

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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December 8, 2024

“Wherever He Leads Me”

By Jeff Cason

We hear an expression from time to time, "wherever God leads me." It said in a very humble way and in a way that indicates submission to God's will. From that perspective, it is an admirable attitude. Many in the world direct their own paths (Proverbs 14:12) with little or no thought of how God would have us to live. But the attitude of the person who says in regard to their plans and directions in life "wherever God leads me," seems to be a person who is willing to be led by God's will.

However, in continuing the discussion with someone who says this, we usually find that they are waiting for some sign, some event, some message in any form from God before deciding what to do next. Such miraculous signs ceased in the first century (I Corinthians 13:8-10). Such signs were sometimes not given even to those who were inspired apostles of Jesus Christ! Here are some passages that demonstrate this fact.

1. II Corinthians 1:15-17 – Paul made plans but had to change those plans. In fact, the revised plans were better than the original plans. He was an inspired apostle. Why didn't the Holy Spirit just tell him where to go and what to do?
2. Acts 15:6-18 – The men who gathered to study the question of circumcision didn't rely on "wherever God leads me." They used the 3 methods of authority (command/statement, approved/disapproved example, and inescapable conclusion) to determine that the Gentiles could be saved without having to comply with the Law of Moses, especially regarding circumcision.
3. **Acts 15:19-22** – After determining and understanding the will of God, the men used judgment in writing letters to the Gentiles and in choosing the men who would take the message to the Gentiles.
4. **Acts 15:36-41** – Paul made the judgment that he and Barnabas should not take John Mark on the second missionary journey. Barnabas made the judgment that he would take John Mark with him in a different direction. Neither God nor the Holy Spirit directed them to make those very important decisions.
5. Paul made the decision to not initially mention his Roman citizenship in Philippi, thus suffering a beating and imprisonment (Acts 16:22-40) and yet at another time asserted his Roman citizenship (Acts 22:22-29) to prevent such. He used appropriate judgment.

So, how does this apply to us today? We should always have a humble, submissive attitude toward God and His word (Psalm 1, I John 1, Matthew 7:21). We need to realize that the age of miracles has ceased but we have something even better in the fully revealed word of God (2 Peter 1:3 and 19; 2 Peter 3:1-2; I Peter 1:10-12).

We need to realize that God expects us to make wise decisions and judgments in accordance with His word. His word could not possibly tell us everything specific thing we need to do to be pleasing to Him, because if it was constructed that way, it would be non-sensical to those in the past and irrelevant to those of us in the present.

So, let's be led by God and His Holy Spirit by understanding the will of God (Ephesians 5:17) and using judgment that shows others that Christ is in us (Galatians 2:20, I Corinthians 6:19-20).

"THE PERFECT PEACE OF GOD"

By Heath Rogers

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3). Of the 1,292 verses in the book of Isaiah, this verse is one of the most beautiful.

Imagine God keeping you in perfect peace. This verb is translated from a Hebrew word that means to guard from dangers, to watch and protect. The picture is of God setting a guard around us to protect us from all danger.

The peace given by God is perfect. It is complete, lacking nothing. It is able to accomplish everything we need. Paul said the peace of God "surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). This means we are not able to fully comprehend or explain this peace. It is beyond our understanding, but it is ours to enjoy if we will ask for it.

This perfect peace of God is conditional. Notice two things Isaiah says about the recipient of God's peace.

First, This Peace Is Given To The One Whose Mind Is Stayed On God.

This was written at a time when God's people were trying to secure their peace by turning to idols and trusting in nations around them. The mind that is stayed on God is the heart that is loyal to God. Peace comes when we give ourselves entirely to God and His will. God is looking for hearts that will not waver from their loyalty to Him. If our faithfulness is like a wave driven and tossed by the winds of fear and doubt, we can't expect God to give us perfect peace (James 1:6-8).

Second, This Peace Is Given To The One Who Trusts In God.

It is one thing to believe in God, but it is another thing to believe what God says – to trust in His promises. We need the faith of our father Abraham, "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (Rom. 4:20-21). When we trust God to fulfill His promises, our hearts are freed from worry and doubt.

The perfect peace God offered His people in Isaiah's day is even better today because it is offered through His Son.

