

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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January 18, 2026

“Sunday Go-To-Meetin’ Clothes”

Bv Jefferson David Tant



In simpler times, folks didn't have closets full of clothes. Some of us came along during the depression when money was scarce, and then during the WW II years, clothing was scarce, as so much material was needed for the war effort. But most everybody had one good set of clothes. That set was called "Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes."

Going to church was special, something to be treated with great respect. And woe be unto some lad who played kickball on Sunday afternoon in his Sunday shoes, or the lass who played hop-scotch in her Sunday dress.

Today is different. Most people are more affluent, and many have so many clothes that deciding what to wear today can be somewhat of a time-consuming problem. But there is something different beside our prosperity we live in a casual age, and that is reflected nowhere more than in our worship assemblies. And I wonder why we treat our worship of God so casually.

No, this isn't about a "dress code" where a suit and tie, or fancy dress, is required. This is about "respect." A while back I took a man to some businesses looking for a job. When I picked him up, he was dressed in a suit and tie. He got a job that day. I doubt the result would have been the same had he gone in blue jeans and T-shirt. The next day I participated in conducting a funeral for a long-time friend. The 150 people who gathered were all dressed nicely.

Dressing properly has a long history. Christ talked about a wedding in Matthew 22:11-13 where a man not properly dressed. *"...when the king came in to behold the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment; and he saith unto him, 'Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding-garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him out into the outer darkness; there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.'*

My point? There is proper clothing for certain occasions that show proper respect. The guest was not prepared for the occasion.

If you were invited to see the President, how would you dress? I doubt you'd dress the same way I see many on Sunday. Is not our Creator worthy of our respect as much as the President?

Some years ago, I attended a denominational service that observed the Lord's Supper on Saturday evening. Some 250 people were there, and all were nicely dressed—even the little boys had coats and ties on. I was impressed. Then I remembered an assembly of Christians where a young man waiting on the Lord's Table had his blue jeans and a T-shirt emblazoned with "Go Dawgs." Somehow that called more attention to the Georgia Bulldogs football team than it did to our Lord's sacrifice on the cross. I admit I was unimpressed. And then I wonder what visitors think when they come to some of our services and see men dressed looking as if they had just gotten out of bed to come to our services and females looking as if they were going out to bale hay as soon as the service was over. Baggy pants and shirttails hanging out are fine for a picnic. Is that all our worship assemblies mean to us?

Casual is comfortable and fun, but is coming before God in worship the time for that? The Bible describes the throne scene in heaven, when we shall be gathered before God, and we shall be properly clothed in royal array (Revelation 7:13-14). The "robes" mentioned there are defined as something that is worn "as a mark of dignity" (Strong's Greek Dictionary).

God is worthy of our respect. Coming before Him in worship certainly merits our thoughtful consideration. Parents, are you helping your children learn this respect?

Memory Verse of the Week:

2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJB)

"For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."



"What Shall I Do With Jesus?"

By Keith Hamilton

"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified." (Matthew 27:22)

What a profound and troubling question. A question that troubles the heart and stirs the soul. Pilate asked the question as a matter of practical civil function, but its meaning goes far beyond his original intention. What will I do with Jesus? What have I done with Jesus?

Often, I have stated that one cannot come into contact with Jesus and walk away the same person they were before they met Him. This we can see in a study of His life and the relationship various people had with Him. Do we see ourselves in any of the people revealed in the New Testament.

Mary - "I raised Him."

Shepherd - "I came to worship Him."

Wiseman - "I brought gifts to Him."

Peter - "I left all to follow Him."

John the Baptist - "I baptized Him."

John - "I loved Him."

Joseph of Arimathea - "I gave Him a grave."

Martha - "I invited Him into my home and fed Him."

The Sinful Woman - "I wiped my tears from His feet and kissed them."

Paul - "I crucified myself to follow Him."

Judas - "I betrayed Him."

Caiphas - "I hated Him."

Herod - "I mocked Him."

Pilate - "I condemned Him."

Person in the crowd - "I screamed crucify Him."

Saul - "I persecuted Him."

Former disciple - "I turned my back and walked away from Him."

Hidden disciple - "I refused to confess Him for fear of being alienated."

Do we see ourselves in any of these people? When I look in the mirror and honestly ask myself the question, "What am I doing with Jesus?" What is my answer? The true answer I know is deep within myself and not what I might want others to think of me. Only I know.

Only you know. Lord, please help each of us to search our soul for the true answer and if necessary, amend our hearts and lives so that our relationship with you is honorable.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, George Hutto, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, and Martha Cottrell.

Updates: Billy Grisham is home recovering.

Robbie Does is doing some better, but she still requests our prayers.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is still recovering from a fall from around Thanksgiving time.

Conner Whittemore is managing his injury well.

LuAnne Parrish is doing some better, still requesting prayers.

Blake Briggs was having some health issues last Wednesday.

Nellie Cottrell has a case of Tonsillitis since last week.

Those Who Serve:**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

Opening Prayer:

Paul Busby

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1: *"The Origin & Teachings Of The Methodist Church Pt.1"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:

Fred Johnson

Revelation

Author:

By Dan H. King Sr.

Starting Page & Question:

Page #33, Question #5B

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Russell Briggs

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Conner Whittemore

Scripture Reading:

Acts 17:11

Song Leader:

Lee Busby

Lord's Supper:

Jerry Kennemur

Assisting:

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Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2: *"The Origin & Teachings Of The Methodist Church Pt.2"*

Closing Prayer:

Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 21, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class:

Brian Meade

Workbook:

Great Bible Characters: Abraham

Author:

By Mike Willis

Starting Page & Question:

Page #55, Question #15

Invitation:

Brian Meade

Song Leader:

Tim Harris Sr.

