

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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

Visit Our Website at:  
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### **“What Money Can And Cannot Buy” #2**

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!

#### **4. Money Can Buy Books Filled With Knowledge.... But Not A Life Led By True Knowledge.**

When one goes to bookstores— like Barnes And Noble, Books A Million, or at the local Walmart— you will see a lot of books there that offer knowledge on a variety of subjects. Some are the “self-help” variety that offer some sense of improvement with our daily lives; but their effectiveness is sometimes in question. Other books are related to home repair, gardening, car repair, and can be helpful in those areas. Then there is the books about knowledge and learning from a secular, worldly view that often leads people away from God’s ways (Isaiah 59:8-9). Many have purchased such books to find answers to what they are looking for, but never consider that God’s word has true wisdom for daily living.

In 1 Corinthians 1:21, Paul tells us, *“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”*

Men often reject the true wisdom that comes from God, to go after false knowledge. That’s why Paul warned Timothy to avoid *“profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”* (1 Timothy 6:20). But money cannot buy the life directed by true wisdom that the Bible teaches. It is priceless! One can see it when it in the actions of those who follow the Scriptures!

#### **5. Money Can Buy Your Way Out Of Prison.... But Not From God’s Judgment.**

The Bible says in Proverbs 17:23, *“A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom to pervert the ways of justice.”* Even from ancient times, men have taken bribes from others who seek to get their way, even when it perverts justice! One typical way men do that today is to “pay off” judges and policemen to get out of the penalty of their crimes. Isaiah condemned those who would do this by saying, *“Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!”* (Isaiah 5:23).

This may happen this side of eternity, but there’s coming a day in which God will punish all those who do evil. And Proverbs 11:14 warns those who have bought their way out of just punishment, *“Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.”* All the money in the world will not bribe God from doing what is right and just! Money has no value to God!

God’s judgment is all encompassing, as the Bible teaches, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10). In God’s judgment, we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8).

## **6. Money Can Buy You A Clean House For You.... But Not A Clean Life Before God.**

As long as you have the means, you can pay someone to clean your house for you. Some people may hire someone to come weekly or monthly for a regular cleaning— doing the vacuuming, laundry, dishes, dusting, moping, and windows...etc. Some may even afford to have servants who live with them to be the maid or butler for them. In 2 Chronicles 9:4, the queen of Sheba saw all of the greatness of Solomon's servants, *"the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers...."*

But what is vastly more important is to have a life that is clean and pure before God. Paul said to Christians, *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (2 Corinthians 7:1; see also James 1:21).

Someone has rightly said, "Dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives." It is true because we need to study and grow in Christ to stay strong against sin (Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:11). We must let the word of God lead us and reinforce us in what we know to be right. Biblical examples of men like Joseph in Genesis 39, who did what Paul would say later, "Flee sexual immorality...." (1 Corinthians 6:18). Money cannot buy your purity before God.

## **7. Money Can Buy You Beauty Products And Beautiful Clothes.... But Not The True Beauty of the Heart Given To God.**

Ladies may buy the best make up and accessories to enhance their good looks and appearance. Money can buy the latest in fashion designer clothes to wear, but that is not what is of any value before God. Peter addresses this in 1 Peter 3:3-4, *"Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."* Inner beauty is far superior to the outer beauty!

It is interesting that the word "cosmetics" comes from the Greek word kosmos. It means "to arrange, to put in order" (Eng., "cosmetic")

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 14). Wearing makeup and nice clothing (as long as it is modest) is not wrong, but we must not make our focus on the outer person to the neglect of the incorruptible beauty. Our outward appearance is only temporary at best, while the other lasts forever!

## **8. Money Can Buy You Friends For A Little While.... But Not Friends Who Are Always There.**

Proverbs 19:4 *"Wealth adds many friends, But a poor man is separated from his friend."*

Money can buy acquaintances who will be happy to partake of your prosperity or your generosity, but not friends who will stick by you through thick and thin.

In the parable of the prodigal son, it was obvious that he may have had many "fair weather" friends to help him spend his inheritance. But notice what happened when the money ran out, *"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want."* (Luke 15:13-14).

But money cannot buy true and loyal friends! There are friends who do not use us for what we can give them, and then forsake us. There are the kind of friends that are not influenced by money or what advantages they may use our friendship for. We should make those kind our friends and avoid the others.

Notice in Proverbs 17:17, *"A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity."* Their love is not fickle or just temporary. That's really the way it should be!

*"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* (Proverbs 18:24 ESV). The first part of this verse aptly describes what happened to the prodigal son. All the money one may have cannot keep someone as our friend, especially if they are not genuinely interested in us to begin with.

In the end, if we hold out for the right kind of friends, we will be glad we did!

(To Be Continued)



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Meeks Street Church of Christ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?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:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "I Can Do All Things... Pt. 2"

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

Paul Johnson  
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)  
Page #37 Question #1

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

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Nathan Meade  
*Philippians 4:13*  
**Song Leader:** Lee Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Danny Sheffield  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "I Can Do All Things... Pt. 3"  
**Closing Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.

