

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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October 24, 2021

“Evidence That Jesus Cares For You”

By Jarrod Jacobs

We live in a time in which few people seem to care for us. David knew this feeling and wrote on one occasion, *“I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul”* (Ps. 142:4). In contrast, we read Peter’s words, reminding us of the care Christ has for us: *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”* (I Pet. 5:7).

Yet, how can we see evidence of Christ’s care for us? Let us look first at His care for others while He walked the earth. A very well-known passage is the statement, *“Jesus wept”* (Jn. 11:35). Do we remember the context in which this statement was made? Jesus wept while standing at the tomb of Lazarus! He cared for Lazarus and his family and showed it through His weeping.

We know that Jesus cares for us because of His great sacrifice upon the cross (Rom. 5:8). Before this event, Jesus made the statement, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”* (Jn. 15:13). Indeed, Jesus did this when He died upon the cross to be the great sacrifice for man’s sin. The *“lamb of God”* took away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29).

Yet, unlike a literal lamb, who was taken against its will and killed in Old Testament days, Jesus said, *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”* (Jn. 10:17-18; cf. Matt. 26:53-56). It is evident that Christ cares for us when we see the extent of His sacrifice for us!

Christ’s care is seen when we read of the Lord’s plan for salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Our Lord wants us to be saved from sin and live with Him in Heaven one day. Therefore, He cares enough to tell us what to do to be saved and have a right relationship with Him. Read I Peter 5:7 again, and remember that these words were written to Christians.

Christ wants our care cast upon Him, not some or part of it, but “all” of it! How many today would look to their fellow man and say, “Please give me all your cares, concerns, and worries, because I care for you”? Yet, Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, wants “all” our care “cast” upon Him, and He means it! Men may disappoint us, but Christ never will! He loves and cares for us.

These are but a few examples of Christ’s care for us. In learning this great truth, let us also remember that the Bible says we are to walk in His steps (I Pet. 2:21-22). We are to speak and act according to what the Lord has authorized (permitted, Col. 3:17). As we think about these words, consider who has been the recipient of our care for them (Matt. 25:31-44)? How many can say they have seen “Christ in us” (Gal. 2:20) by the care we have shown them? (cf. Matt. 5:16)



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And Our Facebook Page.

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“PLACING MEMBERSHIP”

By Lee Moses

Sometimes questions arise as to whether it is scripturally necessary, or even scripturally permissible, to “place membership” with a congregation. A modern brother or sister may raise the objection: “I’m a member of the church of Christ, and that’s good enough for me.” What this person means is: “I am a member of the universal church of Christ, but I have no interest in serving in a local congregation.”

Others seem to believe that placing membership is a denominational concept, rather than a Scriptural concept. However, the term simply means to identify oneself with a local congregation. Please consider a few reasons why it is both Scripturally permissible and Scripturally necessary to place membership with a faithful church of Christ after leaving another.

Each Christian Is a Member of a Congregation

In the New Testament, each first-century Christian is understood to be a member of a particular congregation. The New Testament does speak of the universal church of Christ, into which the Lord adds the saved when they are baptized (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23). However, far and away, the New Testament most often uses “church” to refer to the local congregation (Acts 14:27; 20:17; Romans 16:1, 23).

Paul wrote to the “saints which are at Ephesus” (Ephesians 1:1). Here it is expressed that he wrote to “saints,” or Christians – but were they not saints who were members of the local church at Ephesus? He wrote “unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord” (I Corinthians 1:2). “Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thessalonians 1:1). Whether Paul addressed “the saints at [whatever location]” or “the church at [whatever location],” he was addressing the same group.

Each Christian Is to Function in the Church

Members are responsible to function within the body (Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:16), and the body functions within each local congregation. There is no larger organizational structure of the church (compare with Philippians 1:1). If we do not function within a local church, we do not function within the church at all.

