

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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“What The World Needs From The Church” #1

By Brian Meade

Many times the world pushes back on the help that God offers them through His people, the church. It is the mission of the church to show the love and care that God has for lost and hurting people, because of sin’s destructive ways. It is sad, but the help we are trying to give is most often rudely rejected.

It is as though Christians are just annoying to them, and there to interfere with everyone’s good time in the world. I believe we can aptly illustrate this rejection by saying: it is just as a drowning man would push back on someone trying to pull him out of the water. It is like a starving man telling the person who can save him with food, that he is not interested. And even like people in a house that is burning down reject the way out that a fire fighter has provided for their escape; they simply say, “We are all fine in the house, so leave us alone!” This is how our help seems to be received from some people.

But what kind of help do we offer the world? What are our duties and responsibilities God has given us to those in sin’s sway (1 John 5:19).

1. The World Needs A Good Example To Follow.

God wants people in the world to know how to follow Him, and since many will never pick up a New Testament and read it— our example may very well be the only thing that convinces them to follow Christ. Paul said of the Christians at Corinth, “*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;*” (2 Corinthians 3:2).

We should never underestimate the power that a life truly given over to Christ can have on others. We may feel like we are insignificant and nobody is really watching us, but that is not the case! People do see us everyday as an example of what a follower of Jesus will and will not do.

Jesus put it this way, “*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

Jesus teaches us to make a difference in the lives of others by influencing them for good. This is a huge responsibility that we cannot pass off to others or ignore and do differently. If we do that, we become like those who are flavorless and even hide their light under a basket. God is not pleased or glorified in a bad example of how we all should act and behave. Especially, if we sin before others, and make no effort to correct our lives for our influence’s sake.

But the world needs our example to follow of true dedication and commitment to Christ. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus teaches us to make our service to Him a priority by saying, “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*”



The people around you need to know that you belong fully to Christ. They need to see you attending every service (Acts 2:42), worshipping from the heart and in truth (John 4:24), and being active in the work of God (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Think about the influence of someone who invited some people to come to church services— and when the people came, the one who invited them had forsaken the assembly that day (Hebrews 10:25). That actually happened!

2. The World Needs Us To Keep Preaching The Truth.

The apostle Paul told the younger evangelist Timothy, *“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”*

Paul gives some very definite reasons for this charge to *“preach the word,”* and to *“be ready in season and out of season.”* Some have rightly commented that Paul was telling him to preach the word when people were ready to hear it and even when they were not ready to hear it— Timothy, preach on!

The same attitude must still exist today in all who preach the word publicly or privately. We must continue to *“reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction,”* even when it is very unpopular to do so in our politically correct world today. Especially, as we must continue to teach God’s standard of righteousness and morality. God’s way of purity of life is not popular with the world that loves the very immoral sin it heartily practices. Jesus said it best when He said, *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”* (John 3:19-20).

The world doesn’t want to hear how such sins such as: adultery, fornication, pornography, gambling, immodesty in dress, foul and filthy language, men who are effeminate (cross dressers and transgenders), LGBTQ rights—which is nothing but rights for sexual perversion! (Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:26-32).

But the world desperately needs the church to keep preaching against these, and all sins that condemn men and women before God (Colossians 3:6; Jude 15). The world would love for the church to stop preaching on these sins, and many denominations have complied. Many pulpits across this world are silent, as Joel Osteen and others have stopped preaching on certain topics. “

When asked in an Easter Sunday interview by CBS News' "Sunday Morning" program "Do you feel like you're cheating people by not telling them about the Hell part? Or repentance part?" Osteen answered: "No, I really don't, because it's a different approach." He continued: "You know, it's not hellfire and brimstone. But I say most people are beaten down enough by life. They already feel guilty enough. They're not doing what they should, raising their kids — we can all find reasons. So I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, 'You know what? I may not be perfect, but I'm moving forward. I'm doing better.' And I think that motivates you to do better.” (The Christian Post Article).

Preachers like Osteen are actually fulfilling what Paul warned would happen, when men would seek unfaithful teachers, *“when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,”* (2 Timothy 4:3). By refusing to speak on repentance or hell, he is not doing the world any good in helping them out of their sin. Sadly, many have followed his way of preaching.

One tactic the world has used to try to silence Christians from teaching truth is falsely accusing the truth as “hate speech.” This is an attempt to make Christians the bad guys when they speak out on homosexuality and LGBTQ sins. According to the world, when we do that, we are phobic and hate those groups of people, who just want to be free to promote that lifestyle as normal, acceptable behavior. But the fact of the matter is, we do not hate anyone by teaching them the truth and their need for repentance from these wicked behaviors. It is actually the loving thing to do— because we know the terror of the Lord that awaits those on the broad road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

The world may very well try to make sin a “protected class of people” and give them the right to sue Christians and preachers for speaking the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15). But we must not let fear of persecution stop us (Acts 5:29).

But the only way for the world to be saved is to hear and accept the truth, which leads to repentance from evil works (Luke 24:46-47; Rom. 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25).