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

**May 18th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** Page #25, Question #14  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Doug George

## ***“I Can Do All Things....” Pt. 2***

Lesson Text: **Philippians 4:13.**

### **I. I Can— Overcome Temptations.**

- Some May Think They Can’t Overcome Temptations.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13**- God helps!
- 1st Key: Is What We Desire More! **James 1:13-15; 2 Timothy 3:4.**
- 2nd Key: Relying On God And His Word- **Psalm 119:11; Psalm 37:31.**
- 3rd Key: Relying On Our Brethren- **James 5:16; Luke 22:31-32; Eccl. 4:9-12.**
  - “Accountability Partners”; The Boston Movement Took Way Too Far.
- 4th Key: Pray About It- **Hebrews 4:15-16.**
- **James 1:12.** We Must Rely On Christ To Receive The Blessings.

### **II. I Can— Change My Ways.**

- Some May Think They Are Too Old Or Set In Their Ways To Change.
- Definition of Repentance: “to change one’s mind or purpose,” always, in the NT, involving a change for the better, an amendment,”  
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 525).
- **Matthew 21:28-30.** Must First Change Mind!
- **Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9.** We Can Change With Christ’s Help!
- God’s Word Makes Us See The Need And Gives Us The Strength!
- Bible Examples of Those Who Changed:
  - Murderers- **Acts 2:36-38; 41.** Compare To **Acts 7:52-60.**
  - Sorcerers- **Acts 8:9-13; Acts 19:19.**
  - Immoral Corinthians- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11.**
  - Saul Of Tarsus- **1 Timothy 1:13-15.**

### **III. I Can— Understand The Bible.**

- Some May Think They Can Never Learn The Bible’s Truths— Too Hard!
- Why Would They Believe That? Bad Reasoning Or Bad Doctrine??
  - Some Teach The Holy Spirit Must Guide Them Directly-
    - \* **John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:14.**
    - Some Teach That You Have To Have Help- **Acts 8:30-31.**
    - “I Didn’t Go To A Bible School To Be Trained...” **John 7:14-15; Acts 4:13.**
- We Are Commanded To Understand It- **Ephesians 5:17.**
- Paul Taught That We Can Understand It- **Ephesians 3:3-4.**
- Our Salvation Depends On Our Understanding Of It- **1 Timothy 2:4.**
- How? By Studying It Diligently & Accurately- **2 Timothy 2:15; Proverbs 2:3-5.**
- We Have To Have A Desire To Know And Seek It- **Matthew 7:7; 13:10-16.**
- Pray For Wisdom- **James 1:5-7.** Faith Required!

## ***“I Can Do All Things....” Pt. 2***

Lesson Text: **Philippians 4:13.**

### **IV. I Can— Teach Others The Truth.**

- Some May Think They Don’t Know Enough To Teach Others.
- Why Would They Think That?
  1. Not Studying?
  2. Don’t Realize Their Obligation.
  3. Or Leave It To “Experts.”
- We Are Taught To Teach Others- **Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2.**
- All Are To Teach- **Acts 8:1-4; Ephesians 4:11-15.**
- Confidence Comes With Study, Experience, & Relying On Christ! **Romans 1:16.**
- “You Cannot Teach What You Do Not Know!” **John 8:31-32.**
- Am I Praying About It? **Romans 10:1.** Many Things To Pray About- Don’t Forget!

### **V. I Can— Make A Difference.**

- Some May Feel Like They Are Too Insignificant To Make A Difference.
- Some May Feel That The Devil Is Too Powerful And The World Is Too Big!
- The Bible Teaches Us To Make A Difference:
  - **Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15.**
  - **Acts 5:28; Acts 17:6.**
  - Parents Can Make A Difference In Their Children’s Lives.
  - Workers Can Make A Difference At Work.

### **VI. I Can— Be A Christian.**

- Some Are Not Christians Because They Think They Cannot Be One.
- Some May Fear The Obligations Of Being A Christian- **Luke 14:28.**
- Some May Feel Unworthy Of God’s Love Because Of Their Sins- **Romans 5:8.**
- Jesus Died For Everyone- **Hebrews 2:9.**
- Paul Tried To Persuade Herod To Be A Christian- **Acts 26:26-29.**
- The Spirit And The Bride Invites You- **Revelation 22:17.**

### **VII. I Can— Go To Heaven.**

- Some May Think God Requires Too Much Or Perfection To Get To Heaven.
- Jesus Never Said It Would Be Easy- **Matthew 7:13-14.**
- But Jesus Did Show Us The Way- **John 14:1-6.**
  - I Can Go, But I Must Be Willing To Sacrifice- **Matthew 16:24-25.**
  - I Can Go, But I Must Obey Jesus- **Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:9.**
  - I Can Go, But I Must Forsake Sin- **John 8:21.**
  - I Can Go, But I Must Endure To The End- **Mark 13:13.**
  - I Can Go, But I Must Make Every Effort- **Luke 13:24.**