

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

January 9, 2022

### **“Indulgences And Other Catholic Heresies”**

By Franklin Puckett

That the doctrine of indulgences (the spark that touched off the Protestant Reformation) is still taught by Catholics is clear from their catechism. It is a cardinal part of their scheme to control men through fear. These doctrines of indulgences are two in kind: one will obtain the complete remission of temporal sins; the other will obtain a partial remission. The idea of indulgences hooks right into the doctrine of penance, and the two heresies joined together form an unholy alliance.

Catholic teaching concerning indulgences can be traced from the last decade of the twelfth century. The Catholic Catechism says that an indulgence is “the remission of temporal punishment due to sin.” The idea is that the priest absolves the penitent sinner of his sins; pronounces upon him certain requirements as penance or punishment for his sins; then by the granting of an indulgence can remit or annul the punishment imposed by penance.

The conception of a storehouse of merits (*thesaurus meritorum* or *indulgentiarum*) was elaborately formulated by Alexander of Hales in the thirteenth century. Starting with the existing practice in the Church that some penances (such as pilgrimages) might be vicariously performed, and bringing together the several thoughts that the faithful are members of one body, and that the good deeds of each of the members are common property of all, and therefore that the more sinful can benefit by the good deeds of their more saintly brethren, and that the sacrifice of Christ was sufficient to wipe out the sins of all, theologians gradually formulated the doctrine that there was a common storehouse which contained the good deeds of living men and women, of the saints in heaven, and the inexhaustible merits of Christ, and that all these merits accumulated there had been placed under the charge of the Pope, and could be dispensed by him to the faithful (*History of the Reformation*, Lindsay, p. 219).

### **The Preaching Of John Tetzel**

What must one do to get an indulgence? The answer is given: “to gain an indulgence one must (1) be in a state of grace, (2) have the intention of gaining the indulgence, and (3) do the good works required” of the priest, i.e. do whatever penance the priest may impose.

To whom may the indulgences gained be applied? Answer: one may apply the indulgence to himself, or to the souls in purgatory. (Some indulgences were restricted to the living).

It was the preaching of this monstrous doctrine that was really responsible for the beginning of the Protestant Reformation at the beginning of the 16th century. When John Tetzel, a Dominican monk, came into Germany selling indulgences like cattle are sold in the market, he so incensed Martin Luther, a devout Catholic monk, that Luther lifted his voice in horrified protest. He filed 95 objections to the practices of Catholicism as it was taught and practiced in his day, and challenged any Catholic on the face of the earth to meet him in open discussion of the same.

Tetzel was unbelievably crude and cynical in his sale of the indulgences. He did not try (nor do modern Catholics) to conceal the crass greed of his doctrine between honeyed words and vague generalizations. When he would enter into a town, he would erect a cross bearing the Pope’s own insignia, enter into the pulpit, and begin to

harangue the multitude and exalt the efficacy of indulgences. Here is a portion of the speech he would customarily make:

“Indulgences are the most precious and sublime of God’s gifts. This cross (pointing to the emblem) has as much efficacy as the cross of Jesus Christ. Draw, near, and I will give you letters duly sealed by which even the sins which you shall hereafter desire to commit shall all be forgiven. I would not exchange my privileges for those of St. Peter! I have saved more souls with my indulgences than he has with his servants. There is no sin so great that indulgences cannot remit. And even if one should, which is doubtless impossible, ravish the holy Virgin, Mother of God, let him pay, only let his pay well for an indulgence, and all shall be forgiven him! Ye priests, ye nobles, ye wives, ye maidens, and you young men, hearken to your departed parents and friends who cry to you from the bottomless depths. ‘We are enduring a horrible torment’, they scream, ‘a small alms from you would deliver us. You can give it now if you will’. Thus they cry to you from purgatory. The very moment that the money clinks against the bottom of the chest, the soul escapes from purgatory and flies free to heaven. Now just pay off, O senseless people! Almost like the beasts who do not comprehend the grace so richly offered. This day heaven is on all sides of you. Do you now refuse to enter? When do you intend to come in? This day you may redeem many souls.”

From preaching such as this Martin Luther and millions of other devout and intelligent men arose in wrathful rebellion. Put so crudely as Tetzel put it, no righteous man could accept the doctrine. Only the base and superstitious, only the depraved and wicked could be willing to follow so false a leader. Yet, thought the words to describe it have been softened and sweetened through the years. The Doctrine of Indulgences as taught by Catholicism today is precisely that which was proclaimed by Tetzel.

---

## **“DELIVERED TO THE TORTURERS”**

by Heath Rogers

One of the barriers to Christians receiving forgiveness from God is an unwillingness on their part to forgive others. Jesus said, *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* (Matt. 6:14-15). Despite this plain statement, some Christians refuse to forgive those who sin against them and give the matter little thought.

Jesus addressed the matter again in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18. In this parable, a servant owed his master an enormous debt he had no hope of repaying. The order was given to sell him, his family, and all his possessions so that payment could be made. He begged his master for mercy, and moved with compassion, the master forgave the entire debt. Afterward, the forgiven servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him a small amount (in comparison to what he had just been forgiven) and demanded immediate repayment of the debt. This fellow servant pled for mercy, using the same words that had just been spoken to the master, but the forgiven servant refused to forgive the debt and had him thrown into prison (vs. 23-30).

This unmerciful behavior upset the fellow servants and they reported it back to the master. *“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses”* (vs. 32-35).

It is important that we learn the lesson Jesus is teaching in this parable. God is angered by our refusal to sincerely forgive our brethren who seek our forgiveness. He sees it as wickedness. God does not allow such behavior to go unpunished. Please note that the unmerciful servant was delivered to a worse punishment than suggested before. He wasn't sold into servitude. He was delivered to the torturers.