Closing Prayer:

Fred Johnson

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgJXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Origin & Teachings Of The Methodist Church Pt. 1”

Lesson Text: **1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.**

I. How, Who, And Why The Methodist Church Began.

- It's Founder: John Wesley was born June 14, 1703, in a parish of Epworth, Lincolnshire in England.
- During the years 1717-1719, two brothers, John and Charles Wesley, were studying at Oxford University in England.
- They were the sons of a Church of England clergyman.
- John was ordained a priest in the Church of England.
- John and Charles Wesley, were joined by George Whitefield, and about twelve other students who formed a religious club or society at Oxford University.
- The purpose of this society was to fight or protest the formality, coldness, and “ungodliness” in the Church of England.

II. The Struggles Of The New Denomination.

- At the first, they were not well-received. They were given nicknames by other students: “Bible Moths, Bible Bigots, and the “Holy Club.”
- And because they adopted strict methods of study, diet, and exercise.... they were called, “Methodists.” This eventually was chosen as their official name.
- Some historians give 1729 as the beginning. Others give 1737-40 as their start date.
- In 1736, the Wesleys came to Georgia; Charles, as a secretary to General Oglethorpe, and John, as a missionary to the Indians.
- The mission was largely unsuccessful, but on the ship John met a group of Moravians, who inspired him by their piety.
- Upon returning to London two years later, he attended a Moravian service in Aldersgate Street, London. Here he heard Luther's preface to the book of Romans read.
- About this, Wesley said, *“I felt my heart strangely warmed; I felt that I did not trust in Christ, in Christ alone for salvation; and assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”*
- With this experience, Wesley was ready to commit himself to preaching the doctrine of “Faith-only.”
- As these men went out to preach, they found the pulpits of the Church of England closed to them.
- They preached on the streets, in homes, barns, and mining pits.
- They did start to have success in gaining converts to the Methodist faith.
- In 1740, an old abandoned government building known as “the foundary” became the headquarters for the movement.
- Methodism sprang from England to Ireland, and then to America.
- Prior to the Revolutionary War, the Organization invaded the colonies in America.
- The first two men to preach Methodist doctrine in America were two Irish men: Phillip Embury in New York City in 1776, and about the same Robert Strawbridge went to Fredrick County, Maryland.
- Wesley has troubles getting the sacraments to members by ordained preachers, so they ask the Bishop of London to ordain some of their preachers, but he refuses to do so.
- So Wesley ordains some himself, and sets Dr. Thomas Coke to be superintendent to preside over the flock of Christ (Methodists) here in the United States.
- From this struggle, Bishops were appointed to ordain preachers to perform the sacraments.
- The Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States originated with the Christian Conference held in Baltimore, December 24, 1784.
- in 1784 with the first Book of Discipline adopted at the Christmas Conference, which formally established the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, serving as its foundational law and doctrine for clergy and members.
- John Wesley dies in 1791, but his movement lives on today....

III. The Formation Of The Methodist Disciple—Creed Book.

- Rules And By-Laws Are Necessary To Be A Methodist. (Quotes From Disciplines, (1912,1948).
- But The New Testament Is Our All-Sufficient Guide- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**

IV. Was It Really Necessary To Start A New Church?

- What Should Men Do Instead? Start A New Church Or Go Back To Jesus' Church?
 - **Matthew 16:18.**
- **1 Corinthians 3:9-11.**
- Reformation Is Not Enough— We Must Restore God's Way- **Jeremiah 6:16.**

“The Origin & Teachings Of The Methodist Church Pt. 2”

Lesson Text: **Acts 17:11; Ephesians 4:15.**

I. Beliefs About The Church.

- The Church Has Many Branches (Denominations), and new forms.
(Historical Statement, Pg. 15 & 18, Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1912).
- What Does The Bible Say? The Branches Of **John 15:1-8** Are Individuals— Not Churches!

II. Babies Are Born In Sin.

- *“Original sin... is the corruption of the nature every man.”*
(Articles of Religion, Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1912, Pg. 23).
- What Does The Bible Say? Sin Is An Act, Not A Genetic Disease!
- **1 John 3:4; James 1:14-15; Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 19:14.**

III. Man Has No Free-Will In Salvation.

- *“The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God;”*
(Articles of Religion, Discipline 1912 Pg. 24).
- What Does The Bible Say? **John 6:44-45; Matthew 11:28-29; Revelation 22:17.**

IV. Salvation By Faith Alone.

- *“...that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.”*
(Articles of Religion, Discipline of the Methodist Church 1948, Pg. 27).
- What Does The Bible Say? We Are Saved By Faith, But Not Faith Alone:
Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 22:16.

V. Beliefs On Baptism.

- Baptism Is Only *“a sign of regeneration or the new birth.”*
(Articles of Religion, Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1912, Pg. 27).
- What Does The Bible Say? **Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:3-6.** Baptism is a burial with Christ.

VI. Beliefs On The Church Organization.

- *“The General Conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for the Church”*
(Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church 1912, Pg. 40).
- Bishops Are Elected By The Conference, The Elders And Deacons Are Appointed By The Bishops, The Pastor Has Charge Of The Preachers, The Preachers Are Elected And Approved By The Quarterly Conference.
- What Does The Bible Say? **Acts 14:23; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4.**

VII. The United Methodist And LGBTQ+.

- The 2024 Policy Shift:
General Conference: In May 2024, the UMC's General Conference in Charlotte, NC, overwhelmingly voted to remove restrictive language and bans.
- This Has Caused A Major Division In The Methodist Church, and Caused The Formation Of The Global Methodist Church.
- What Does The Bible Say? **Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26-27.**
- It Should Be Automatic That God's People Should Be For And Against What God Wills...
- But Such Is Not Always The Case, When Men Vote and Decide Their Own Beliefs & Creeds.