

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

October 6, 2024

“Are We Born In Sin?”

By Doug Roush

Mankind's greatest problem is sin because it is the reason for our separation from God (spiritual death), here and hereafter: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23; see Romans 2:1-11). Sin, and its devastating spiritual consequence, is a universal problem: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23).

Many people believe that we inherit the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin at our birth, and are thus, spiritually dead in sin from birth. The Westminster Confession of Faith (accepted by the Presbyterian Church and others) defines the doctrine of "Hereditary Depravity:" "They (Adam & Eve, D.R.) being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed to all their posterity, descending from them by ordinary generation" (Ch. VI, 3; The Book of Confessions, 6.033).

In other words, the guilt of Adam and Eve's sin was charged to every person who has ever been born. The transgression of Adam and Eve corrupted the nature of all human offspring. Is that what the Bible teaches? If it is then we must believe it and live accordingly.

However, if the doctrine of "Hereditary Depravity" is not in agreement with the Bible, it must be identified as a false doctrine.

Romans 5:12 reveals that the guilt and punishment of sin passes to all men "because all sinned." It does not say we are guilty of sin because Adam sinned. There is a big difference.

Sin is committed, not inherited. Ezekiel 18:20 reveals, *“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”*

That should forever settle the matter for Bible believers. We do not bear the guilt of our ancestors' sin; we bear the guilt of our own sin. Jesus died to cleanse our own conscience from our own sin (Hebrews 9:14; Acts 22:16).

Paul was "alive once without the law" (Romans 9:9). He was speaking of the universally shared period of the moral innocence of childhood. But then, "the commandment came, sin revived, and I died" - he matured to moral capacity and responsibility, he sinned against the law of God, thereby causing him to die, spiritually (Romans 9:9). He was not born in sin; he chose to sin, and the practice of sin resulted in his spiritual death.

But, someone asks, "Didn't David say that he was born in sin?" David acknowledged the sin-filled world in which his mother lived and into which he was born (Ps. 51:5). But David also said he had personally committed sin (Ps. 51:3-4). David's life illustrates what happens to each of us: *“God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes”* (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Sinful schemes lead to the practice of sin and its consequence of spiritual death (Romans 6:23). The Bible also teaches that each one of us will give an account of ourselves unto God; we will not give an account of our ancestors' actions (Romans 14:11-12). For us to be freed from our sin, we must be "born again" of water and the Spirit (John 3:3, 5; Acts 2:37-41), returning to the upright nature for which God created and saved us, by following Christ in the paths of righteousness.

“Why Do You Not Believe Me?”

By George Parsley

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). And John writes, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Along with, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

Although religious people agree with the basic point that Jesus has the truth or is the truth, most don't believe what He says. Jesus asked one time, “And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?” (John 8:45-46)

Boy, what a powerful question! “If I say the truth, why do you not believe me”? If we believe that Jesus is the way the truth and the life, then why do people not believe Jesus when He says some thing?

For example, when Jesus says to be baptized to be saved, why do you not believe it (Mark 16:16)? When Jesus says repent or perish (Luke 13:3), why do you not believe it? When Jesus said that Abraham, who is dead but is really alive (Matthew 22:32), why do you not believe it? When Jesus said that faithfulness receives the crown (Revelation 2:10), why do you not believe it? When Jesus said that few are saved (Matthew 7:13-14), why do you not believe it? And on and on we could go. So if Jesus is the truth, full of truth and made known the truth, then why do you not believe what He says? Pretty challenging question that has been asked by the Lord, isn't it?

Jesus answers His own question to these religious people. He said, “He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God” (John 8:46). A very pointed question returns a very pointed answer, they did not believe His words because they were not of God.

Christ's Kingdom: Literal Or Spiritual?

Christ's Kingdom Is Not:

- 1. Of This World - John 18:36.**
- 2. “Meat & Drink” - Romans 14:17.**
- 3. Entered By Natural Birth - John 3:1-7.**
- 4. Entered By Saying “Lord, Lord” - Matthew 7:21.**

Christ's Kingdom Is:

- 1. “Within You” - Luke 16:21.**
- 2. “Righteousness, Joy, & Peace” - Romans 14:17.**
- 3. Entered By Spiritual Birth - John 3:1-7.**
- 4. Entered By Doing The Father's Will - Matthew 7:21.**



Speaker: **Mitchell Dalrymple**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **October 20th -- 23rd 2024**

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

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, Anita Harris, Fred Johnson, Bill Hall, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Randall Oliver (Lynlie's Dad) is recovering well from procedure, Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer.

Northeast Church of Christ At Hamm Street in Tupelo is having a Gospel Meeting beginning October 6th—11th. Speaker: Shawn Chancellor. Starts Today!!

Our Gospel Meeting with Mitchell Dalrymple begins October 20th—23rd.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Connor Whittemore
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Theory Of Premillennialism"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Hebrews
Author: Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page #92, Question #12

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Can I Be Saved Like The Thief On The Cross?"
Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 9, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 28 Question #12
Invitation: Doug George
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Theory Of Premillennialism?”

Lesson Text: **Revelation 20:1-4.** The *Proof Text* For This Theory.

