

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

November 24, 2024

“Taking Every Thought Captive”

By Jason Longstreth

The ancient city of Corinth was known as a center of idolatry and worldliness. It was a city of considerable wealth and privilege. As a result, most Corinthians were able to engage in every aspect of Roman social life and they were able to enjoy Roman entertainment.

Of course, this created significant challenges for the Christians who lived in Corinth. Throughout his two letters to the Corinthians, Paul warned these Christians against worldliness, arrogance, idolatry, sexual immorality, and division, among other things. In essence, he was warning these Christians not to be influenced by the culture that surrounded them.

In Second Corinthians 10, Paul described this struggle between the Christians and their culture as a “war.” However, it was not a physical war. In verses three and four, Paul wrote, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”*

Here, he made it clear that this was a spiritual battle. Then, in verse five, Paul wrote, *“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”*

These “speculations” and “lofty things” were embedded in the Corinthian culture. But the gospel could overcome such things.

Today, we find ourselves in a situation that is very similar to the one faced by those Christians in Corinth. Our culture has become increasingly hostile toward biblical teachings and morality. We have seen our society attempt to redefine the very foundations of the family and the nature of creation itself. God is the One who made us male and female, but now we can choose our own “gender identity.” The arrogance of such thinking is remarkable!

As Christians, we are expected to continue to preach the truth in love. Like the apostle Paul, we also need to present God's Word, which will destroy fortresses and everything that raises itself up against the knowledge of God. We know that truth will prevail. Therefore, we cannot compromise and we must not back down on these issues. If the Gospel was able to change people in the Corinth of the first century, it can change people in today's America.

However, what we also need to realize is that the real battle takes place within each individual. It is not Christians against the world, or the world against Christians, it is self against Christ. Therefore, we must ensure that our hearts—and even our thoughts—are committed to obeying Christ in all things. If Christians want to influence our culture for good, we have to begin by conquering ourselves. That is why Paul said that we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

So, as you are going throughout this week, consider not only your actions, but your thoughts. Are you thinking about the kind of things God wants you to think about? Are you meditating on His Word? Is your righteousness a righteousness from the inside out? May we all strive to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. In this way, we will destroy speculations and every lofty thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God.

"FOR WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?"

By David A. Cox

"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away." (James 4:14)

James asks solemnly, "For What is your life?" This is a question that man struggles to answer. Why? Because man does not know within himself the answer to life. Man did not create life. The farmer can plant a seed in the ground; from it, life springs forth, but he cannot see or answer the question of life. We can get answers to biological questions, but to understand the answer to life belongs to the giver and creator of life, God.

James asked the question in the context that deals with the arrogance of people living life and making plans for the future without the thought of God. However, James asks the question to bring their thoughts back to the life God gives us and the purpose of life. It is vain for men to live their lives and deny giving honor to God.

Consider a few thoughts about "What is your life?"

It Is A Must To See Life As Brief

James answers the question about life, saying, *"It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away."* We must see that the time we live is temporary, short, and brief. If we live to be 70, 80, 90, or even beyond, life is still brief. The psalmist refers to it "as a tale that is told." (Psalm 90:9, KJV). What is the tale that is being told in your life? Is the "tale" one of pursuing the material things of life at any expense? Is it living and putting off what you should be doing by thinking there will be time for that later? We must understand that no one is promised anytime in the future. All we have is the present time. Let us not take for granted the time we have and waste the opportunities before us.

It Is What You Make It.

Life is given to us by God. There are things in life we cannot control and cannot change, regardless of how much we want to. But even in the midst of life with things that we cannot change, everyone has the choice to make or aim their life in the direction of their choosing. God gives us life but does not make our lives what they are; we do that by our own choice. God gives us instructions from His word. We can choose to follow it, or we can choose to dismiss it. We choose to be vessels for honor to God or to dishonor God. Our lives are what we make of them.

It Is A Pilgrimage.

The Hebrew writer describes life of the faithful as a pilgrimage. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). The fact is life is a pilgrimage to the life hereafter. As the faithful of God could see, by faith, as they journeyed through life by faith, God was their helper. They remembered, "Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life" (Psalm 54:4). As the faithful are on the pilgrimage of life, they trust in God and make their lives to please Him.

It has been said, "Time childhood of eternity." The statement is so true. We live with time on the earth. We value time, and we long for time. But as we live on earth, may we never lose sight of the reality of what life is about. Yes, life live, enjoy life, and make plans for life, but remember, life is not forever; it is a vapor. As the Lord wills, may we live, serve the Lord and honor Him.



Visit our YouTube Channel:

Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Jessica Plunk (Lynlie's friend who is scheduled for a double mastectomy on December 5), and Sherry Fuqua Doles had a fall and broke her hip. Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad) is in the North Alabama Medical Hospital.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Dan Cottrell
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Growing Older In Christ"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
The Books Of James
Author: Rick Billingsley
Starting Page & Question: Page — Question—

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: Psalm 30:11-12
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Who Is A Thankful Person?"
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

November 27, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 48, Question #1
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

“Growing Older In Christ”

Lesson Text: **Philemon 8-11**. “Paul, the aged” Appeals To Philemon On Onesimus’ Behalf.

