

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 287-2187  
Churchatcorinth.com  
Meeksstreetchurchofchrist.com

December 24, 2017

### ***“The Great Challenge to be Humble Pt. I***

By Brian Meade

It is truly a great challenge to be a humble person in today’s world. The world makes it challenging by its love of the accolades, honor, prestige, and vanity for any accomplishments, social status, or ability it may possess.

We see a lot of people who driven to be the best at what they do— just for the trophies and bragging rights to do so. They love the praises of those around them and are quick to point out how superior they are to other people.



#### **I. Humility Goes Against the Attitude of the World.**

The world says, “*You deserve all the glory and pride you can get,*” or “*You’re better than everybody else, and “If you’ve got it, flaunt it.”*”

But the Bible goes against such an attitude (Psalm 75:5; Proverbs 11:2; Proverbs 16:18). In Micah 6:8, the prophet reminds his own people to be humble, when he says, “*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

The walk we have with God is one of obedience, kindness, and humbleness of mind. This is one of ways that God’s people have always stood out from the wickedness in the world (Proverbs 8:13; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; I John 2:15-17).

The people of the world may delight in pride and arrogance, but may it never be so among God’s people! God calls us out of the worldly and selfish nature that pride demonstrates. And it is Jesus, our Master & Savior, who leads us in this life of humility before God. It is our great example and pattern for lives who said, “*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*”<sup>29</sup> *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.*”<sup>30</sup> *For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” As we come to Jesus and learn how to live a gentle and humble life, we are transformed from “*the course of this world.*” (Eph. 2:2)

Jesus demonstrated humility in action as He washed the disciples’ feet in John 13:5-17. Jesus taught them by the powerful example of the Master washing the feet of His disciples. A lesson that would be needed as two of His disciples (James and John) came to Him desiring to “*Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory.*” (Mark 10:35-41).

Jesus immediately taught them how His kingdom would be different from the kingdoms of the Gentiles, as He said, “*You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.*”<sup>43</sup> *But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;*<sup>44</sup> *and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.*”<sup>45</sup> *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*” Humility in service is the way of God’s people (Matthew 5:3).

Notice what is said in Galatians 5:26, “*Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*” The Bible recommends the child of God to not even desire “vain glory.” That kind of attitude leads to someone always trying to outdo others for their personal glory.

## **II. Humility is Not Relying on Past Deeds.**

This means that we don’t pull out our trophies and show others all the accomplishments that we have under our belt in order to brag.

This is precisely what got King Nebuchadnezzar in trouble with God. Notice what he said in Daniel 4:30, “*The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”*”

King Nebuchadnezzar was ousted by God Himself for seven years in Daniel 4:31-33. Nebuchadnezzar learned to be humble by losing his great and exalted position (Proverbs 16:18; 29:23).

Compare Nebuchadnezzar’s pride with David’s humility in 2 Samuel 7:18, when David prayed to God, *Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord, and he said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far? David was not as the proud king, who gloried in his own accomplishments. We should give the glory to God always, “so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”* (I Corinthians 1:31)

Jesus tells us the proper attitude about our deeds in service to God, “*So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’*” (Luke 17:10) We still need these words of humility to live by today!

## **“A Study of James 1:19-20 - Lesson 1”**

By Phillip R Keathley

The book of James discusses much from God’s that helps each of us become a stronger Christian. The book discusses topics such as: the necessity of working for the Lord rather than being hearers only (James 1:22), the concept of a working faith (James 2:24), the importance of controlling how we speak and the dangers of uncontrolled speech (James 3). Among the topics in chapter 4 include submission to God, humility, the preeminence of Christ as Lawgiver, and the uncertainty and brevity of life. In chapter 5 James discusses the destructiveness of worldly riches, patience, the importance of prayer, and the results of converting a sinner from their wicked ways. As a result, a closer look at the teachings of this book would yield much fruit to the diligent student. In this article and subsequent articles, we wish to focus on the wisdom of God that is stated in James 1:19-20.

### **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren...”**

This statement is a reminder to each of us that Christians must guard against the dangers of being slow to listen to others, speaking quickly, and being quick to wrath. Sometimes we may attribute these behaviors to those in the world. Indeed, there are many in the world that would find they are missing the exhortation of James in verse 19. However, James exhorts his “beloved brethren,” Christians. The scriptures teach us of the importance of self control. This is one of those areas in which God’s word is reminding Christians that self control is necessary, lest we too find ourselves behaving in a manner that would negatively impact our spiritual well being as well as those around us. There is much wisdom in the admonition to be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath. A good listener is able to use the information they have obtained to formulate a thoughtful, wise response. They can consider those things spoken to them (one who is swift to hear, slow to speak), and can control their emotions and avoid wrath.

### **“...let every man be...”**

As this verse continues its admonition, the phrase “let every man be” exemplifies the expectation of God’s command for each of us to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. Furthermore what we learn is God is making it clear that the admonition of James 1:19 is not a suggestion or a goal for one to half heartedly attempt. The phrase begins with the word “let” and ends with the word “be” which indicates this is a characteristic or state of mind that we must have because God has declared it to be. This type of language is used in other places in the scriptures. For example, Gal 1:8:9 states the following: “8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” In both verses the phrase “let him be accursed” is found. The end result of one who attempts to preach another Gospel isn’t such that they *might* be accursed but “let them be accursed.” God has declared that they definitively are accursed. By looking at this we can understand that it is an expectation of God, a command that every Christian “*be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.*”

### **“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”**

In verse 20 James connects the lack of self control to the wrath of man. The NKJV renders the verse : “for the wrath of man *does not produce* the righteousness of God.” So we learn from James that not only is lack of self control the opposite of God’s righteousness, but it will never produce God’s righteousness while one remains in such a state. The Gospel of Christ will teach each of us how to live such that we are emulating the righteousness of God. Paul wrote the following in Romans 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Here we learn that it is in the Gospel, where we find the righteousness of God. The Gospel of Christ points us toward adhering to the teaching of the Holy Spirit as He moved the New Testament writers to record for us, the righteousness of God. In fact the New Testament teaches us that the entire Bible is profitable for teaching us to know the righteousness of God. Paul teaches us in 2 Tim 3:16,17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Therefore we must turn to the pages of the Bible, and be swift to hear the words of God, that we can be the people that God has commanded us to be. Tit 2:11,12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Cheryl Ridgeway, Elmo Wilson is recuperating at home.

The family of David Hartsell who passed away last Tuesday.

Prayers for his family: Him & Belinda, and children Holly, Brad, and Kattie.

Prayers for the family of Billy Mac Fredrick, who also passed away.

Prayers for one year old Ava Lynn.

Brian & Brandi Meade will be going to Ky. for Christmas.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:**

**Preaching:** Sam Peters

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

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

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

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Sam Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Table:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** Russell Briggs & fill in  
**Song Service** Men's Singing Service  
**Invitation:** Jimmy Johnson  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.

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

**December 27<sup>th</sup>:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
*1 & 2 Samuel* (Mike Willis)  
Page 10, lesson 2  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Closing Prayer:** Brian Meade