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, Danny Cottrell, Jerry Trimble, and Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Susan Farler (friend's mother in Ky. that has double pneumonia), And Burt Ward.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Our Misunderstood Bible"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: Philippians
Paul R. Blake
Starting Page & Question: Page #31, Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Fred Johnson
Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:38-39
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Supper: Russell Briggs
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "The Four Coats Of Joseph"
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 21st:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: Page #47, Question #4
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Our Misunderstood Bible”

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 5:15-17.**

I. Many People Criticize What They Don’t Understand.

- They Misunderstand Its True Source.
 - The Bible Declares God Is The Author- **2 Timothy 3:16; Jeremiah 31:35.**
 - Many Skeptics Deny God As The Author And Profess Men Wrote It.
 - **“The God Delusion”** – By Richard Dawkins.
 - **“God’s Problems”** – By Bart D. Erhman.
 - Naturally, Men Who Deny God’s Existence Will Deny God’s Authorship.
 - Paul/Peter Didn’t Teach Falsely- **1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:16.**
- They Misunderstand Its Theme.
 - The Plan Of Redemption.
 - Because Of Sin in the Garden of Eden, We All Need A Savior. **Genesis 3.**
 - Many People Mock Sin As A Problem- **Proverbs 14:9.**
 - They Mock The Offering Of Blood For Sin- **Hebrews 9:13-14.**
- They Fight The Bible Out of Ignorance.
 - **Mark 12:24; John 12:40.**
 - What Satan Wants- **Luke 8:12.**

Notes: _____.

II. Many People Misunderstand The Two Covenants.

- Many People Today Fail To Make A Distinction Of The Two.
 - The New Testament Is Not Just Tacked On To The Old Testament. **Matt. 26:28.**
 - **Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 3:19; vs. 24-25; Jeremiah 31:31-32.**
 - Many Teach The 10 Commandments Are Still Binding. **Col. 2:14; 2 Cor. 3:7-11.**
 - Many signs displaying the Ten Commandments In Support Of God.
 - Many Teach That Commandments Were Only In The Old Testament. **1 John 2:3-5.**
 - Many Practice Sabbath Keeping Today. **Exodus 20:8-11; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.**
 - Many Are Using David As Authority For Instrumental Music In Worship.
Psalms 81:1-4; Psalm 92:1-3; 2 Chronicles 29:25-28— New Testament ????
 - Many Look For A Restoration Of The Temple In Jerusalem.
 - **Matthew 24** Prophecies Cannot Be Fulfilled Without it. **Luke 21:24.**

Notes: _____.

III. Many People Misunderstand The Message Of The Bible.

- The View Of The Bible As A “Love Letter” Only To Man. **John 14:15.**
- Some Only See The Commandments Only In God’s Word. **Matthew 23:23-24.**
- Some Just Look To The Mysteries And Apocalyptic Language Of Prophecies.
Cain’s Wife; Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh; The Mark of the Beast Of Revelation.
- We Must Look To The Will Of God For Our Lives— **Ephesians 5:15-17; Matthew 7:21.**

“The Four Coats Of Joseph”

Lesson Text: **Genesis 41:39**, “Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.”

Coat #1 – The Coat Of Favor.

– Genesis 37:1-4.

- He Was Favored By His Father.
- But This Favor Brought The Envy/Hatred Of His Brothers. **Proverbs 14:30.**
- A Warning To Not Show Partiality To Certain Children.
- Joseph Was Also Favored By God- **vs. 5-8.**
- Because Of Jacob’s Favor, They Wanted To Kill Joseph- **vs. 18-25.**
- He Was Stripped Of His Multi-Colored Tunic & Used To Deceive Jacob **vs. 29-35.**

Coat #2 – The Coat Of A Servant.

– Genesis 39:1-6.

- Joseph Is A Valued Servant In Potiphar’s House.
- *“The Lord was with him.” vs. 3.* God’s Help And Providence.
- Joseph A Faithful Servant- **vs. 7-15.** Faithful To Potiphar/ Faithful To God.
 - Joseph – How To Flee Fornication- **vs. 9-12; 1 Cor. 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:22.**
 - A Testament To His Faith, Wisdom, & His Father’s Teaching- **Proverbs 22:6.**

Coat #3 – The Coat Of Suffering.

– Genesis 39:19-23.

- Joseph Is Also An Example For Suffering For Doing Good- **1 Peter 2:20-23.**
- **Genesis 40:1-13; 16-22.** Joseph Is Still Faithful To God/Interprets Dreams.
- **vs. 14-15.** Joseph Asks The Butler To Remember Him.... But forgets **vs. 23.**
- Joseph Stays Two More Years Before Being Remembered- **41:1-14.**

Coat #4 – The Coat Of Royalty.

– Genesis 41:15-37.

- Pharaoh Chooses Joseph To Over This Charge. **Vs. 38-44.**
- Joseph Prepares Abundantly For The Famine Years- **vs. 47-49.**
- **Chapters 42-50.** His Brothers Come To Egypt For Food, He Forgives Them.
 - Joseph – An Example Of Suffering Greatly At The Hands Of Others. **Eph. 4:32.**
 - Joseph Recognizes God’s Providence- **Genesis 50:20.**