

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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December 25, 2022

“What The World Needs From The Church” #2

By Brian Meade

In our first article, we proposed that those comprising Christ’s church are under some obligations to the people in the world. And Christ Jesus, our Lord is clearly an example of someone who met these obligations to those living around him in need. Our Lord was compassionate and showed mercy to those suffering in the weight of sicknesses (Mark 1:41), and especially their sins (Mark 6:34). He truly was our Savior in word and deed! (Acts 1:1).

The apostle Paul would put it this way, *“I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.”* (Romans 1:14-15). This is an obligation we have to people who need what we can do to help them out of sin, and to a better life with God.

For those we can help along the way, we can really make a difference in their life now, and also more importantly into eternity.

3. The World Needs To See Our Uncompromising Convictions.

- The definition of compromise is: 1. A fixed or firm belief;
2. The act of convincing a person by arguments or evidence;
3. The state of being convinced. (Dictionary.com).

Christians have been convicted and convinced of the truth from God’s word; it does NOT change, but Satan is busy trying to get us backdown, compromise, and give up our strong convictions concerning truth.

In Galatians 2:3-5, Paul shows the spirit of uncompromising convictions concerning the circumcision of the Gentiles for salvation, *“Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”*

Paul knew that the gospel did not include the binding of circumcision for anyone to be saved. Therefore, he didn’t teach that Titus needed to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. Paul didn’t strike a compromise with the false brethren who were teaching this doctrine of “Judaism” of the Gentiles (See Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 1:6-9). Paul knew such a compromise would change the basic facts and commands of the gospel to a “different gospel.” That’s why he “drew a line in the sand” and stood his ground on this important subject.

We must NOT compromise any of God’s truth to please the world in any degree! What are some of the areas that the world seeks us to move our convictions— from truth to error?

(1) The world would love for the church to change its teaching on the dangers and sins of drug and alcohol consumption. Many, who love the pleasures that these sins bring them, would want to no longer hear the truth about the destructive power these sins have to ruin lives (Proverbs 23:29-35). The wise man Solomon spoke truth when he said, *“Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”* (Proverbs 20:1).



Some would want us to no longer teach that drunkenness is no longer a “work of the flesh” that Paul said it was (Galatians 5:19-21). Or they may wish us to meet somewhere in the middle and say that drunkenness is permissible in certain situations or in moderation. But it is still a work of the flesh!

(2) The world would congratulate us for moving away from teaching that all sex outside of marriage is sinful and wrong— just as the Bible teaches us.

Paul called such behavior fornication and sexual immoral behavior in 1 Corinthians 6:18, *“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”*

We do the world no favors by teaching otherwise. Because in the Day of Judgment, God will punish all those who live for this pleasure. Notice what Hebrews 13:4 says, *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”* (See also 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

(3) Despite the fact that many denominations have made compromises to these and other moral questions, such as abortion, LGBTQ rights, and compromises on what Jesus and Paul taught on marriage, divorce, and remarriage (Matthew 19:9; Romans 7:1-3).

If we want men and women to come to the truth and be saved, we cannot change our convictions. They need to see us, not as “a reed shaken in the wind” (Matthew 11:7), but people who stand for truth (Jude 1:3). Jesus gave John the Baptist that great compliment of one who wasn’t shaken in the wind in Matthew 11:7). He taught truth in a very plain and bold way!

4. The World Needs To See Our Love For Them.

Everything we do for those lost in the world needs to be motivated by our love for them. It should never be to just win an argument or to just exalt ourselves over them arrogantly— but to win a soul to the Lord.

That’s why we follow Paul’s instructions to learn from Jesus to “speak the truth in love.” (Ephesians 4:15). We rebuke sin and error because we love the sinner, and we consider their path is totally destructive to their eternal life. When men are on the “broad road that leads to destruction” (Matthew 7:13), they don’t see the love of that Christians have for them in their present state. They only see them as bothering their life of pleasure— but the danger is a future danger ahead of them. (Mark 9:43-48). That’s why they fight us every step of the way!

But “love is patient, love is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4 NASB). The fact that people reject our love for them doesn’t mean we can become mean-spirited and insulting to them personally. That will not win souls to Christ that way. We must not lose our temper or our kindness in attempting to turn them away from evil deeds. But on the other hand, we cannot lose our boldness and plainness of speech either (Ephesians 6:18-20). Yet, many have resorted to being so politically correct that they lose their message in the flowery rhetoric. A balance in our approach to the lost must be maintained.

