

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

February 6, 2022

“The Not In The Devil’s Tale”

By John Mundy

“THEN THE SERPENT SAID TO THE WOMAN, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE” (Genesis 3:4). In examining this dialogue, only a single word is added by the devil, or this statement would echo exactly what God had said previously.

Notice Genesis 2:16,17 - And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* You shall -vs- You shall not. This one word sums up an epic battle that has been raging since the beginning of time: Good versus evil; Right versus wrong; God versus Satan.

It took but one word to change the truth of God into the lying tale of the devil. Yet, one word was adequate for the task... he was successful!

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate (Genesis 3:6).

Though God had been nothing but benevolent, kind, and truthful toward Adam & Eve, one word from the devil was tempting enough to relinquish their fellowship and loyalty to The Creator in favor of the glitz and glamour of sin. Oh, Satan poured a little "frosting" on top of it (see Gen. 3:5) but he apparently had her at "not." We are quick to criticize the woman and usually more harshly than the man (though both sinned against God)... but are we any better than they? Is Satan still having "one-word" success in tempting us to do evil?

Consider the following:

You do NOT need to assemble with the saints.

God's people have always been instructed to meet together at appointed times. The Jews had the Sabbath, feast days, synagogue meetings, etc. In these meetings, knowledge is gained, faith is made stronger, and beautiful fellowship is enjoyed. Likewise, the church of the New Testament is to meet together to eat the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7), to take up collections (1 Corinthians 16:1,2), to worship in song and prayer (1 Tim. 2:8; Ephesians 5:18-20 et al). The Hebrew writer tells us that we have a duty to stir up and encourage others and we discharge that duty when we assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:23-27).

God tells us not to forsake the assembly and the devil tells us "not" to assemble... AND WE LISTEN to the devil. It is simply unfathomable that we can allow vacation, weariness, slight illness, inclement weather, etc. keep us from assembling with the saints when the same condition doesn't keep us from going to the movies, going shopping, going to the ballgame, etc. Yet, with only one word, "not," the devil has convinced us to listen to him rather than The Lord.

You do NOT need to study the Bible.

God says to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:14-18). We are to be able to handle God's word correctly (2 Timothy 2:15) and use it to form the arguments for our faith (1 Peter 3:15). This obviously means we are going to have to put in the time and effort of intense study and meditation on God's word if we are going to fulfill these commands. But the devil says we do "NOT" need to put in such effort. He does this by giving us a TV (or 2 or 5!) and the internet, and newspapers, and magazines, and email, and e-readers, and ipads, and... ad infinitum. We gladly pick these up and pore over them gleaning all the worldly knowledge we can while failing to add one cubit to our spiritual stature. We have enough time and energy for these but not for The Lord's word. And, once again, with but one word, "not," the devil leads us into disobedience.

You do NOT need to pray.

God speaks to us through His word (Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19). We speak to Him through prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:16,17). Prayer is our lifeline and we should value it, much like a soldier out in the field would value his radio with which he can contact his commander. We are God's soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3-7). But wait, here comes the devil and he tempts us to concentrate on how busy our lives can be and how we can trust in ourselves or in the philosophies of men for help rather than talking to God. We abandon our lifeline and lose faith in our basis of communication. In this condition we dare not even make request of "the commander" for he has told us we must ask in faith (Matthew 21:22; James 1:6,7). Though our Lord asks for our prayers, with but a word, "not," the devil tempts us to forsake our communication lifeline.

This is but a sampling of how the devil is still at work. He only needs one word to change God's life-saving message into a soul-condemning lie. God says to believe, repent, confess our faith and be baptized to be saved (Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; Rom 10:10) but the devil has convinced legions to "not" be baptized. What did Adam & Eve profit by listening to the devil???

BEWARE OF THE NOT IN THE DEVIL'S TALE!

"Some Thoughts On Organized Religion"

By Tim Haile

People often excuse their lack of religious affiliation by claiming that they are not comfortable with "organized" or "formal" religion. Some of these people claim to believe in God and in the Bible, but they have no interest in attending any church service. They take comfort in their personal beliefs and individual practices. They believe themselves to be "spiritual," but without any church affiliation. What does the Bible say about "organized" religion?

It is true that the Scriptures emphasize the importance of individuality in service to God. Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). And it is individuals that will stand before the judgment seat of Christ where "*each one*" will be judged according to "*his deeds*" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

It is also true that some levels and types of "organization" are unscriptural and wrong. For example, the gospel of Christ does not authorize any organizational connections between local churches. Each local church is to have its own "elders" (Acts 14:23).