Hell is described as a place of torment and torture (Luke 16:24-25; Rev. 20:10, 15). How tragic it will be for one to spend his life trying to serve the Lord and go to Heaven only to be delivered to the torturers in Hell because, in his pride, he refused to forgive his brother.

**Visit our YouTube Channel:**



Meeks Street Church of Christ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?  
view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber)

**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.  
LuAnne Parrish is home now!

**Those Who Serve:**

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

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Tim Harris Jr.
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	<i>"The Need For Evidence"</i>
<b><u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u></b>	Jerry Kennemur
	2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #32, Question #11</i>

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

<b>Announcements:</b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Nathan Meade
	<i>Psalm 19:1-3</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Doug George
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Brian Meade
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	<i>"Why We Believe In God"</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Paul Johnson

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

**January 12th:**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Paul Busby
	Book of Isaiah
	<i>Page #41, Question #1</i>
<b>Invitation:</b>	Paul Johnson
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Doug George

# **“The Need For Evidence”**

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 11:1-6.**

## **I. Why Need To Study Evidences For Faith In God.**

**A. Flavil Yeakly— “Why They Left.” (2012).**

- 40% of our young people leave the church after going to college.
  - 20% Left to go to a denomination.
  - 20% Left their faith entirely.
- Several Reasons were given:
  1. Evolution was taught as Scientific Fact.
  2. Naturalism- They began to disbelieve miracles.
  3. A Belief that Christianity goes against Logic and Reason.
  4. A Supposed Lack of Evidence for Faith in God.

## **II. Examining The Challenges To Our Faith.**

### **A. Evolution- A Major Challenge.**

- It has begun to be a type of religion itself.
- It Is aggressively Taught to students in college.
- Strong Pressure To Conform to this Theory.
- Can be atmospheres of intolerance, no open mindedness...
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21.**

### **B. Naturalism— Another Major Challenge.**

- Defined: “The philosophical belief that everything arises from natural properties and causes and the supernatural or spiritual explanations are excluded or discounted.”
- A Direct Conflict with Biblical Teaching! (No miracles, no supernatural events or God).
- 2012 Gallup poll: From 1992 to 2012— Only 9%- 15% Naturalists in US.
- Updated Poll in 12017— 19% of Americans.

### **C. Christianity Goes Against Logic And Reason.**

- Law of Rationality- “One should only draw conclusions that are warranted by evidence.”
- But the Scriptures demand our investigation and coming to the right conclusions based on what is right, proper, and rational to believe.
- **Romans 1:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:15.**
- **Acts 18:4; 26:24-26.**

### **D. The Supposed Lack of Evidence.**

- Herbert Spencer quote- “Those who cavalierly reject the theory of evolution as not adequately supported by facts, seem quite to forget that their own theory supported by no facts at all.”
- Our faith is NOT a “blind faith without any proof whatsoever! (Fideism).
- **Hebrews 11:1-6; John 20:26-29.**
- Two Types of Evidence: 1. Direct Evidence. 2. Indirect Evidence.
- What about evidence of gravity? The wind? **John 3:7-9.**
- Scientists, Biologists, & Paleontologists all use indirect evidence...
- Forensic Science in Court cases?
- We have the testimony of many witnesses- **1 Cor. 15:3-8; John 20:30-31;**
- You are in good company to bel **2 Peter 1:16.**

# “Why We Believe In God”

## I. The Bible Declares God!

- **Genesis 1:1-3.** It declares our origin in God (**Genesis 1-2**).
- **Psalms 90:1-2.**
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11.**
- **Acts 17:23-28.**

## II. Jesus Declared God’s Existence.

- The Three Pillars of our Faith:
  1. God is;
  2. God Sent His Son;
  3. The Bible is His Message to Us.
- Jesus came for this purpose- **John 14:6-10.**
- Yet, no one has seen the Father- **1 John 4:12-16.**

## III. Common Sense And Logic Requires God!

- **Hebrews 3:4.** Common Sense tells us this world just didn’t happen to be!

### 1. The First Cause Argument.

- Fact: Something Cannot Come From Nothing.
- Fact: Nothing Can Produce Nothing.
- Fact: Something (God) Produced All things!  
Why? Mind Or Matter? It takes will and desire to produce something.
- How did life begin? God!

### 2. The Intelligent Design Argument.

- Are we the Product of Design or Accident? Which is more logical?
- David declares in **Psalm 139:14.** The marvel of the human body!
- Is it an accident that the universe sustains life? The order of the universe?
- A Watch laying on the ground? Was it designed and made? Or Accident?
- Robert Ingersoll story.
- **Psalm 19:1-11; Romans 1:20.**

### 3. The Moral Argument.

- How does man have a moral sense of Right And Wrong? God!
- Sin, Evil, and Wickedness Versus Righteousness, Good, and Pure.
- God has directed us- **Jeremiah 10:23.** What sin is- **1 John 3:4.**  
**Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Galatians 5:19-21.**
- Man left to Himself Only Leads to Anarchy and Moral Decay:  
**Judges 21:25; Romans 1:21-32.**

## III. The Arguments Against God’s Existence Are Foolish.

- **Psalm 14:1,** *“The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”*
- Atheism must believe that matter is eternal.
- Atheism assumes that life came from non-living matter without outside forces.
- Atheism maintains that all things exist as the result of random chance- No purpose.
- The “Complexity Theory” assumes that life can organize itself into complex orders?
- The bottom line: Atheism is similar to **Isaiah 29:16.**
- Atheism is so prejudiced against God that they must believe the absurd!