I. The Blessings Of Growing Older In Christ.

- Gray Hair Is A Sign Of Honor- **Proverbs 16:31; Proverbs 20:29.**
- Wisdom & Maturity In Making Decisions- **Job 29:7-17; 1 Kings 12:6-19.**
- Young People Need To Give Respect & Honor To The Older- **Leviticus 19:32.**
 - Rehoboam’s Friends Spoke With Utter Contempt Toward The Advice Of The Older Men- **1 Kings 12:10-11.**
 - Don’t Be Rude, Unkind, & Ugly To The Older Generation. *“Did you hear what that old man said to me?!”*
 - Remember: One Day You Will Be Older Too! How Would You Want To Be Treated Then?
 - Treat With Respect: “Yes Sir” & “No Sir” “Yes Ma’am” “No Ma’am.”
 - Do Not Interrupt An Older Person Who Is Speaking... Listen more Than Speaking... Open Doors For Them...
 - Especially, Treat With Respect Members Of The Church With Respect- **1 Timothy 5:1-2; 1 Peter 5:5.**
 - You Deserve That Kind Of Respect. You Shouldn’t Have To Demand To Be Respected!
- Have Experience To Offer Advice:
 - **Job 12:12-13.**
 - David’s Wisdom By Experience- **Psalms 37:23-28 (25).**
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:12-13.** Solomon Tried It All! Experienced Life & Found What Was Most Important!

II. The Responsibilities Of Growing Older In Christ.

- **Titus 2:1-8.**
- To Be A Good Example To Young People. **Matthew 5:16.**
 - Of What A Good, Healthy Marriage Looks Like. **Ephesians 5:23-33.**
 - Of What A Good Bible Student Looks Like. **Acts 17:11.**
 - Of What A True Worshipper Looks Like. **John 4:23-24.**
 - Of One Who Is Christ-Like In All Of His Ways. **2 Corinthians 3:18.**
- Not To Think We Should Stop Being Zealous As We Can Be.
 - **Romans 12:11; Titus 2:14.**
 - **Romans 13:11; Philippians 3:12-14.**

III. The Challenges Of Growing Older In Christ.

- As We Get Older, We Have Difficult Days Because Of Health Issues.
- We Must Realize, This Is Not Something We Can Avoid.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:1-7; 2 Corinthians 4:16.**
- Older Age Is A Time When We May Spend More Time In Doctor’s Offices...
- It May Be A Great Challenge We Face— But With The Lord, All Things Are Possible!
 - **Philippians 4:13.**
- But Heaven Is Worth It All!

“Who Is A Thankful Person?”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 30:11-12.** David Was! For All That God Had Done For Him (vs. 1-4).

I. What Is Thankfulness?

- **Thankful:** feeling or expressing gratitude; appreciative. (dictionary.com)
- The Opposite Of Ingratitude, Unthankfulness, Lack Of Appreciation....
- Thankfulness Is The Natural Response Of Kindness, Rescue From Danger, Or Assistance Given To Someone Who Needs It. **Luke 10:30-37.**
- A Failure To Express Thankfulness Can Be A Failure To Be Thankful- **Luke 17:11-19.**
- Attitudes Can Hinder Thankfulness: Pride, Discontentment, Greediness, Entitlement, Or Apathy.
- Attitudes That Help Thankfulness: Humility, Contentment, Generosity, Thoughtfulness, & Care.

II. A Thankful Person Realizes The Value Of What He Has.

- **We Need To Value Our Material Blessings From God:**
 - A Thankful Person Will Not “Take For Granted” What Has Been Given To Stewardship.
 - Our House. - Our Land. - Our Vehicle(s). - Money. - Our Family. - Our Friends.
 - Food That We Eat (**Luke 11:3**). - Clothes We Wear (**Matthew 6:25**).
- **It May Be That We Don’t Value What We Have Until It Is Gone.**
 - When Your Power Goes Out. Air Conditioning: Heating or Cooling.
 - Indoor Plumbing. Refrigeration. Our Vehicle Needs Repair.
 - Family- **Luke 15:14-19.** The Prodigal Son Realized What He Left Behind....
- **We Need To Value Our Spiritual Blessings.**
 - Our Relationship With God/Christ. The Real Meaning Of **Luke 15:18.**
 - The Gentiles Did Not Value What They Had With God- **Romans 1:21-25.**
 - **Ephesians 1:3-12.** What We Have In Christ...

III. A Thankful Person Loves To Worship God.

- **If We Have Truly Been Blessed By God— We Will Be Thankful!**
 - Praising God Is A Major Element Of Worship- **Psalm 9:1-2; 48:1-3; 100:1-5.**
 - Prayers Of Thankfulness- **Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2.**
 - The Unthankful Will Not Worship God- **Hebrews 10:29; Hebrews 6:4-6.**
 - We Ought To Be Thankful In Our Worship- **Hebrews 12:28.**

IV. A Thankful Person Understands His Salvation.

- **He Will Not Forget What Christ Did For Him To Be Saved!**
 - **2 Peter 1:8-9.**
 - Jesus Gave His Life To Rescue Us From The Power Of The Devil.
 - We Should Feel Like David When Rescued From The Pit- **Psalm 30:4.**
 - **Colossians 1:12-14 (NASB).**
 - Are We Thankful To Be Saved From A Life Of Carnality, Vile Passions, & Wickedness?
 - **Luke 7:40-48.** Are We Thankful For God’s Forgiveness?
 - **2 Corinthians 5:14-15.** A Thankful Heart Will Live For Him.