

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### “When We Forget God...” #2

By Brian Meade

People who are important to us are people we should never forget; especially if they have done something great in our behalf. God was so good to Israel at many times and in so many ways— yet God said, *“Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.”* (Jeremiah 2:32) Let’s look at some areas that we definitely must not forget God in our lives today.

#### II. In Not Being Thankful to God.

Paul is speaking of the Gentiles who left God in Romans 1:21, *“because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”* One of the first steps of the Gentile apostasy was a failure to recognize and thank God— as the source of all blessings. Romans 1:28 even goes so far as to say, *“They did not like to retain God in their knowledge.”*

As we continue to read in Romans 1:23 and 25, they eventually started to practice idolatry and bless the idols— rather than the real Creator. In all this, the Gentiles willingly chose to forget God by worshipping gods of their own devising. And that is precisely why idolatry was so offensive to the actual Creator, Jehovah. Not only was it all based on imagined lies, but it was also the height of thanklessness to give the fake gods of idolatry the praise and thanks which rightfully belongs only to God.

It was not Ra, the Sun god of the Egyptians, who was responsible for the Sun warming the earth, and neither was Canaanite god Baal responsible for the storms, rain, and fertility— because in reality, they did not even exist! It was men of those cultures who made them and perpetuated their very existence.

In Isaiah 44:9-20, Isaiah speaks to the utter futility of bowing down and praying for deliverance to god (idol) that one makes himself. Notice what Isaiah says, *“The craftsman stretches out his rule, he marks one out with chalk; he fashions it with a plane, he marks it out with the compass, and makes it like the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. He cuts down cedars for himself, and takes the cypress and the oak; he secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. Then it shall be for a man to burn, for he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it.”* (Isaiah 44:12-15)

The Bible tells us, *“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”* (Acts 17:16) Paul was then privileged to speak before the philosophers of the Stoics and Epicureans concerning the God who was unknown to them. (verses 18-23) The City of Athens was given over to many idols whom they were thanking for their prosperity and existence. But in stark contrast to all of these false gods— was the genuine God of all heaven and earth—Jehovah!



Paul proceeded to say, *“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children. “Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.”*”

Today, even though we do not make and bow down to idols in our country— can we be guilty today of not being thankful to God for all the prosperity of this nation? Do we thank God, as we should? Or are we trying to forget God by taking His name out of our national monuments and from the public square? Some want to remove all mention of God from public schools, colleges, and universities.

Many people even deny the existence of God and look to Darwin’s Theory of Evolution as the only possible means of our existence. They say it is *“superstitious”* and *“unscientific”* to believe in a Creator, and therefore refuse to praise or thank God. But that is only an excuse to be very unthankful to a loving Designer! (Psalm 14:1; Romans 1:19-20) And even more, some will choose to thank *“Mother Earth”* for the rain and sunshine, rather than our heavenly Father?

To admit that there is a God in heaven, one must then admit that all men should praise and adore Him for His mighty works (Psalm 145). But when men refuse and willingly try to forget God, I am reminded of what the Psalmist said in Psalms 9:17, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*



## Walking By Faith, Not By Sight

By Jim Walsh

### ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)***

The role that faith plays in the life of a Christian can never be over-emphasized. Let’s consider what the above passage teaches about faith in following Jesus Christ.

(1) First, we notice that in the context of 2 Corinthians 5, Paul was making a contrast between the physical and the spiritual. In verse 6 he said: *“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.”* He was speaking of our being in a fleshly body on earth, in contrast to being in heaven where we are with the Lord. He had already introduced this contrast in chapter 5, verse 18 when he spoke about the *“temporary”* versus the *“eternal.”*

(2) Secondly, seeing then that this contrast exists— the contrast between where we are now and where we desire to be— we have a certain way that we *must* live now. In verse 9 of this chapter, Paul wrote, *“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”* Whether one is on earth or having departed, our goal is to be pleasing to Jesus Christ our Lord— to *“be accepted of Him.”* (KJB)

(3) Finally, as we bring all these things together, we understand that the only way to be accepted of Him and gain eternal life, is to obey His word. Paul was inspired to write and remind us that we can only do this, if we are walking by faith and a sincere trust in God. If we follow the words of Christ and remain obedient to Him— it is only then, that we have every expectation of eternal life.

We walk by faith when we believe what He teaches, even though we cannot see Him with our naked eye. To many in the world today, *“seeing is believing.”* But, in contrast to this popular saying— walking by faith does not require

that we see God, Heaven, Hell, Jesus, or Satan to believe and know they exist. We are to walk in faith and obedience because we are assured by the God's word of unseen things (Hebrews 11:1; 6-7). We do not have to be like Thomas, who had to see first before he would believe in John 20:26-29. Jesus said to Thomas, *Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.*" Jesus was speaking of those who walk by faith, not by sight.  
Will you be one of those who walk that way and please the Lord?

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain Doles, Penny Carmichael, Daniel and Barbara Holloway, Brandi Meade's Uncle Greg Fields, The Family of Chelsi Hamilton (Her Husband Scotty Hamilton was a police officer killed in the line of duty Tuesday night in Ky.)

**Local Meetings:**

**Our Gospel Meeting** is coming up **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay from East Columbus. 7:00 PM Nightly.

A **Singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th** at 2:00 PM. Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

**Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:**

Paul Johnson.

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"What True Repentance Requires"*

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

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

Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)  
*Page 76, Question #5 c.*

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

**Announcements:**

Paul Busby

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Tim Harris Jr.

*John 6:*

**Song Leader:**

Jerry Kennemur

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Johnson

**Assisting:**

Dan Cottrell & Lee Busby

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"To Whom Shall We Go?"*

**Closing Prayer:**

Fred Johnson

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

**March 21st:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Paul Johnson  
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)  
*Page 42, Question #24*

**Invitation:**

Paul Busby

**Song Leader:**

Brian Meade

**Closing Prayer:**

Tim Harris Sr.