

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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July 4, 2021

“Staying Faithful In College: Three Things To Consider”

By Forest Antemesaris

Sometimes, the combination of freedom and stress can lead to a lackluster faith. With less accountability and more deadlines, it can become easy to forget about God, worship, and Jesus’ call to live a holy life. College is supposed to be fun, and challenging, but it’s not worth turning your back on God over. Here are four things to consider when striving to stay faithful in college.



Get Involved With an Assembly

This is a big one. We can’t expect to grow in faith if we are not involved with the assembly of Christians near our university. Thankfully, I get to go to a Christian university with a plethora of Christ-magnifying congregations within driving distance, but such isn’t everyone’s circumstance. If you’re at a school with a sparse Christian community, you may have to do more research into where and when you can assemble with the saints and worship. It may take some effort, but it will be worth it. Assembling and fellowshiping are vital aspects of a thriving faith.

Notice Hebrews 10:23-25 NASB:

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” It’s about more than just going to church. It’s about assembling with God’s people and actually putting in the effort to stir up love and good works in others and yourself. Without the experience of regular immersion in God’s word and prayer and singing with God’s people, faith is hard to maintain. Christianity is designed to be lived out in a community of believers. Find that community of God’s people where you are, and you won’t regret it.

Remember Who Owns You

Most young Christians have probably heard the cliché, “remember who you are and whose you are.” Though this statement may cause some of us to roll our eyes, it does allude to an important truth. While at college, you may be away from your parents, your preacher, your mentor, your youth minister, etc.; but you are never away from God. We need to remember that even when we are away from home, and mom and dad are nowhere in sight, we’re still God’s own possession.

Paul, while discussing sexual immorality, pens this needed reminder:

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (2 Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV)

While the initial application is about sexual purity, the principle extends well beyond that. The truth is, if I am a Christian, I am the Lord’s and the Lord is mine. Though my sin separated me from Him, He bought me back through the blood of His Son and now I am His. This means that my number one concern shouldn’t be what I want for myself, but what God wants for me. Since God has bought me, my focus is to glorify God in my body. He’s given us our new life in Christ, the least we could do is live it for Him.

Keep Things in Perspective

It's easy for our priorities to become out of whack while in college. We just get so focused on the stress and deadlines right in front of us that we forget about the big picture. There is nothing wrong with a college education, hanging out with friends, or staying up until 2 am playing Madden. But, when these things eclipse our love and devotion for God, idolatry creeps in and faithlessness will result.

Besides, at the end of all days, our degrees, research papers, and Madden ultimate teams will all be in the great fire. Only our souls will continue to exist, so that is what we should give priority to. When all is said and done, the only thing that will continue into the next life is our relationship with the One who made us, so let's do what we can to make sure that relationship is worth spending eternity in.

God through Peter put it this way:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless," (2 Peter 3:10-14)

The college experience is great, but it is fleeting and temporary. Eternity with God is much better by far. Let's not let the eternal be pushed aside by the temporary. Remember: Christianity was a privilege before it was a responsibility.

Sometimes while in college faithfulness can feel more like a chore than a blessing. The zeal and joy we felt when we first put on Christ fade into an inconvenient monotony. Whenever our faith seems to become more of an inconvenience than a blessing, maybe we should pray the prayer of David recorded in Psalm 51:10-11: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."*

When we are more mindful of our state without the grace of God, all that God went through to save us, and the blessings of being in Christ, the result will be an uptick in zeal. I encourage you to dwell on how joyous you were when you put on Christ and realize that the benefits and blessings you were so joyous about at that time are still present in your life through the grace of God. Faithfulness isn't a matter of working our way to a right relationship with God. Instead, it is our response to the soul-saving grace of God (Titus 2:11-14).

College can be a challenging time of transition, but faith makes it easier. Our Christianity doesn't have to be put on hold during our college years. Actually, it should flourish. If we would get involved with the Christian community around us, remember that God is our Lord, keep our priorities straight, and re-spark our zeal by meditating on God's word and our salvation, our faith can increase in college by God's grace. Above all, if we can dedicate a portion of our free time to prayer and reading God's word, we will be well-equipped to remain faithful in college.

Addendum

by Jefferson David Tant

This is a vital subject. One survey I have seen indicates that 66% of young adults stopped attending church. There are various reasons given for this startling statistic, but one major factor would be the influence of their professors. In some fields of study, some 50% of professors are agnostic or atheist.

Thus it is imperative that some research must be done before a college or university is chosen. And churches need to be teaching classes on evidence to their young people — evidence for the existence of God and for the Bible's inspiration, etc. My wife and I and our children all received an excellent education at Florida College in Temple Terrace, Florida. Their faith was strengthened and was not destroyed when they went to further their education in other schools.



