

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 287-2187  
Churchatcorinth.com  
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

April 15, 2018

### “The Value of a Contented Life”

By Brian Meade

Paul was speaking about his own life when he said, “*Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*” (Philippians 4:11) So many people in our society live lives that could only be described as “discontented.” They are never satisfied, never content with where they are in circumstances of life. If they are poor, they want to be rich. If they are in a small house, they want a bigger house. If they are in a job making money, they want a better job making more money.....etc

They are always searching for things that will make them happy and bring fulfillment. And to them, life is a never-ending struggle to see who has the most stuff. Many have no time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life—like stopping to smell the roses— because that would take too long. But what most people need to be happy and fulfilled is to learn the value of contentment in Christ. If they could just see the bigger picture that God has for us, they would certainly be better off. The scriptures teach us NOT to be discontent, but to be content in **1 Timothy 6:6-8**, *But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.*” And contentment has value!



#### **(1) Contentment frees up valuable time.**

Can we imagine saying *no* to the rat-race to get more and more? Can we imagine what it would be like to say to ourselves, “*I have enough*” or “*I’m good.*” That is the freeing power of contentment with God. It frees us from the slavery to feel compelled to always want more than you have. When we get to a state of contentment, we will have the time back that would otherwise be spent working 2-3 jobs or overtime just to keep up a lifestyle of discontentment. Not only is it an expensive drain on our finances, but it robs us of valuable time we need with our family and especially with work in God’s kingdom. The Bible teaches us that we need to be “*redeeming the time*” (Ephesians 5:16), and we cannot do that effectively if we all of our time is spent in pursuing more and more. Instead of always shopping and hanging out at the malls to look for more stuff, why not use that time productively in Bible study, evangelism, visitations, attend more gospel meetings, and so forth?

#### **(2) Contentment would reduce our stress level.**

One of the major problems of discontentment is that it is very stressful! It is tiring and stressful to work extremely hard to pay for things we can’t afford otherwise. A good rule of thumb would be: If what we’re doing is stressing us and draining us emotionally or physically, than maybe it’s not worth the price of discontentment. Doctors tell us that stress can be dangerous to us physically— as it is one of the major causes of health problems in America today. Not to mention the fact that when we are stressed, we are no fun to be around. It is not a pleasure to

be in the company of someone who is uneasy and always stressed out. And if people in the world see Christians that way, then our influence will not be seen in a positive light (Matthew 5:13-16). Maybe what we need is to be content with what we have already, and be blessed and not stressed!

### **(3) Contentment shows thankfulness.**

I don't know if we have ever thought about it, but to be discontent is to say, in some degree or other, I can't be thankful for what I already have—I want something else. It can be like the kid who gets a red toy, when he really wanted a blue one, and doesn't show any kind of thankfulness for someone's generosity. But being content with what we have shows that we place value in God's blessings to us. There is a peace that comes with knowing that what little or much we have is from the Lord. (James 1:17) And may we never forget that a thankful heart leads to contentment.

### **(4) Contentment is God's will for our lives.**

I hope no one misunderstands what I am trying to say about scripture's teaching on how we look at our possessions and contentment. I am not saying it is wrong to buy better things or upgrade when we have opportunity. What I am saying is that when we let that get out of control and impact our lives in very hurtful and negative ways—that is not God's will for our lives.

God wants the best for us and does not want our lives out of balance like those in the world. And if the world's mold is to be discontent, never satisfied, and always striving to get the best this world has to offer now—then let us be different (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:5). Contentment may require us to believe and trust in God to reward us with what is better than all the treasures of material gain here and now (Hebrews 11:26). May we truly believe that, *“godliness with contentment is great gain?”*



## **Our Mediator With God**

By S. Scott Richardson

In our society, as in most, when two parties are at odds with one another, a third party is often called in to assist in rectifying the difficulties between the two parties. This third party is called a mediator. This word comes from *mesos*, (which means middle) and *eimi* (which means to go). So the term mediator literally means “to go in the middle” or as might more commonly say a “go between.” One of the characteristics of a mediator is that they must be respected by both parties or have things in common with both parties. This is necessary so that the mediator might more fully understand the needs and desires of each party, and then be able to communicate them. A mediator also must “make sure” or guarantee any agreements between the parties.

Man and God are at odds with one another. This is because man sins. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23) God is sinless perfection, the very definition and embodiment of righteousness. So there are two diametrically opposed forces at work—that of righteousness and that of sin. How can man be reconciled to God? There must be a mediator, someone to bring peace between man and God. Someone to “make sure” the better, wonderful covenant of God. That mediator is Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ is the only mediator that there could be between man and God. He is the only who meets the qualifications. He is God (divinity). He, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are one in purpose; He has the knowledge of all that pertains to divinity. He also came to this earth. He gave Himself as a sacrifice for mankind by dying on the cross, but He also gave of Himself by coming to this earth and living as a man so that He would be uniquely qualified to understand the physical, spiritual, and emotional limitations of man. Paul reminded Timothy in his first letter to him in chapter 2, verse 5, *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”*

We can think of Christ as the ultimate mediator. Not only is He capable of understanding the provisions of God and the needs of man, but He was willing to do whatever it took to guarantee salvation for those who would abide by God's terms. What it took was the shedding of His own blood to seal the covenant. He died for all men of every age and became their mediator of this new and better covenant or testament. Hebrews 9:15 states, *“And for this*

reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

Without a mediator man would be lost with no hope. We have a mediator who can understand. We have a mediator who guarantees a new covenant. We have Christ Jesus— man’s hope for eternal life in heaven!

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, Kimberly McCullough, June Lawson (Lisa Busby’s Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts.

**Local Meetings:**

**Our Gospel Meeting** is coming up **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay. 7:00 PM Nightly.

A **Singing** will be held Friday, **April 20th** at the River Bend Church of Christ at **7:00 PM**.

A **Singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th** at **2:00 PM**. Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Dan Cottrell  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** “What Are My Priorities?”

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

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)  
*Page 80, Question #11*

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

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Daniel Holloway  
*Luke 9:57-62*  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Lord’s Table:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** Nathan Meade & Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** “The Priorities of a Christian”  
**Closing Prayer:** Adam Harris

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

**April 18th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)  
*Page 52, Question #7*  
**Invitation:** Brian Meade  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Closing Prayer:** Adam Harris