I. What Is Premillennialism?

- “Pre” Means Before. “Millennial” Means “1,000” “Ism” Means “Teaching”
- It Is A Speculative Theory Based On The Figurative Language Of Revelation— **Rev. 1:1.**
- Premillennialism Teaches: Christ’s Kingdom Is Future Rule On Earth For 1,000 Years.
- The Rapture, Great Tribulation, And The Battle Of Armageddon Are All Included.
- Chart #1 on Premillennial Timeline For Jesus’ Kingdom.
- The Main Problem Of Premillennialism— It Takes Things Out Of Context & Ignores Scripture.
- It Is Twisting The Scriptures— Eisegesis Or Exegesis? “To Draw Out” Or “To Lead Into”?
- The Warning Of **Revelation 22:18-19.**

II. A Look At The Text Of Revelation 20.

- Context Of *“Things which Must Shortly Take Place.”* **Revelation 1:1; 22:6.**
 - **NASB/ESV:** *“Soon Take Place.”*
 - **NET:** *“What Must Happen Very Soon.”*
 - **NIV:** *“What Must Soon Take Place.”*
- Premillennialism Goes Against The Purpose Of The Book Of Revelation:
 - To Give Hope To Christians Living In The Persecution Of Rome— God Will Prevail!
 - It Is Why It Was Signified and Was Not To Be Sealed Up For The Future- **Revelation 22:10.**
- Things Not Mentioned In Revelation 20:
 - The 2nd Coming Of Christ. - A Bodily Resurrection. - A Reign On The Earth.
 - The Literal Throne Of David. - Jerusalem Or Palestine. - Us Today.
 - Or Christ On Earth. These Are Assumed!
- Premillennialism Assumes This Is The Start Of Christ’s Kingdom.
 - David Jeremiah Quote On Revelation 20. (What Is The Millennial Reign Of Christ?).
 - Christ Wanted To Start A Kingdom When He Came The First Time— But Was Rejected!
 - But If The Jews Had Accepted Jesus:
 1. Jesus Would Not Have Died, 2. No Remission of Sins, 3. Church Would Not Be Purchased, 4. No Gospel Of Death, Burial, Or Resurrection.
 - This Is Absolutely Necessary For The Theory Of Premillennialism To Be True!
 - But This Goes Against The Prophecies Of The Kingdom:
 - **Isaiah 2:1-4**— Fulfilled In **Acts 2**; Just As Jesus Said In **Luke 24:46-57.**
 - “The Last Days” **Acts 2:16-17.**
 - House Established— **Matthew 16:18-19**— **I Timothy 3:15.**
 - Swords To Plowshares— **John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 10:4.**
- John, Jesus, & Jesus’ Disciples All Said It Was “At Hand.”
 - **Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 10:7.**
 - **Mark 15:43.**
- Realized Kingdom—**Matthew 26:29; Romans 14:17.**
- **Mark 9:1**—**Acts 1:8**— **Acts 2** Fulfillment.
- **Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9; Hebrews 12:28.**
- Thus, If Christ Already Has Established The Kingdom— Premillennialism Is False!
- What Men Want Is The Same Thing The Jews Wanted— An Earthly Kingdom.
- The Bible Doesn’t Teach An Earthly Reign Of Christ In Jerusalem!

“Can I Be Saved Like The Thief On The Cross?”

Lesson Text: **Luke 23:39-43.**

I. How Was The Thief Saved?

- Those Who Teach Salvation By Faith Alone Use The Thief To Justify This Doctrine.
- They Teach The Thief Did Not Have To Do Anything But Believe In Jesus.
- They Ask: Did He Take Communion? Did He Go On Mission Trips For Jesus? Did He Attend Church Services Regularly? Did He Give An Invitation? Was He A Song Leader At Church? Did Convert Many To The Lord? Did He Plant Any Churches? Was He Baptized Into Christ?
- Did He Have Opportunity To Have Done Any Of These?
- But What Did He Do?
- Jesus Clearly Offered Him Salvation.... Why?
- At First, Both Thieves Joined In— **Mark 15:32.**
- It Was Only One Thief That **Repented** Of This- **Luke 23:39-42.**
- The One Thief Makes A **Confession** Of Jesus In **vs. 41-42.**
 - He Said Jesus Had Done Nothing Wrong! Opposite Of The Accusations of the Jewish Leaders.
 - He Changed His Mind Quickly And Was Now Taking A Stand With Jesus! Defending Him!
 - He Knew About The Kingdom And Asked To Be Remembered In It!
 - Jesus & John Had Preached It! **Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17.**
- Jesus Had The Power To Forgive Sins While On Earth- **Luke 5:18-26; 7:36-50.**
- Jesus Gave Words Of Comfort And Assurance To This Thief- **vs. 43.**
- Jesus And The Thief Both Went To The Same Place After Death— **Luke 16:23.**

II. When Was The Thief Saved?

- The Thief Was Saved Before Baptism Was Commanded....
 1. Was Commanded AFTER Jesus Died & Arose— **Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16.**
 2. Was A Baptism Into Jesus’ Death— **Romans 6:3-4.**
 3. The Thief Was Never Subject To This Baptism In New Testament Conversion!
 4. Just Like Abraham, Noah, Or Moses Were Not Either!
- There Are Two Different Covenants....
 - **Deuteronomy 5:2-3.**
 - IT Governed ALL Israelites, such as Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel, and the thief on the cross.
 - It Never commanded people to be Baptized Into Christ!
- The Law of Moses Began At Mt. Sinai And Ended At The Cross of Calvary.
 - **Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:13-14.**
- The Old Testament Spoke of the Coming NEW TESTAMENT:
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-33— Hebrews 8:6-12.**
- Jesus’ Ministry was PREPARING for this Covenant:
 - **John 3:3-5; John 4:21-24; Matthew 26:28-29.**
- We Now Live Under The New Testament....
 - **Hebrews 9:15-17.**

III. How & When Am I Saved Today?

- **Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 2:37-41.**
- Since The New Testament Way Has Been Established— We Cannot Be Saved Like The Thief On The Cross.