If we lose our temper, it could very well be difficult to convert them to Christ. Notice what the wise man said in Proverbs 18:19, *“A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, And contentions are like the bars of a castle.”*

Now let’s compare that to what Jesus did in offending the Pharisees in Matthew 15:12, *“Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”* Now the point of the comparison is for us to see that truth may be offensive to those who want error, but we don’t do anything to make the offense come from our actions. We speak with love the things of God, and we speak with respect.... How we should want to be spoken to ourselves (Matthew 7:12). And if we do that, the lost will know we love them, even if they never admit it.

Love intervenes between the sinner and their sin. That’s part of seeking the best for people, to help them see that sin is harmful to them. We intervene in loved ones lives when they are facing harmful behavior while on drugs or other addictions. People do that, not because they hate them or want to show their contempt for them— but because they genuinely love them.

We have the hardest mission— given by our Savior, the Lord Jesus — to go out into the world and convince men to give up the pleasures that sin may bring (Hebrews 11:24-25; 2 Timothy 3:4). I don’t think men realize how much we actually love them, to put so much effort in reaching them. When Christ came to the earth, there were many who didn’t see Christ’s love for them as helpful (John 15:13; vs. 18).

It is because they have believed the lie from Satan, that love lets people do their own thing, and leaves them alone in their sin. But again, to leave them alone makes God’s wrath on account of sin a certainty (Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6). But we love them too much to leave them alone!

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, and Burt Ward.

The family of Robb Bingham (Robb passed away last Friday).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Jerry Kennemur
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Paying Lip-Service To God"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Philippians
Starting Page & Question: Paul R. Blake
Page #36, Question #11

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Scripture Reading: *Psalm 7:1-8*
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Russell Briggs
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: *Men of the Congregation Lead Singing*
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 28th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Miracles Of Jesus
Author: Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: *Page #51, Question #7*
Invitation: Paul Johnson
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs



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

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Paying Lip-Service To God”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 15:7-9. (Isaiah 29:13).**

I. Other Examples Of Men Paying Lip-Service To God.

- The Wandering Israelites **Psalm 78:32-37; Proverbs 23:6-7.**
- King Saul **1 Samuel 15:20-23.**
- Israel’s Willingness To Hear **Ezekiel 33:30-33.**
- The Jewish Leader’s View Of History **Matthew 23:28-32.**
- Peter Claimed He Wouldn’t Deny Jesus **Mark 14:27-31.**

II. We Love God With All Our Heart.

- **Mark 12:29-30.**
- We May Not Fully Understand What God Wants.
 - Love God More Than The World- **1 John 2:15; 2 Timothy 4:10.**
 - Love Christ More Than Family **Matthew 10:37.**
 - Love God More Than Sin’s Pleasure **Hebrews 11:24-25.**
 - Love God More Than The Treasures Of Earth **Hebrews 11:26; Matthew 6:19-21.**
- What Would Paying Lip-Service Look Like?
 1. Judas in **John 12:3-6; The Rich Young Matthew 19:16-22.**
 2. **Mark 4:19.** God Must Be Our Priority!
 3. **Luke 9:57-62.** Our Service To God Must Be “First.”

III. We Believe The Bible Is Our Only Standard Of Truth.

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**
 - Not The Traditions Of Men- **Mark 7:5-13.**
 - Not The Creeds, Church Manuals, And Councils Of Men **Matthew 4:4.**
 - Not The Writings Of Men (Quotes, Commentaries, Devotionals...) **1 Peter 4:11.**
 - Not The Practices Of Others **2 Corinthians 10:12.**
- How Could We Pay Lip-Service To God’s Word As Our Standard?

IV. We Believe In Having Christ’s Authority For What We Do.

- **Colossians 3:17.**
- Can Men Be Guilty Of Paying Lip-Service To Doing Things Christ’s Way?
- **Mark 11:27-30.** Only Two Sources: From Heaven Or From Men.
 - Those Who Add To And Take Away From God’s Word **Deuteronomy 4:2; Acts 15:1-2.**
 - Add Offices: Youth Minister, Youth Director, Cardinals, Popes, Moderators, Founding Pastor.
 - Add To Worship: Instruments of Music, Prayer Beads, Incense, Solos, Choirs, Praise Teams.
- **2 John 9-11.**

V. We Are All One In Christ— In The One Church.

- **John 17:20-23.**
- Can Men Pay Lip-Service To Being One In Christ?
- When Men Divide Up Into Separate Groups Teaching Different Doctrines?
- **1 Corinthians 1:10-15; John 10:16; Romans 16:16-18; 1 Timothy 1:3.**