

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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“What Money Can And Cannot Buy” #3 (Final)

By Brian Meade

We are all born into this world where money is required for nearly everything we do or need in this economy. Our life seems to be restricted, controlled, and dominated by how much or how little money we have in our bank accounts. To many in the world, money is everything! It is “what makes the world go around.” It is what opens closed doors, gets one out of traffic tickets, buys privileges that others without it cannot afford.

The world’s view is essentially: that money can buy anything and everything— But what the Lord teaches us is strikingly different from that view!

9. Money Can Buy Someone’s Disloyalty To Others.... But Not Someone’s Loyalty.

We read in 2 Peter 2:15, *“They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;”* Balak, the king of the Moabites, wanted Balaam to curse Israel in order to defeat them (Numbers 22:1-14). Balaam was a man of God, who at the first, seemed to be uncompromising in what was right and good.

Balaam had asked God what to do and God answered in verse 12, *“And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”* But yet, when Balak sent more princes and more honorable than the first ones (vs. 15), Balaam desired to see if God would let him go (vs. 19). God had already spoken concerning this matter, what further need was there to go to God again? *Was Balaam hoping God would change His mind and let him go? It goes along with with what Peter stated in 2 Peter 2:15, that Balaam’s convictions were for hire. He had compromised what he knew he should do— for what he knew he could have! His disloyalty, at least to some degree, was bought and paid for by the King of Moab. He should have stayed home!*

We read in Judges 16:4-6, *“Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, “Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.” So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.”* Delilah so easily sold out Samson for the reward she could have! All it took was enough silver to buy her disloyalty.

Our Last example is the most famous of all, the betrayal of Jesus by his own friend, Judas Iscariot. *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”* (Matthew 26:14-16). All it took for Judas to turn Jesus over to the guards was thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. If you compare it with the amount of silver that Delilah received, it was considerably less!

But I am glad not everyone’s loyalty has a price! There are people of faith that would never consider giving up what they know to be right for the temporary gains for such disloyalty. In Genesis 14:22-23, Abraham would take nothing from the king of Sodom, *“lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”* Elisha was of the same type, and would not take the gifts that Naaman offered him for helping him to be healed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-16).

And in Galatians 2:3-5, Paul did not compromise the gospel for those who wanted to bind circumcision on Gentile converts. To this, Paul would say, *“to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”* (Vs. 5).

It takes someone who’s willing to, *“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”* (Proverbs 23:23).

10. Money Can Buy A Watch To Keep Time.... But Not More Time Than We Have.

People spend hundreds or even thousands of dollars on high end retail watches, such as Rolex brand luxury watches. Our world greatly prizes such material gain as status symbols. Or one can buy the latest Timex, it doesn’t really matter the cost— all watches can do is give us the current time of the day.

We read the words of the inspired apostle Paul, who wrote, *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”* (Ephesians 5:15-16). Paul reminds us to be wise as we live and make the most of our time here. A watch can help us keep track how many hours we have left in the day. In some ways, it’s a reminder of the forward flow of time. It reminds us that once we use our time, we can’t have it back.

But that is all a watch can do. It cannot give us any more time by wearing it. That’s why we need to good time managers and eliminate wasting time on fruitless endeavors.

We need to adopt the attitude of our Master, Jesus, as He said, *“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”* (John 9:4). If we want to be like Jesus, we must live wise and focus on what really matters!

11. Money Can Buy A Mansion On The Earth.... But Not A Mansion In Heaven.

There are people who live in some of the extraordinary dwelling places here on earth. We call them mansions. They have some of the finest of comforts and luxury for those who can afford them. You may have watched some of the shows on television that allow you to tour these mansions. Most people, like myself included, feel somewhat like we would love to have a home like that, if they were given away. But we forget that even the finest in houses on the earth are nothing to what awaits the Christian in heaven.

In John 14:2-3, Jesus said to His disciples, *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

The King James and the New King James Bibles use the word “mansion” in John 14:2. But it should be translated “dwelling places.” But regardless, it will be where the saints will abide for eternity. That’s why Paul said, *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”* (Philippians 3:20). Despite the very popular song by Led Zeppelin about a woman who’s buying the “Stairway to Heaven”— You cannot buy your home in eternity! It’s only through submission and obedience to Christ that we can enter in (Hebrews 5:9; Matthew 7:21).

