

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### How to Approach the Lost #1

By Brian Meade

In our last two articles, we identified the five classes of lost people in an effort to understand the reasons why they were comfortable in their lost condition. We now want to turn our efforts to evangelizing the lost....specifically, how do we approach each class with the gospel? What do we need to focus on with each type?

#### I. The Truly Wicked & Immoral.

##### 1. The Need to Give up Sin.

If we are going to convert those who love the pleasures of sin, the first thing we will have to do is change their mind about sin itself. In order to do that, we must show them that sin is not all that it is hyped-up to be— that it *should be* undesirable to them. Those who practice sin need to know just how bad and hurtful sin is to themselves and other people! (Proverbs 14:30; Proverbs 27:3-4; I Kings 21:1-19) The sinner needs to know that the reason for the all the guilt and shame they experience is because of their sins (Proverbs 28:1; Isaiah 57:20-21; I Peter 3:10-11). And if they are truly honest with themselves, they will also confess, *"the way of transgressors is hard."* (Proverbs 13:15)

##### 2. The Temporary Pleasures of Sin.

The nature of sin is temporary (Hebrews 11:25-26). Moses looked at the temporary rewards for sin as nothing compared to the eternal rewards of the righteous! We need to remind the sinner that is NOT logical or desirable to trade the eternal for the temporary. Thus, we are *"selling ourselves short"* to live a life of sin now (Hebrews 12:16-17).

##### 3. The Accountability of the Judgment Day.

The Bible warns us in numerous passages of scriptures to prepare for the day of accountability and judgment before God (II Corinthians 5:10-11; Acts 17:30-31). We need to warn the sinner that sin (their best friend) will only bring condemnation and judgment upon themselves (Romans 2:5-9; Matthew 25:41).

#### II. The Unbeliever Who Disbelieves God.

##### 1. The Fact that God Exists.

If we are ever going to reach the one who disbelieves in the existence of God, we must first focus on the fact that God is (Hebrews 11:1-6). We must show them that true Bible faith in the existence of God is not *"wishful dreaming"* or *"fairy tale religion"*— but based on facts! Hebrews 11:1, states it as the *"substance"* (KJB) or *"assurance"* (NASB) of what we hope for in God, and *"the evidence*

(conviction, NASB) *of things not seen.*” (KJB) Hence, there are facts and evidence that point to what we do not see and handle with our senses. Therefore our faith in God is not blind or misguided merely by feelings— but based on real substance that leads us to a conviction in God. (Acts 17:23-31)

## **2. It is Not Logical to Deny God.**

It is a fact that real science is based on what is reasonable and logical for us to believe and not merely what we want the outcome to be. Because the fact remains that something cannot come from nothing, therefore it is logical to believe God created the universe and all we see around us (Genesis 1:1-27). Otherwise, we would have to believe that from random chance and chaos came into being order and design. That would actually require more faith than the existence of a Creator— God who intelligently and purposely ordered us into existence (Psalm 8:3; Ps. 136:5-9).

# GOSPEL MEETING

**Meeks Street Church  
of Christ**

**With Billy Randolph**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 P.M. Nightly**

## **III. The Morally Unsaved.**

### **1. Moral Goodness Is Not Enough.**

As we approach those who are generally good-moral people, we must show them their need to come to Christ. Because some try to be very moral and good in life, they may think they are good enough without a Savior. But the problem is that moral goodness alone cannot save us from our sins (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8-9).

In Acts 10:1-2, the Bible tells us about Cornelius— *“a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”*

In the minds of a lot of people, Cornelius was already good enough to be saved. He was morally-good and believed in God already, yet God sent to him Peter, *“who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.”* (Acts 11:14)

### **2. The Need for Forgiveness of Sins.**

Cornelius (like all of us) needed the forgiveness of sins. Because sin is a universal problem for all of us, we need the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28; Col. 1:14) to be forgiven—and no other way! All the good works we (could possibly) do cannot atone for even one sin (Titus 3:5).

### **3. They Need to Obey the Gospel.**

That’s why Peter was sent to him, to help him obey the gospel (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 6:1-6).

Cornelius and his household had to obey the gospel— just like the Jews on Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41; Acts 11:18; Acts 10:47-48) to be saved!

The gospel is still the means of saving men today (Romans 1:16; James 1:21), but only if they will obey it (Romans 6:17-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

**News and Notes:** sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Delain Doles, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, and preacher Elmo Wilson is in Cornerstone Rehab in Corinth. (Room B13).

**Those Who Serve**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris, Jr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** *"Why This World is NOT Our Home"*

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

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

**Announcements:** Paul Busby

**Lord's Table:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** Chris Callahan & Brian Meade

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Sam Johnson

**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** *"The Beautiful People in the Bible"*

**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

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

**October 11<sup>th</sup>:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Cottrell