

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 3, 2022

“Are We Really Faithful?”

By Paul C. Keller

As Christians, one of our greatest dangers is that of allowing our religion to become a mere formality— only a profession. Living as a Christian ought involves more than attending the services of the church, making some financial contribution to the work, and showing a little active enthusiasm during the few days a series of gospel meetings is in progress.

These things will, of course, be done by the person who is devout and consecrated; but these things may also be done by a person who is not devout or consecrated. And the pitiable part of it is that such a person, along with others, does not discern the difference.

Many go merrily along their way trusting that a few outward observances make them pleasing to God, while their real affections are set upon other things. To people of His day who, in a formal way, were very religious, Jesus applied the words of Isaiah: *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.”* (Matthew 15:8 NKJB). Each of us will do well to search his own heart to see if this statement may describe us.

Formality is not to be substituted for spirituality. Mere profession can not take the place of genuine devotion to the Lord. Public avowal of Christianity does not always guarantee purity and piety. Nor does praying guarantee the absence of pretense (Matthew 23:14).

While all of this may be true of the conscious hypocrite— the deliberate deceiver— it may, likewise, be true of those who do not intend it to be so. Self-deception is easily possible on the part of each of us. As a matter of fact, one is more apt to deceive himself than anyone else. Against such we need to guard.

Christianity must really affect our entire lives. There is no endeavor of the Christian’s life, but that the principles of Jesus Christ are to control. The teaching of the Lord will retain the Christian from wrong conduct in the home, dishonesty in business, sinful pleasures, lying speech, harboring envy and malice in the heart, uncharitableness toward others, and irreverence toward God.

In Short, the teaching of Christ restrains us from wrong ideas, words, or deeds. Nor is the religion of the Christ merely negative in its nature. It does not simply prohibit the doing of that which is wrong— Christianity calls upon one for the employment of his intellect, time, and abilities in the doing of that which is good. The “author and finisher of our faith” set an example for us and “went about doing good.” (Hebrews 12:2; Acts 10:38). And His word plainly tells us that our failure to do the good we know to do is SIN (James 4:17). Furthermore, by His word we are “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Let each of us heed the words of Paul: *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified. Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”* (2 Corinthians 13:5-8).

“What About The Heathen?”

By R.L. Whiteside

What will become of the heathen who never heard the gospel? If a person understood the real purpose and Philosophy of the gospel, he would never ask that question. To set the questioner to thinking, we may ask: “What would have become of the same heathen, if there had never been a gospel?”

The gospel was designed to save the world already condemned. It is only in a relative sense that people are lost because they do not obey the gospel. Primarily, people are lost because they are sinners. To illustrate: A boat is rushed out to rescue a drowning man. He refuses to be rescued, and is drowned. Now why did he drown? “O,” someone replies, “He drowned because he would not get in the boat.” Wrong. The boat had nothing to do with his drowning; he drowned because he was in the water, and would have drowned just the same had there never been a boat.

Of course, his refusing to be rescued made his drowning a case of suicide. Just so with the sinner. The gospel is sent out to rescue the perishing. When the sinner refuses to be rescued, it intensifies his guilt and shows it to be a case of spiritual suicide. But the gospel has nothing to do with his perishing; he would have perished had there never been a gospel. The boat was a means of rescue, and so is the gospel.

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)

“and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

“Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25).

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:34-35).

(I added the last several Scriptures to this good article. God will do right, and so, we need to do right! — B Meade)

“The Spirit Of Innovation”

By Moses E. Lard

The spirit of innovation is a peculiar spirit. While it is coming in, it is the meekest and gentlest of spirits; only it is marvelously firm and persistent. But when going out, no term but fiendish will describe it.

It comes in humming the sweetest notes of Zion; it goes out amid the ruin it works, howling like an exorcised demon. At first, it is supple as a willow twig; you can bend it, shape it to anything, only it will have its way.

But once it has fully got its way, then mark how it keeps its footing. It now calls for reason, for argument, for Scripture; but no more has it an ear for reason, argument, or Scripture than has the image of Baal.

Sentence Sermons:

“The devil is perfectly willing for a person to proclaim Christianity, so long as they don’t practice it.”

“Our strength is shown in the things we stand for; our weakness is shown in the things we fall for.”

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandra Oliver, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Ricky Ferrell, Nathan Cox, and Wesley Trimble.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Larsen Plyler
Sermon #1: *"What For? Deuteronomy 6:20-25"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Larsen Plyler
"I Don't Want To Be A Pharisee"

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Busby
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Fred Johnson
Revelation 5:1-6
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Larsen Plyler
Sermon #2: *"Jesus: Lion And Lamb"*
Closing Prayer: Doug George

Wednesday Evening Gospel Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
April 6th

Announcements: Brian Meade
Preaching: Larsen Plyler
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs