

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 25, 2021

### ***“Do Not Grow Weary”***

By Joel Moore

It was 2007 and I was in a very rural part of the southernmost state of Mexico: Chiapas. My dad and I had been in the car all day (or, at least, what seemed like all day), had preached at two churches, and spent time with the Christians in each place. Finally, the sun had set, and we arrived where we were finally going to be able to lay down and sleep before another eventful day. The brother there told us he knew of an individual who wanted to study the Bible. Eyes half-open, we agreed to study with this man and, by 11 PM, we were heading to the closest river, so he could be baptized. While we were getting into the backseat of the car, my dad said, "Remember what Paul said: 'Do not grow weary while doing good.'"



At that moment, I felt like I had been punched in the gut (although I didn't have much of one then). Here I was focusing on how exhausted I was without realizing what a wonderful scene was about to unfold: a new brother in Christ! But while I certainly needed an attitude adjustment then, I'm not so sure this was the exact message Paul shared with the Christians in Galatia (Galatians 6:9).

The Greek word that is translated "grow weary" in Galatians is also translated as "lose heart" in other verses and is most closely related to the idea of becoming discouraged. Paul isn't teaching that we shouldn't be physically tired when doing good. (How have you felt changing a newborn's diaper at 2 AM?) He is, however, teaching that we shouldn't become discouraged as a result of doing good. And isn't that more relevant to us anyway?

Have you ever done something good and become discouraged as a result of it? Maybe you studied the Bible with someone and they didn't believe it. Did you get discouraged? Maybe you helped someone financially only to discover that you were being taken advantage of. Did you get discouraged?

Maybe you taught a Bible class and, instead of a shared interest in and appreciation for truth, you were met with criticism. Did you get discouraged? Maybe you gave someone your love and trust, only to have both violated. Did you get discouraged? I want to share three reminders to help you when you feel discouraged from doing good.

### **Reassess Your Motive**

Many times, discouragement from doing good comes from an improper motive. If, after doing good, we find ask ourselves, "Who noticed?" or "Why didn't anyone compliment me on the good job I did?" we need to reassess why we did good in the first place. Consider what Jesus taught in Matthew 6:1-4 regarding giving to the needy. His emphasis is on doing good in secret and not for the praise of others.

Our motive, contrary to what the world teaches, must be love (I Corinthians 13:1-3). We can do all the good we can, but if we have a self-serving motive, we forfeit the reward from our Father and "gain nothing" (Matthew 6:1; I Corinthians 13:3).

### **Don't Complain**

It is easy to complain when we feel discouraged. We express our frustration with others' behavior and, if we're not careful, wade into the treacherous waters of speculation and gossip. We act the way Elijah did in I Kings 19 when he was facing severe persecution at the hand of Jezebel. We say things like, "I have done all this good for you, Lord, so why am I be treated so badly?"

Aside from the simple prohibition against complaining in verses like I Corinthians 10:10 and Philippians 2:14, complaining is pernicious in that we choose to emphasize the negative over the positive. This is certainly not how Jesus behaved and cannot be how we behave (Isaiah 53:7; Luke 23:26-49).

## Do Good

The most damaging result of feeling discouraged comes when we throw up our arms and give up doing anything good in the future. We say, "If this is how I'm going to feel for doing good, I might as well do nothing." Can you imagine how Satan feels when we reach that conclusion? What about God? Paul taught that our reward from God will come "if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Nowhere in the Bible do we receive permission to give up doing good because we feel down or discouraged. Doing good is, paradoxically, the best way to overcome discouragement. Paul makes this very point: "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

So, my final encouragement for you is to not lose heart but to get busy doing good for the Lord. There is plenty of work to do and you are needed in that work. Yes, even you.

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## ***“Repent: God Is Ready to Forgive”***

By Stacy Crim

The visions Isaiah the prophet received were messages from God to Judah and Jerusalem. The first chapter reveals that God's people in the south had rebelled against Him (verse 2). The people were weighed down with sin (verse 4). They were guilty of forsaking the Lord (verse 4) and their worship had been corrupted (verses 10-15).

What does God expect of His people when they are no longer following Him? Repentance! God expects one to change. Change their directions, change their thoughts, change their behavior. Notice how this change and return to God (repentance) is described in verses sixteen and seventeen.

- ***Wash Yourselves, make yourself clean*** – sin is described as making one unclean, so the instruction is to wash it off metaphorically.
- ***Put Away the Evil*** – What one is doing wrong must be removed from one's life.
- ***Cease to do Evil*** – Stop doing what is wrong.
- ***Learn to Do Well*** – Doing what is right is learned. Become accustomed to doing what is right.
- ***Seek Judgment*** – Fairness and justice must always be sought after.
- ***Relieve the Oppressed*** – God expects His people to stand up for and correct that which is wrong.
- ***Defend the Fatherless*** – God expects His people to aid or defend those who are helpless.
- ***Plead of the Widow*** – God expects His people to be the voice for those unable to defend themselves.

Thankfully we serve a loving God who is ready to forgive when we repent. "...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (verse 18).

~via ***In Season and Out***; Huntington, West Virginia.

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**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, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad). Tim Harris Sr. and Anita Harris.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "Things That Are Accomplished"

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

Jerry Kennemur  
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
*Page 15, Question #1*

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

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Nathan Meade  
*Ephesians 6:10-13.*  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Lord's Supper:** Sam Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "A Strong Church"  
**Closing Prayer:** Russell Briggs

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

**April 28th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)  
*Page 14, Question #13*  
**Invitation:** Russell Briggs  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

# ***“Things That Are Accomplished”***

Lesson Text: **John 17:1-4.**

## **I. Things That Are Accomplished.**

- The Mission of Jesus- **John 4:34; Luke 9:31; John 19:30.**
- The Law of Moses- **Matthew 5:18; Romans 10:4.**
- God’s Purposes and Plans- **Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 3:9-11.**
- The Establishment of Christ’s Kingdom- **Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 16:18-19.**

## **II. What Should We Accomplish?**

- The works of God- **John 9:1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.**
- Evangelism- **Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 20:24; 1 Thess. 1:6-8.**
- Resisting Satan- **1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7-8.**
- Securing Our Salvation- **Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Peter 1:2-11.**
- Our Obedience To Christ- **2 Corinthians 10:5-6.**

## **III. Why Accomplish These Things?**

- To Glorify God- **Ephesians 3:14-21.**
- To Save Others- **John 4:35-38.**
- To Finish Well- **2 Timothy 4:6-8; Ecclesiastes 7:8.**

## **IV. How Can We Accomplish These Things?**

- By Trusting In The Lord- **Nehemiah 2:20.**
- By Having a Mind To Work- **Nehemiah 4:6; Romans 1:14-15.**
- By Courage & Working Together- **Nehemiah 4:7-19.**
- By Zeal- **Nehemiah 6:15.**
- By Sacrifice- **Nehemiah 4:6; Philippians 3:7-8.**
- By Prayer- **Nehemiah 4:9; James 5:16.**

# **“A Strong Church”**

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:10-13.**

## **I. What Makes A Church Strong?**

– Does Having Great Numbers in Attendance? **Deut. 7:7-9; Judges 7.**

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– Does Having Great Wealth? **Revelation 2:9; Revelation 3:17.**

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– Does Having Popularity? **1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Revelation 3:1-2.**

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– Does Worldly Wisdom? **1 Corinthians 1:20-21.**

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– How Does Faith Help? **Hebrews 6:11-12; Romans 4:21; Galatians 3:29.**

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– How Does Good Works Help? **Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:10; Eph. 4:16.**

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– How Does Friendliness/Love Help? **Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12.**

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– How Does Love For The Truth Help? **1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Rev. 3:8-10.**

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– How Does Commitment To Purity Help? **Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 5:1-5.**

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## **II. Why Be A Strong Church?**

– For The Good We May Accomplish- **John 15:8.**

– Not For Our Own Glory- **Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31.**

– But To Glorify God- **Philippians 1:10-11.**

– So That God’s Will Is Done On The Earth- **Matthew 6:10.**

## **III. Where Do We Get Our Strength?**

– From The Lord- **Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13.**