These elders, also called "pastors" and "bishops" (see Acts 20:17 and 28), are to superintend the flock that is "among them" and they are to oversee only that church (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2). No scriptural authority exists for them to rule over the members of other churches where they are not members.

Furthermore, no scriptural authority exists to form any religious organization that is larger than, smaller than, or other than the local church. This prohibits the organizational structures of Catholicism and most denominational churches.

However, the Bible does authorize the organization of the local church. In its universal sense, the church has no organization except for Christ as its Head (Ephesians 5:23). This same verse also teaches that Christ is the Savior of the church. Baptized believers are added by God to the universal church (Acts 2:38, 47; 5:11, 14).

Once saved, these saints join together in their respective communities in a local church for the purpose of collective functions (Acts 9:26; Ephesians 4:12-16). As noted above, each local church is to be ruled by qualified elders (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Individual saints are to submit to their rule in the divinely designed organization of the local church (Hebrews 13:17). God commands Christians to "assemble" (Hebrews 10:25), and the New Testament gives the reasons for these assemblies (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20-33; 14:15, 26; 16:1-2).

The Lord's Supper is an assembly function (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:20 & 33). Those who refuse to attend church services due to a rejection of what they call "organized religion" make themselves unable to scripturally observe the Lord's Supper!

So, while it is good to reject the organizations of human origin and design, one must not reject God's organization — the New Testament church!

By rejecting ALL "organized" religion, one rejects God's very "eternal purpose" (Ephesians 3:10-11). The apostle went on to say, "*Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen*" (Ephesians 3:21).

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, Sandra and Randall Oliver.

Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Doug George
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Religious Liars"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur
2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page #38, Question #15

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Luke 23:32-33
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "The Three Crosses Of Calvary"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 9th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: Book of Isaiah
Starting Page & Question: Page #62, Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

“Religious Liars”

Lesson Text: John 8:42-45. These were Religious People, Yet Liars.
Can People Be Religious Liars Today? _____.

I. Those Claiming Fellowship With God, Yet Walking In Darkness.

– 1 John 1:5-7; 1 John 2:9; Isaiah 8:20; Ephesians 5:11-12.

What does it mean to walk in Darkness? _____
_____.

Notes: _____.

II. Claiming To Know God, Yet Not Keeping His Commandments.

– 1 John 2:3-6; John 14:15; 1 John 5:1-3.

How Important Is God’s Word To Having Relationship With Him?

_____.

Notes: _____.

III. Whoever Claims The Father, Yet Denies Jesus As The Christ.

– 1 John 2:22-23; John 5:22-24; John 14:6.

Can One Have God And Not Have Jesus? _____.

Notes: _____.

IV. Anyone Who Claims To Love God, Yet Hates His Brother.

– 1 John 4:20-21; 1 John 3:13-15.

Notes: _____.

V. Whoever Claims To Be In Christ, Yet Adds To His Words.

– Proverbs 30:6; Titus 1:10-14; 1 Timothy 4:1-3.

When Will Men Be Found To Be Liars? _____.

“The Three Crosses Of Calvary”

Lesson Text: **Luke 23:32-43.**

I. The Cross Of The Innocent One.

- Sinless Perfection- **John 1:29; 1 Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:9.**
- Offering For Our Sins- **Isaiah 53:10-12; 1 Peter 1:18-19.**
- Model of Forgiveness- **Luke 23:34; Matthew 6:14.**
- Patient Endurance- **1 Peter 2:23-24; Luke 23:35-37.**
- Perfect Obedience- **Hebrews Philippians 2:7-8.**
- He Was Highly Honored- **Philippians 2:9-11.**

II. The Cross Of The Repentant One.

- Changed Mind- **Mark 15:29-32.**
- Right Sense Of Justice- **Luke 23:40-41.**
- Desired To Be Remembered- **Luke 23:42.**
- He Was Saved- **Luke 23:43.**

III. The Cross Of The Disobedient One.

- Lawless Life- **Matthew 27:38.**
- Carnal-Mindedness- **Luke 23:39.**
- Hardness Of Heart- **Luke 23:40-41; Hebrews 3:12.**
- Continued Disobedience- No Hint of Repentance.
- He Was Lost- **Romans 2:5-6.**

IV. What Happened That Day!

- 1. One Died For Sin- 1 Corinthians 15:1-3.**
- 2. One Died In Sin- John 8:21-24.**
- 3. One Died To Sin- Romans 6:1-10.**