least, the precious blood of Christ saves. When defined, the word “save” means, “to keep safe or rescue someone or something from harm or danger.” You see, without the precious redeeming blood of Christ there would be no hope for being saved or rescued from the bondage of sin, but through the blood of Christ we can be saved (i.e. freed) from our sins (Revelation 1:5).

Now the question is, have you been washed in the precious blood of Christ? If not, why not?

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, David Boren, and Dianne Johnson.

Tim Harris Sr. will have gall bladder surgery on Monday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Fred Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"The Appeal Of False Religion Pt. 2"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Colossians
Author: Donnie V. Rader
Starting Page & Question: *Page #35, Question #1*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 6:10*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Our Labor Of Love Is Never Lost"*
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 10, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page #116, Question #7*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Appeal Of False Religion Pt 2”

Lesson Text: **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.**

I. The Far-Out Claims Of False Teachers.

- Mormon’s Teachings.
- Jehovah Witnesses’ Teachings.
- The Rapture Theory.
- The Great Tribulation Doctrine.
- The Speculations About The "666" of Revelation.
- The Mystery Surrounding The “Anti-Christ.”

II. The All-Inclusive Nature Of False Religion.

- The "All Roads Lead To Heaven" Ideology.
- The “Unity-in-Diversity” Concept Of Denominations.
- Ecumenical Movements.
- Appeals To Advocate Toleration Of Other Religions, Doctrines, & Beliefs.
- What Does That Do To Truth?
- What Is The End Result? Is God Pleased?

III. The Easier Way Of Convenience.

- **1 Kings 12:26-30.**
- Appeals To Those Who Want An Easier Religion:
 - Less Commitment- **Matt. 16:24-25.**
 - Less Church Attendance- **Hebrews 11:25.**
 - Less Restrictions On My Lifestyle- **I Corinthians 6:9-10.**
 - Less Doctrine And More About Love- **II John 9.**

IV. The Self-Pleasing Type Of Religion.

- **1 Kings 12:31-33.**
- *“Join The Church Of Your Choice.”* Popular— But False.
 - Find A Church That Suits Your Own Preferences.
 - “Have it your way” Type Of Religion:
 - Women Preachers And Leaders.
 - Instruments of Music, Choirs, Solos, & Praise Teams.
 - Believes In Signs & Miracles Today.
 - Wants The Church More Involved In Social Justice & Politics.

V. The Appeal Of Emotions Over Scripture.

- **Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11.**
- *“I wouldn’t give a stack full of Bibles for what I feel in my heart.”*
- *“Better felt than told”*
- *“Burning in the bosom”*
- Our Reaction To Such An Appeal.

“Our Labor Of Love Is Never Lost”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 6:10.**

I. God Knows Our Works.

- What if We Served A God Who Didn't Observe What We Do Here On Earth?
 - He Would Not Know About Our Prayers, Our Obedience, Our Faith In Him, Our Zeal For Him, Our Trust In Him.... And When Someone Is Baptized?
 - **1 Kings 18:25-29.** What If Our God Was Like That?
- **Psalm 73:11;** God Does Know And Cares! **Psalm 73:23-26.**
- **Revelation 2:2; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15.**

II. Despite How Ineffective We May Feel, Not In Vain.

- Like Elijah May Have Felt- **1 Kings 19:10.**
- We May Feel Like We Are Not Making A Difference....
 - **Jeremiah 6:16-17; Isaiah 55:10-11;**
- We May feel Like We Are Not Good Enough... **Matthew 25:25.**
 - Trust In God's Power- **Romans 1:16.**
- We May Feel Like We Are Weary From Trying... **Hebrews 12:3—Galatians 6:9.**
- The Small Things Matter To God- **Matthew 10:42.**
- **1 Corinthians 15:58.**

III. Despite Losing Some Gained To Christ, Not True Loss.

- **Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19.**
- Paul Was Concerned About Them **1 Thessalonians 3:5.**
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15.**

IV. God Protects Our Investment In The Work.

- **1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 19:21.**
- **Philippians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:7-8.**

V. We Will See The Fruits Of Our Labor In The Judgment Day!

- **Ecclesiastes 12:12-14.**
- **Matthew 25:31-40.**