Each Christian Is to Submit to the Elders

Christians have the responsibility to submit to local leadership, while each eldership has the responsibility to oversee the flock they are among (Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2). If one never submits to an eldership, he never complies with his responsibility to submit to an eldership, and he hinders elders from performing their responsibility to oversee the flock.

Each Christian Identified with a Local Congregation

After Saul was converted and returned to Jerusalem, he knew he had to identify himself with the congregation there. This is why “he assayed to join himself to the disciples” there (Acts 9:26). There is no difference between this and what is sometimes called “placing membership.” If Saul saw the need to identify himself with a faithful congregation where he was living, why would we not have the same need? If one lives in an area where there are no

faithful congregations, placing membership is obviously not an option. In such instances, one should again do what the first century Christians did, and establish congregations in those areas (compare with Acts 8:4ff; 11:19-21). Otherwise, placing membership is both scripturally permissible and scripturally necessary.

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), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Mrs. Jennie Daniel (Dan and Lynlie's neighbor), Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell.

Betty Hurst is at Magnolia Hospital in Corinth and needs our prayers.
Melissa Combs (Brian's sister in Ky) is in Central Baptist in Lexington, Ky.
And recovering from surgery Friday.
Lee Busby is recovering from out patient surgery last Friday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Why Many Fail To Prepare For Judgment"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur 1 Corinthians (Mike Willis) <i>Page 75, Question #24</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Nathan Meade <i>Psalm 2:1-6</i>
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper:	Fred Johnson
Assisting:	— —
Singing Service:	Men of the Congregation Lead Singing
Invitation:	Fred Johnson
Closing Prayer:	Doug George

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 27th

Upstairs Bible Class:	Paul Johnson Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis) <i>Page #43, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Dan Cottrell
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Closing Prayer:	Nathan Meade

“Why Many Fail To Prepare For Judgment”

Lesson Text: Luke 13:1-5.

- The Bible teaches us to prepare for Judgment— **Matthew Chapters 24-25.**

I. Many See It As Too Inconvenient To Prepare.

- Many things to do to be prepared for a storm or other natural disasters.
- Many look at it as too big a burden, job, or task to do— rather not take the time and effort to do so.
- **Application:** Sin must be given up, worship, sacrifices, and devotion to God.
Matthew 16:24-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5.

II. Many Don’t Believe Judgment Is Coming.

- The Galveston Hurricane of 1900.
- Atheist, Agnostics, and Skeptics are wrong!
- **2 Thessalonians 3:2; 2 Peter 3:3-4. (Vs. 10).**
Application: Hebrews 11:7.

III. Many Are Waiting For Later To Prepare.

- Many Sad Stories of those who waited too late to prepare for a storm.
- They know the need to prepare, and are willing to, but just not now.
- **Application:** What are the results of Waiting?
 - (1) We don’t do what we need to do early.
 - (2) We neglect and delay our own salvation (**Hebrews 2:3; Acts 22:16**).
 - (3) We can miss heaven! **2 Corinthians 6:2.**

IV. Many Are Too Stubbornly Set In Their Ways To Prepare.

- Stubbornness is the cause of this hindrance to prepare.
- The Challenger Tragedy in 1986.
- **Application: Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 17:10.**
- Stubbornness has caused many to be unprepared: Israel, Ahab, King Saul....

V. Many Will Let Pride Get In The Way Of Preparing.

- Pride can cause Us To Feel Confident and Press On, Even When We Shouldn’t.
- The Titanic Disaster in 1912.
- **Application:** Edom- **Obadiah 1:1-4.** Israel- **Amos 4:12; 5:4-6.**

VI. Many Are Completely Caught Off Guard And Not Prepared.

- The Bible Has Given Us Warning Ahead Of, On What Basis, & The Need To Be Ready! **2 Corinthians 5:10;**
- Many Storms take people by surprise for various reasons- Mt. Saint Helens 1980.
- **Application:** Because We Know, We Should Prepare! **1 Thess. 5:1-6; Luke 12:47.**