

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### **“The Responsibilities of a Christian” #1**

By Brian Meade

When we first become a child of God, we may not know everything there is to know about being a Christian. A young convert needs guidance and direction as to what areas they should be focusing on in order to *"grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18)*. Even as older Christians in the faith, we may need to be reminded what our main duties are in serving the Lord. For these reasons, it is important that we study what the responsibilities of the Christian life are, so we can be faithful in all things.



#### **I. Studying and Growing in God's word.**

A top priority of a new convert should be to learn as much as they can possibly learn about God's book for us, the bible. This is one of the most needed things in a young Christian's life. They should give time to studying and reading the scriptures every day.

One of the keys to growth is having a strong desire to grow. Peter tells those who are young Christians to *"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"* (I Peter 2:2). Having a zealous desire to grow should be natural to a new convert to Christ. We all should *".....hunger and thirst for righteousness"* (Matt. 5:6) as part of our Christian life.

The thing that I've found is that the more you do, the more you want to do. Without desire, we may not ever have the motivation necessary to really grow in God's word. Just like athletes, who really desire to grow in their sport, will train hard to get better every day; we must train hard for growth as a Christian.

Michael Jordan would have never been a great basketball player, if he would've lacked the desire to push himself to become skillful. And if we want to become skillful in using God's word, we must never stop wanting to be filled with the word. It is sad to think that there are many Christians who do not desire to grow as they should.

The Hebrew writer tells us some like this in Hebrews 5:12, *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principals of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food."* Here were some Christians who did not grow as they should have. Whether they didn't have the desire to grow or were just too busy with other things, we don't know. But if they really had desired to grow they would've made time to learn *"the oracles of God."*

Now we want to look at some reasons why we should grow:

#### **(#1) To take our rightful place in the Lord's church.**

Studying and growing in the word will help us, because there are things we need to know in order to properly worship and serve God. A new child of God needs to learn how to pray in the assembly the different kinds of prayers (opening, Lord's Supper, and dismissal prayers). They need to learn how to serve on the Lord's Table in the communion and help out in other ways. Not all, but some will grow to become Bible class teachers, song leaders, and even preachers in the congregation. We should all grow and do what we can in the work that God has given us. Paul speaks about the different roles we take part in the church in Eph. 4:16, *"from whom the whole body, joined and*

*knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth to the body for the edifying of itself in love."*  
It is up to us to find what part we can do to help do our share in the body of Christ.

### **(#2) To know the difference between truth and error.**

As Christians, we must study so we can determine the difference between truth and error being taught. (Eph. 4:14) When a preacher gets up to preach or a bible teacher teaches a class or people come to our homes to tell us about Jesus, do we know for ourselves if they are teaching the truth? There are so many false teachers out in this world who would love to teach their falsehoods to anyone who will listen to them. The real problem is that if we don't know the truth enough to distinguish it from error, we can be taught and believe false doctrine. So often, false teachers can make error sound like the truth. But the cure to this problem is found in I John 4:1, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*" Here we are to "test" or try the spirits to see whether they are from God; and that means whether they are teaching the truth or not. But how can we test them if we don't know the truth well enough to decide? Knowing the scriptures is a priority because they are the standard of all truth from God. It is sad that many people will simply let a preacher tell them what the bible teaches without checking it out for themselves. That's why so many people are lead so easily into error. No wonder Jesus said, *and if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch*" (Matt. 15:14).

### **(#3) To learn what is required of us in our Christian duties.**

We are to love one another as in I Peter 1:22, "*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.*"  
When we come together as Christians, we are to "*consider one another in order to stir up love and good works*" (Hebrews 10:24).

In Titus 2, we find duties for the older men (verse 2), for the older women (verse 3), for the younger women (verses 4-5), for the younger men (verses 6-8) and for bondservants (verses 9-10). The last example (bondservants) teaches us how a Christian is to behave at the work-place. (See also Eph. 6:5-8). In Eph. 6:9, Paul admonishes masters on how they should treat those who work for them. In Eph. 5:22-33 talks about husband and wife duties. And Eph. 6:1-3, Paul talks about children's duties to obey their parents and in verse 4 discusses the parents role with the children. And in Rom. 13:1-7, we are to obey the laws of the land.

Hebrews 10:25 tells our need to attend every service that we can in order to grow as we should. Because we cannot profit from the bible teaching and preaching, if we are not there to hear it (Rom. 10:17). So we see the bible's role in helping us in our Christian duties in II Timothy 3:16-17, "*ALL SCRIPTURE is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.*" (Emphasis mine)

### **(#4) To learn what sin is and how to avoid it.**

This will be discussed more fully in the next article.

But I wanted to mention it because the key is learning God's word on sin (Psalms 119:11).  
The Devil would want us to stay ignorant of what sin really is!

### **(#5) To not backslide or fall away.**

Peter teaches us that if we will grow in God's word and apply it to our lives ( See II Peter 1:5-8), then we will not fall away, "*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble*" ("Fall" in KJV).

Also, notice what he says in II Peter 3:17-18, Peter tells us to "*.....beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being lead away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.*" If we will only keep going forward in our growth as Christian, we will not backslide in the wrong direction.

Free Home  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**

#### **A Women's Bible Class**

will meet monthly at Miche, TN. at the home of  
Chris and Kathryn Callahan the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of  
the Month at 7:00 PM.

# ***You, Me, and the Bible***

*By Eugene Britnell*

You may understand the Bible and I may understand it. I may understand it and you may understand it. We may understand it differently. We may understand it alike. But we cannot understand it differently. What kind of book would the Bible be if it said something to you that it didn't say to me. —*The Sower, Jan-Feb 2007.*

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Martha Norvell (in Corinth Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts., Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Robert Adams, Megan Roach, and Velma Tucker.  
Prayers for Delain Doles that his surgery Monday goes well.  
We also extend our sympathy for the Bruce Dillinger Family for his passing.

## **Those Who Serve:**

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Preaching:** Zechariah Smith  
**Sermon:** "Why Did Peter Sin?"

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

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)  
*Page 93, Question #23*

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

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Russell Briggs  
*Proverbs 14:12*  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Lord's Table:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Assisting:** Daniel Holloway & Dan Cottrell  
**Preaching:** Zechariah Smith  
**Sermon #2:** "Going To Nineveh"  
**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

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

### **June 6th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)  
*Page 69, Question #15*  
**Invitation:** Chris Callahan  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Daniel Holloway