

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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The Five Classes of Lost People #2

By Brian Meade

There are certain classifications of how (or why) people in the world are lost in sin. Sin allures and entangles us for different reasons. That's why Satan uses different lures for different people— to draw them to sin and stay in his kingdom.

IV. Those in Religious Error.

It may be surprising to many in the world today, but all religions are not the same! When Paul was at Athens, *“his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”* (Acts 17:16) “....Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious.” (Acts 17:22)

Our worship & service to God must be according to the truth of His word (John 4:24; I Thess. 2:13). Just being a religious person and having some form of belief system is NOT enough to be acceptable to God (Matt. 15:9; II Tim. 2:16-18).

Jesus had this to say about false teaching and false practices (of even religious leaders) in Matthew 15:13, *“Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.”* It is height of presumptuousness to plant doctrines and creeds in the place of real truth from God! God will one day condemn those who do so for all Eternity. (2 Peter 2:1-2; Revelation 20:10)

Religious error comes when we add to, take away, or substitute from what God says. (Deut. 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; II John 9-11; Acts 15:24; Revelation 22:18-19) When we tamper with God's word in any way to change it— it becomes error and ceases to be God's word! (Gal. 1:6-9)

Being zealous and devoted to religious error has no power to save us (Romans 10:1-3). Only truth can save us! If we were to start our own church, adopt our own creeds, make up our own brand of traditions— we would not be following what Jesus already has established in His word! (Matthew 15:2-9; Matthew 16:18) Religious error can never be on the same level as the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). We could go to a church every week, read and study every day, be good morally, do good charitable deeds, and be involved with error and still be lost! (Matt. 7:21-23)

V. The Christian Who Falls Away.

The popular teaching in the religious world is— that once we become a child of God— we can never, ever fall away and be lost. It is often called, *“Once in grace, always in grace.”*

It is even said that one who is *“once saved”*... can later leave the church, stop reading & studying God's word, go back on their commitment to Jesus, and even go back to their former life of sin and still be saved! As long as there was a moment of genuine faith, there would be some who would say, they are irreversibly saved for all eternity. But does the Bible teach that?

The apostle Peter didn't know or teach this doctrine of "once saved, always saved." Peter spoke of Christians who fell away as he said in II Peter 2:20, "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning." Notice Peter says that their condition has changed from salvation to condemnation (latter end is worse) because they were overcome by sin.

He goes on to say, "it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."

And Peter gives us the description of Christians who fall away as, "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." (II Peter 2:22)

Let us not be a part of the class of lost people who were once saved— but now back in a lost condition (II Tim. 4:10; Heb. 10:25-39). Be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

GOSPEL MEETING

**Meeks Street Church
of Christ**

With Billy Randolph

October 15th – 20th

7:00 P.M. Nightly

What Are You Planning For?

By Jim Walsh

As we get older, most of us are thinking about retirement. We live in a society where we are fortunate to even be able to consider such thoughts. Many people work for large companies who provide a 401k plan as part of their benefits package. Others have to put a little bit by every month to provide for their own needs, to help with Social Security.

Investing in the Stock Market can sometimes be hazardous. Changing oil prices, dips and yips in the housing market, the jobless rate, and adjustments by the Federal Reserve can cause prices to jump one week and drop the next. So, the Stock Market can be up today, down tomorrow and dropping by hundreds by the end of the week! All of these things can harm our retirement planning. It is often a hard truth to learn, but nothing in life is guaranteed. You can diligently plan and save and still not have enough. This is why Our Lord reminds us of the need for Eternal Retirement Planning!

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

Our Lord is not saying that it's wrong to plan for our future, or wrong to save for a retirement. What He is telling us is that there is a far better place than here on earth: Heaven. And just like an earthly retirement, we better be planning for it now. And the only way to do that, is to be "laying up" treasures in Heaven, by living a faithful life and serving God now!

James reminds us that there is no guarantee of tomorrow (James 4:14). But there is an Eternity after this life. So, what are you planning?

News and Notes: sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, LuAnne Parrish, Janis Johnson, Steve Switcher, Joe & Tommie Nell Roberts, Delain Doles, Barbara Doles, Kerrie Anne Barnett, Billy Mac Fredrick, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Crystal Harris, & Anna Hearn, and we mourn the loss of both Crate Meade (Brian's Dad) and Judy King (Brian's Aunt).

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris, Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"The Difference Between Church Action and Individual Action"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Paul Johnson

Announcements: Paul Busby

Lord's Table: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Chris Callahan & Dan Cottrell

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Adam Harris

Song Leader: Chris Callahan
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"The Person You Should Marry"*

Closing Prayer: Tim Harris, Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 4th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade