

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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December 26, 2021

### “Our Want List”

By Curtis E. Flatt

A want list is one of the most common things known to our generation. We make a want list for things from the grocery store. Many of us make want lists with reference to many things. At birthdays, and especially at this season, children make their want lists.

However, we ought to make a want list with reference to really important thing, lest we forget— lest we forget. Using various words, the New Testament has much to say about the things we should want. Even in the Old Testament, people were told to desire good things and not to desire evil things. (Proverbs 11:23; 21:10.)



#### 1. Material Needs.

We all want material needs, of course, this is not wrong. The apostle Paul mentioned Epaphroditus, the messenger of the Philippians, as one who ministered to his wants. While we have need and desire for material things, we must remember that these are subject to the passing with using. Recall what Jesus said about these: “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeders them. Are ye not much better than they? (Matthew 6:24-26.)

How are we to get what we want in reference to material needs? Jesus said to ask for them. “Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11.). The apostle Paul said that we should work for them. “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10.)

#### 2. The Word.

The word of the Lord should be on our want list. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2.)

There are many reasons why everyone should want the word. It is not only the means whereby one can grow, but it is the power of God unto salvation and the means whereby one can be completely furnished unto every good work. (Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.). But How can we get this?

We can get the message of the Lord by hearing what He has to say and by receiving what we hear. The example of Cornelius in Acts 10:33 shows us how we can have the word. “...Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.” With that attitude, we will be ready to receive and obey whatever the word contains for us.

#### 3. Righteousness.

Righteousness should be on our want list. Jesus said, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6.) People can have righteousness— can even become servants of righteousness. This is done by obeying the gospel. “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18.) “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16.)

#### 4. Peace.

Peace is one of those things the whole world talks about. This should also be on our want list. Peter told Christians to seek peace: “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good: let him seek peace and pursue it.” (1 Peter 3:10-11.)

People need peace with both God and man. But how can we have peace? We can have peace with God by coming to Jesus, by obeying His word, by being saved and thereby added to His church where people are said to be at peace with God. *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who were sometimes were far off are made nigh by the the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”* (Ephesians 2:13-16.) We can have peace with men (most men) by living peaceably ourselves. (Romans 12:18.)

#### 5. Things Above.

If we are Christians, things above should be on our want list. *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God..”* (Colossians 3:1.) The very next verse tells us how to get these things above. *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”* (Colossians 3:2.) It is all a matter of what we want most. If we want the things of this earth most, it will not be possible to have the things which are above.

#### 6. A Better Country.

Great people of the past sought a better country. Be reminded of Hebrews 11:13-16, *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”*

But how they sought this is of interest to those of us who seek a better country. Moses is the example. *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”* (Hebrews 11:24-26.)

#### 7. A New Body.

The apostle Paul earnestly desired a new body. *“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,”* (2 Corinthians 5:2.)

As the years pass, many have this same desire. All should have this on their want list. But how can we have this? This can be attained by having the right attitude. *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-18.)

#### Your List.

Do you have a want list for such things as these? The wise have such a list. They have checked it over and over again. They are pursuing the proper means of procurement.

Are you?



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Meeks Street Church of Christ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber)

**And Our Facebook Page.**

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**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, Peggy Harville (cancer), Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, and Earl Mitchell.

LuAnne Parish is recovering at Corner Stone in room 13B.

Sandi Poole has had some back issues.

Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.

Preacher Jerry Henderson from Red Bay, Al.

Lynlie and Nellie Cottrell both have the Covid.

Pam and Lowell Gann both have Covid.

Brandi's Co-worker- Amelia (Covid).

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Nathan Meade  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *The Regret Of Missed Opportunities"*

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

Fred Johnson  
2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
*Page #29 , Question #1*

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

**Announcements:** Paul Busby  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Johnson  
Psalm 3:1-4  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Lord's Supper:** Russell Briggs  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Singing Service:** *Men Of The Congregation Lead Singing*  
**Invitation:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Sam Johnson

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

**December 29th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Russell Briggs  
Book of Isaiah  
*Page #20, Question #6*

**Invitation:**

**Song Leader:**

**Closing Prayer:**

Brian Meade  
Paul Busby  
Paul Johnson

# ***“The Regret Of Missed Opportunities”***

Lesson Text: **Luke 16:19-31 (Verse 25).**

## **I. We Don't Recognize Them.**

- A.** At times, some have missed opportunities by not knowing what they had.
  - Someone threw away some of Winston Churchill's belongings.
  - A farmer used a meteorite, valued at \$100,000.00, as a door stop.
  - One man bought a painting for \$4.00, and underneath it was an original copy of the Declaration of Independence worth One million dollars.
- B.** Some stubbornly think they know everything already.
  - The Jews of Jesus' day, who rejected Him, are a prime example- **John 9:41.**
  - They missed the greatest opportunity to learn from Jesus, come to Him, and be saved— **John 8:48-59.**
- C.** His hometown didn't recognize His Worth- **Mark 6:1-4.**

## **II. We Are Not Ready For Them.**

- A.** At times, some have missed opportunities by a lack of preparation. **Titus 3:1.**
  - We may not have the knowledge to help someone- **Hebrews 5:11-14.**
  - We may be fearful to try and fail- **Matthew 25:24-27.**
  - We may not have the resources they need- **Matthew 25:2-4.**

## **III. We Don't Want To Work For Them.**

- A.** At times, some have missed opportunities by being lazy.
- B.** Thomas Edison quote- *“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overhauls and looks like work.”*
- C.** Working For The Lord Does Require Labor- **Romans 12:11.**
- D.** **Romans 16:3; Philippians 4:3; Colossians 4:11-14.**
- E.** Our Identity Is To Be A Worker, Laborer, and Servant of the Lord.

## **IV. We Are Too Busy To Take Advantage Of Them.**

- A.** At times, some have missed opportunities by too many other things.
- B.** Some have *“too many irons in the fire.”*
- C.** **Luke 10:38-42.**

## **V. We Can Wait Too Late For Them.**

- A.** By Procrastination or Neglect, *“We never get around tuit.”*
- B.** **Ephesians 5:15-17.**
- C.** Opportunities for Evangelism, Service, Encourage & Strengthen Others....
- D.** *“I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”* (Etienne de Grellet QUAKER MISSIONARY)