

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 20, 2025

### ***“Let’s Not Be Narrow”***

By Roy E. Cogdill

One of the most dreadful things many people can imagine is that they will be accused of "narrow mindedness" in religion. That literally scares them to death; the very thought that they might be considered narrow drives them completely away from the truth.

Yet it should not. Truth is narrow. There is nothing liberal or generous about truth; it all narrows down to just one fact. The proper answer to the mathematical summation of two plus two is four. There just isn't any other answer on earth that is right save that one. Out of all the infinite number of answers that might be given, only one is right. Every other is necessarily false. The answer is not "five"; neither is it "three." Two plus two gives "four" — no more and no less.

At what temperature does water freeze? If we use the Fahrenheit scale, it begins to freeze at 32 degrees at sea level. Of all the answers that might be given to this question, one is right; every other is wrong, just as wrong as wrong can be.

What direction is Dallas, Texas, from Lufkin? If you wanted to be exact, you could take a compass and determine exactly and precisely how many degrees west of north the one city is from the other. There is only one correct answer to that question.

Suppose somebody wants to argue the question as to the temperature at which water freezes, or wants to dispute the geographical relationship between Dallas and Lufkin? Is it "narrow mindedness" to insist that there is only one right answer to each of these questions?

If someone should prefer to believe that water will freeze at 34 degrees, or 36, or even 33, and should accuse me of being "narrow minded" because I insist on 32 degrees, would not everybody know that truth has no alternative save to be "narrow"? It seems like many people go almost stone blind, and lose all the good judgment they ever had, when it comes to the subject of religious truth. They will accept principles in religion which they would laugh to scorn in any other area of life.

The very same man who has no difficulty at all in understanding why there can be only one right answer in scientific, or mathematical, or geographical problems, glibly assures everybody that there can be a hundred right answers to religious questions — and those answers can contradict one another in the most open and obvious fashion possible. He says, "You answer the question your way; I'll answer it mine, and we'll be brethren, and everything will be all right for both of us."

If that be the case, truth does not matter. Why have a Bible? Why not let each one believe what he wants to believe, throw the Bible away and forget all about the word of God. Why all of the preaching? If men are perfectly right in believing and following a multitude of contradictory doctrines, then why should any man want to teach anybody anything that is in the New Testament?

Does Jesus teach contradictory doctrines? Can one take the New Testament and find one page of it teaching that a child is born in sin, another page teaching that he is born in Christ "safe in the arms of Jesus"? One human creed teaches that baptism is by immersion only; another teaches that it is also by sprinkling and pouring, according to the preference of the candidate. Both creeds make their appeal to

the Bible for substantiation of their doctrines. But does the Bible give any such contradictory teaching? If so, who can believe for a single minute that the Bible is of divine origin? The Lord does not teach a thing two ways, or a hundred different ways. Somebody is bound to be wrong!

Is it all a matter of "interpretation"? That is the claim that has been made. While people are talking about such a thing as interpretation, they ought not to forget that there can be also misinterpretation. Somebody has misinterpreted the truth. The Lord does not teach immersion only on one page, then turn right around and teach sprinkling and pouring on the next page. If anybody actually thinks he can read such in the Bible, he simply believes that God is not trustworthy, and His word is not reliable or dependable. No one could have any confidence in a man who would talk "out of both sides" of his mouth; neither can man have any confidence in a God who would do such.

Just as certainly as there is religious division in the land, just that certain it is that someone has taught something which is not in God's book. The Lord does not teach, and did not teach, contradictory, doctrines. Christ is not divided in the message he gives. When all men speak "as the oracles of God," they will "be of the same mind, and speak the same things." Suppose we could get all the preachers in a certain city to agree that for one year not a one of them would preach anything save that which is clearly set forth in the Bible.

They would lay aside their respective creeds, distinctive doctrines, and peculiar names, and all of them preach only that which they can find in the Bible. Is it not obvious to all that there would soon be complete unity and harmony prevailing among all? The Bible reads alike to all of us; it does not tell you one thing, and tell me something different. If all of us will determine to speak only that which the Bible speaks, leaving out all human tradition, we will soon find the believers completely united. There can be no other alternative.