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **October 17th -- 22nd**

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

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, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Fred Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The All-Sufficiency of the Gospel"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 39, Question #8</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Adam Harris
	<i>1 Corinthians 9:24-27</i>
Song Leader:	Lee Busby
Lord's Supper:	Doug George
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Practicing Self-Control"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 7th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Johnson
	The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #45, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Paul Busby
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer:	Brian Meade

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“The All-Sufficiency Of The Gospel”

Lesson Text: **Romans 1:16.**

Sufficient: “Enough to meet the needs of a situation or a proposed end.” (**Webster**)

I. The Gospel Is Powerful.

— **Romans 1:13-17.**

1. **Verse 16- “power” dunamis (Grk)** “the potentiality to exert force in performing some function— ‘power.’” Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996).
2. Powerful message of love- **John 3:16-17; Eph. 2:2-6; 2 Cor. 5:14-15.**
3. Powerful over sin and death- **Romans 6:1-6; 20-22.**
4. Powerful in saving power- **1 Corinthians 1:18; Revelation 1:5.**
5. It is all we need to be righteous with God’s power! **Romans 1:17.**

II. The Gospel Is Perfect.

— **James 1:25.**

1. Things that are perfect do not need improving.
2. The Law of Moses could not bring perfection, but the gospel does!
Hebrews 7:19; Hebrews 10:1.
3. Why we should not go back to the Law of Moses- **Galatians 5:1-4.**
4. Perfect in converting the sinner- **Psalms 19:7; Acts 8:4-12.**
5. There have been a lot of Schemes, Campaigns, Gimmicks, and Rallies to make the gospel more effective, especially when it comes to our youth!
 - Youth rallies, fun, games, and activities designed to appeal to youth!
 - Some even try using food: pizza parties, ice cream socials to entice.
6. Jesus’ words in **John 6:25-27; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Cor. 11:34; 14:17.**
7. If it takes more than the gospel to convert us, are we really converted to Christ?

III. The Gospel Is Complete.

— **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

1. **2 Peter 1:2-3.** We have “*all things.*”
2. No progressive revelation, new light, or another Testament (Book of Mormon) is needed- **Jude 1:3** “The adverb *once for all* (ὅλαξ, *hapax*) seems to indicate that the doctrinal convictions of the early church had been substantially codified. That is to say, Jude could appeal to *written* documents of the Christian faith in his arguments with the false teachers.” The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible.
3. Holy Spirit indwelling not needed to “*guide you into all truth.*” **John 16:13.**
4. Men who claim to be modern day prophets and apostles still use the Word!

IV. The Gospel Is Enduring.

— **Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25.**

1. **1 Peter 1:22-24.** Just as long as man needs salvation— the Word endures!
2. Men may deny it, ignore it, defame it, and shame it! But **John 12:48** still is true!

“Practicing Self-Control”

Lesson Text: **1 Corinthians 9:24-27.**

I. What Is Self-Control?

A. 2 Peter 1:4-6— *“Temperance or self-control.”*

B. Thayer— *“Temperance means self-government.”*

C. Strong’s— *“To be strong in a thing (i.e. masterful).”*

D. William Barclay— *“The ability to take a grip of oneself.”*

E. Misconception: *“One of the proofs of God’s working in our lives is the ability to control our own thoughts, words, and actions. It’s not that we are naturally weak-willed. But our fallen nature is under the influence of sin. The Bible calls it being a “slave to sin” (Romans 6:6). One definition of sin is “filling a legitimate need through illegitimate means.” Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we are incapable of knowing and choosing how best to meet our needs.”*
.....When we are saved by Christ’s sacrifice, we are free (Galatians 5:1). That liberty includes, among other things, freedom from sin. “Our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6:6). Now, as the Spirit gives us self-control, we can refuse sin.” (Got Questions— Your questions, Biblical Answers)

F. Major flaw: If the Spirit gives us self-control, then how can we still sin?

G. Proper view: We must “add” (2 Peter 1:6) self-control to our spiritual life.

II. God Calls Us To Have Self-Control.

A. Scriptures That Directly call us to Practice Self-Control.

1. Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23.

— Deny self: “Means to forget oneself, lose sight of oneself and one’s own interest.” (Thayer). Literally— Say “No!” To yourself.

2. Galatians 5:22-25. 3. Titus 2:11-12. 4. Acts 24:24-25.

B. Scriptures That Demand Self Control in Principle.

1. Romans 6:1; 6:12. 2. Galatians 2:20. 3. 2 Timothy 2:21.

4. James 1:12. 5. Proverbs 25:28 The devil can have his way with us!

C. Any Scripture That Forbids Certain Practices Requires Self-Control.

1. Lust- 2 Timothy 2:22; Matthew 5:28. 2. Lying- Ephesians 4:25.

3. Sexual Immorality- 1 Corinthians 6:18. 4. Covetousness- Col. 3:5.

5. Retaliation- Romans 12:17-21. 6. Laziness- Romans 12:11.

7. Self-willed- Titus 1:7. 8. Hatred- Gal. 5:20. 9. Wrath- Gal. 5:20.

D. Any Scripture That Calls Us To Have Certain Attributes...

1. Meekness- Matthew 5:3. 2. Gentleness- 2 Timothy 2:24.

3. Patience- Galatians 5:22. 4. Love- Galatians 5:22.

5. Contentment- Hebrews 13:5.

E. All Obedience To Christ Requires Self-Control.

1. Submission- Ephesians 5:23-24; 2 Corinthians 10:5.

2. Doing God’s Will- Luke 22:42.