But I am reminded of the Roman commander in Acts 22, who inquired about Paul’s Roman citizenship. *“The commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.” And Paul said, “But I was actually born a citizen.”* (Acts 22:28). Some can buy their citizenship here, and that may be well and good for a while, but we need to be more concerned about our future home with God.

As a matter of fact, the more we are at ease and comfort here, the less we may want to leave these mansions for the dwelling places in heaven. We must truly long to be with Christ, which Paul says, *“....having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”* (Philippians 1:23).



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, Greyson Reynolds (Nellie's classmate), Sandra Oliver, and Janis Johnson (Savannah), and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Tough Questions About Christianity Pt. 1"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Jerry Kennemur
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)
Page #41 Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Fred Johnson
Psalm 5:1-12
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: *Men of the Congregation Lead Singing*
Invitation: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

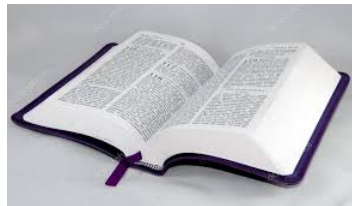
May 25th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Jeremiah & Lamentations
(John Humphries)
Starting Page & Question: *Page #26, Question #5*
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Memory Verse of the Week:

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJB)

"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."



“Tough Questions About Christianity Part 1”

Lesson Text: **1 Peter 3:15**. We must be ready to answer the “*tough questions*.”

- Tough questions do come: Jesus—**John 18:19**.

I. Does It Even Matter What I Believe?

- **Assumptions:** Beliefs don’t matter. The only thing that counts is getting what you want out of life. As long as you are happy, it doesn’t matter what you believe.
- **Challenge:** Suppose you bought the sports car online in mint condition. But when you went to get it, it was in bad condition. You are a fraud victim!

^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- Yes, It Does Matter What You Believe, And Here’s Why....
- God Requires More From Us Than Just Believing What Makes Us Happy- **Matthew 16:24-25**.
 - This Is Subjective And Self-indulgent Reasoning- **Proverbs 14:12; 2 Thess. 2:9-12**.
- Some Beliefs That Do Matter: **1**. Belief in Jesus- **John 8:24**. **2**. Belief in the Resurrection- **2 Timothy 2:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:12-17; Mark 12:27**; **3**. Moral Beliefs- **Isaiah 5:20; Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 5:28; 5:21-22**.

II. Aren’t All Religions Basically The Same?

- **Assumptions:** All religions, including Christianity, teach basically the same thing. They are just different paths to improving your life and spiritual side.
- **Challenge:** Driving with Google Driving Directions; and you become totally lost because the maps were faulty and not accurate. Religions are like maps of life. On the surface, some religions may look alike because they ask similar questions. It’s the answers that are different.

^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- How They Answer The Questions— With or Without Scripture? With Or Without Contradictions!
- When Religions Teach Inconsistent, Contradictory, And Malign The Truth— Not From Jesus!
- Baptism Saves Or Doesn’t? (**Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21**); Women Preachers Or Not? (**1 Tim. 2:12**); Instrumental Music In Worship Or Not? (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**); Which Day For Lord’s Supper? (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7**); Calling The Preacher: Reverend, Pastor, or Father? (**Matthew 23:8-12**).
- All Religions Are Not The Same— To Be The Same....**1 Corinthians 1:10**.

III. How Can Anyone Say They Know The Truth?

- **Assumptions:** No one can know which religious beliefs are true or false, so Christians can’t say they know what’s true and what’s not. Truth is relative.

– **Challenge:** Relativism is the belief that we cannot know what is true. Here’s the problem: Take the statement, we cannot know what is true. This statement would have to be true for relativism were correct. But relativism says we cannot know if anything is true or false, thus relativism is self-refuting.

^^ How Would You Answer The Question?

- Truth Is Defined By What Agrees To The Facts And Reality.
- $2 + 2 = 4$; $4 + 4 = 8$ Mathematics Have Facts And Based In Real Numbers— Not Relative!
- **John 18:37-38; John 17:17; Romans 1:25; Ephesians 4:25**.
- How Do we Know The Truth- **John 8:31-32; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1**.
- **Consequences:** False Teaching = To Truth; No One Could Be A False Teacher.