When preachers and teachers are content to confine their preaching to those things for which they can furnish a "thus saith the Lord," religious division quickly disappears. It would be so in any city in this nation where it might be tried. Christ is not divided in message.

The different "messages" that are taught in the name of Christ are not truly messages of the will of Christ. For his will is contained for us in his word. When we have his word, and understand what it says, we will soon overcome the turmoil and division which have disgraced the religious world for these many centuries.

(Gospel Guardian, June 9, 1955)

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## ***"Purpose"***

By Michael W. McLemore

My purpose in life is not about my needs and my wants. The reason behind motives, wants, perceived needs, and my course of life is governed by the humble realization that I serve the risen Savior. This right is not earned. There was nothing I could do that would offer this entrance before God. The Jews proved it could not be done by the written law. The Gentiles showed it could not be done as a law to themselves, as Romans 2 teaches us. Paul told Timothy that God "has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which has granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity," (2 Timothy 1:9).

Glory to God for this rich blessing of being able to serve a loving Father. Children of God serve the Lord through the blessing of the grace of God. When it enters the mind of men to forget this grace, lost is the blessing of God. All that we are and all that we can become will only be found in the knowledge that our purpose in life is a single thought: the privilege to serve the Lord.

When my life ends and I am ushered before the great and holy presence of Jehovah, these words will ring in my heart throughout the eternal ages: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your Lord," (Matthew 25:23). Praise God for His revealed purpose.

**Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:**

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann, and Stacy & Annette Meeks, Mike Timbes (Paul Johnson's neighbor who was diagnosed with lung cancer), Anita Harris' mother, Hillard Switcher, Evelyn Trimble, Angie Keathley (Phillip Keathley's wife in Ky) had surgery and is recovering, Dianne Johnson (Fred's wife) had surgery and is recovering, and Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative).

Our Gospel Meeting with Justin Roberson is One Week Away!

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:**

Tim Harris Jr.

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon #1:**

*"Our One Another Duties"*

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

**Workbook:**

Fred Johnson

**Author:**

1st & 2nd Peter & Jude

**Starting Page & Question:**

Paul Blake

*Page 38, Question #1*

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

**Announcements:**

Russell Briggs

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Blake Briggs

**Scripture Reading:**

*Matthew 26:47-50*

**Song Leader:**

Paul Busby

**Lord's Supper:**

Danny Sheffield

**Assisting:**

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**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon #2:**

*"What Judas Lost"*

**Closing Prayer:**

Russell Briggs

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

**April 23, 2025**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Paul Busby

**Workbook:**

Great Bible Characters: Paul

**Author:**

By Bobby L. Graham

**Starting Page & Question:**

*Page 57, Question #10*

**Invitation:**

Dan Cottrell

**Song Leader:**

Brian Meade

**Closing Prayer:**

Nathan Meade

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# ***“Our One Another Duties”***

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 10:24.** We Have A Lot To Be Busy Doing!

## **I. Consider One Another.**

- **Hebrews 10:24.**
- Consider: denotes “the action of the mind in apprehending certain facts about a thing”; hence, “to consider” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 60).
- to give very careful consideration to some matter— ‘to think about very carefully, to consider closely. (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1, p. 349).
- Practically Speaking: **1 Corinthians 11:17-22; Galatians 6:1-2.**

## **II. Submit To One Another.**

- In The Worship Assembly- **Ephesians 5:19-21.**
- Submit: To Accept Or Yield To Another’s Authority Or Will.
- **1 Peter 5:-6.** Pride, Arrogance, & Stubbornness Work Against Submission.
- Practically Speaking: **Hebrews 13:17.** Before Obedience—Submission.