Jesus said the peace He offers is different from any kind of peace we can find in this world. *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* (John 14:27).

This is because He alone can give us peace with God. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

Is God keeping you in perfect peace?



Memory Verse of the Week:

1 John 4:1 (NKJB)

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, and Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall and broke her hip.

Updates: Jessica Plunk's surgery went well and she is recovering.
Dan's sister Michelle has gotten worse.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Blake Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Honor To Whom Honor Is Due"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsley
Page 22, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Scripture Reading: Mark 9:25-27
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "The People Who Lift Us Up"
Closing Prayer: Conner Whittemore

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 11, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 53, Question #4
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

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“Honor To Whom Honor Is Due”

Lesson Text: **Romans 13:7 (LEB).**

The Christian Is To Give Honor To:

I. Father And Mother.

- We Honor Them By Obedience- **Ephesians 6:1-3.**
- We Honor Them By Living A Godly Life- **Proverbs 23:24-25.**
- We Honor Them By Taking Care Of Them In Older Age- **1 Timothy 5:4 (NET Bible).**
 - What The Jews Failed To Do By Their Tradition- **Mark 7:8-13.**

II. Husband Or Wife.

- Husbands Honor Their Wife As: Protector, Leader, Provider, & Giving Love/Honor:
 - **1 Peter 3:7 (ESV); Ephesians 5:25-33.**
- Wives Honor Their Husbands By: Submitting To His Leadership, Loving Him, And Fulfilling Their Role In The Home- **Titus 2:4-5.**

III. Government Officials.

- We Honor Them By Respecting & Obeying Them- **Romans 13:1-7.**
- We Honor Them By Giving Them What Is Their Due- **Luke 20:25.**
- We Honor Them By Praying For Them- **1 Timothy 2:1-2.**

IV. Elders Of The Local Church.

- We Honor Them By Giving Them Respect & Honor- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.**
- By Supporting Them In Their Work In The Gospel- **1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV).**
- By Submitting To Them & Obeying Them- **Hebrews 13:7 and 17.**

V. All Preachers Of Truth.

- We Should Honor Preachers Who Stand Firmly For Truth- **2 Timothy 4:1-5.**
 - We Should Want Sound Doctrine, Uncompromising Convictions, Love For Truth!
 - Like The Apostle Paul In **Galatians 1:10; 2:5.**
- We Honor Them By Listening Diligently & Obediently- **James 1:21-22.**

VI. All Men.

- **1 Peter 2:17.**
- We Honor All Men By Treating Them As We Would Want To Be Treated-
 - **Matt. 7:12.**
- We Honor All Men By Doing Good To Them- **Galatians 6:10.**
- We Honor Them By Preaching The Gospel To Them- **Romans 1:14-17.**

“The People Who Lift Us Up”

Lesson Text: **Mark 9:25-27**. Lifting People Up Is Both Literal & Metaphorical For Helping Them.

I. Those Who Are Sympathetic.

- Christians Are Taught To Be This Way- **Romans 12:15-16**.
- Jesus Wept With Mary & Martha- **John 11:35**.
- Remember Those Suffering- **Hebrews 13:3; Matthew 25:36**.

II. Those Who Are Refreshing.

- Paul Praises Onesiphorus For This Work- **2 Timothy 1:16-18**.
- **Philemon 7**. His Kindness Brought Great Joy To Others.
- **2 Corinthians 7:13-16**. The Good Effects On The Brethren.

III. Those Who Are Spiritual.

- The Great Contrast Of **Romans 8:5-6**. The Spiritual Is much Easier To Be Around!
- Spiritual People Help Us To Be Restored- **Galatians 6:1**.
- Spiritual People Help Us Bear Our Burdens- **Galatians 6:2**.
- Spiritual People Are Good Examples To Follow- **3 John 11-12**.

IV. Those Who Are Co-Operative.

- The Body Of Christ Works Together- **Romans 12:3-8**.
- This Involves: Love, Unity, And Working Together- **Ephesians 4:15-16**.
- **Romans 16:3-12**.

V. Those Who Love The Lord.

- Faithful Christians Who Are Fighting/Enduring Temptation- **James 1:12**.
- Those Keeping The Commandments Of The Lord- **John 14:15**.
- Those Who Love The Lord, And Their Brethren- **Philemon 5**.