## **III. Exhort One Another.**

- **Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 3:13.**
- Exhort: to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, either by verbal or non-verbal means— ‘to encourage, to console, encouragement.’ (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1, p. 305).
- Practically Speaking: **1 Thessalonians 4:1-7.**

## **IV. Forbear One Another.**

- **Ephesians 4:2**, “Showing Tolerance” (**NASB**); **VS. 3—** How Important It Is...
- Forbear/Bear With: To Endure Something Unpleasant Or Difficult Whether On One’s Own Behalf Or On Behalf Of Someone Else. (Logos).
- Practically Speaking: **1 Corinthians 8:13.**

## **V. Forgive One Another.**

- **Ephesians 5:32.** Christians Are Forgiven By Christ And To Forgive
- Forgive: “To Send Away, Set Free” (Vine’s); To Remove The Result From Wrongdoing (Louw-Nida).
- Practically Speaking: **Matthew 18:21-22.**

## **VI. Esteem One Another.**

- **Philippians 2:3.**
- Esteem: to hold a view or have an opinion with regard to something (Louw, J. P., & Nida,.).
- Practically Speaking: **Philippians 2:3-5.**

## **VII. Love One Another.**

- **1 Thessalonians 4:9.**
- Practically Speaking: **John 13:34-35.**

# “What Judas Lost”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 26:47-50**. How Did One Of Jesus’ Twelve Betray Him?

## I. Judas Lost His Way.

- Judas First Began To Lose His Good Character.
  - He Was Personally Chosen By Jesus To Be One Of The Twelve. **Luke 6:12-16**.
  - He Performed Miracles With The Other Twelve. **Luke 9:1-2; vs. 6**.
  - Jesus Even Tells All Of Them To Rejoice That Their Names Are Written In Heaven. **Luke 10:20**.
- He Lost His Good Character By Temptation & Sin Overtaking Him.
  - Just Like Judas, People Often Start Out Serving Jesus, But Find Themselves In Unrepentant Sin.
  - This Is What Happens When We Don’t Actually Deal With Our Sins The Right Way.
    - **Proverbs 28:13**. We Just Cover It Up And Not Repent.
    - But We Forget That God See And Knows All Our Deeds. **Proverbs 15:3; Revelation 3:1-3**.
  - Judas Wanted To Keep Stealing From The Money Box- **John 12:3-6**.
- Sin Has A Corrupting Power Over Us.
  - Judas Was Not Going To Be Deterred From Still Betraying Jesus.
  - Deterred Definition: “discourage (someone) from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.”
  - **Matthew 26:20-25**. Judas Still Pursues On To Betray Jesus, Even After being Exposed!
  - A Continued Course Of Walking In Unrepentant Sin Can Harden Our Heart- **Hebrews 3:12-13**.

## II. Judas Lost His Salvation.

- Many Who Teach “*Once Saved Always Saved*” Struggle To Explain Judas’ Fall.
- It Is Even Said That Judas Was Never Ever Saved In The First Place.
  - **Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20-22**.
- Judas’ Fall Refutes Calvinism. If Judas Fell, So Can We!
- Calvinism Doesn’t Offer Any Real Assurance Of Salvation To Those Faithful, Yet Fall.

## III. Judas Lost The Sight Of The Savior.

- Judas Tried To Make Things Right— His Own Way!
- Judas Had Sorrow For What He Did, But Didn’t Go To The Savior.
- The Difference In What Peter Did In Denying Jesus And Judas In Betraying Him.
  - **John 21:17**.

## IV. Judas Lost His Office To Another Man.

- **Acts 1:15-26**. His Office, Lit. Overseer, Was Vacant Because His Fall!
- “*to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell,*” (**vs. 25**). He Was NOT With The Twelve!

## V. What Judas Lost.... Missed Out!

- All The Blessings Of Being An Apostle Of Jesus!
  - Being A Witness Of Jesus’ Resurrection— **John 20:25**.
  - Preaching The Gospel On Pentecost! **Acts 2:14**.
  - Helping Lost Souls To Be Saved In The Kingdom- **Luke 13:18; Colossians 1:13**.
  - Going To The Place Jesus Spoke Of In **John 14:2-4**.