

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 9, 2024

“God's Comfort”

By Sean Sullivan

The New Testament relates God the Father to us in many ways; and from this, we know that God has more than one-dimension. God is not only love (1 John 4:8), or only terror (2 Corinthians 5:11)-there is much more to God than the picture so many want to see.

Twice in the inspired writings of Paul, we see the Father described as the God of comfort. *"Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus"* (Romans 15:5).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).



The word comfort is a familiar word with most of us; we like to be comfortable and we seek to be comforted. The scriptural word comfort, when traced back to the original Greek, is defined as, "to call to one's side". Think about the comfort of warm embrace-that is the comfort that we can have from God. Let's consider how we can find and have the comfort of God even today.

Find His Path

Where to do we even begin to find God? Psalm 19:1-6, tells us to look around, because the evidence of God surrounds us in this natural world. This evidence will lead us to look for a powerful God but the direction toward Him is still needed.

We must know that man's ideas cannot get us to God. Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* We certainly do not to follow that path.

Jeremiah 10:23 says, *"O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."* We need more than what any man can supply; we need God to reach out to us.

God is not hiding from you; He has reached out to us. God hopes that we find Him (Acts 17:27); He has provided us all of the needed direction: the instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17); the word of truth (John 17:17; James 1:17-22).

He has revealed His directions to us-His word (Hebrews 1:1-2; James 1:17-25). It is only through the word that we will know the way (John 14:6; 2 John 9). God has also provides the knowledge of His will and the ability to do it (Matthew 7:21). Something else that God supplies is "the opportunity". Every day we live is an opportunity to seek our Father (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Walk to Him

Once we discover the path that leads to God-the direction of His word-we need to actually follow it. Did you know that the Bible will do nothing for us, if we ignore it (James 1:22-25)? Or, if we add to it or take from it (Revelation 22:18-19)? Or, if we do not apply it, as we should (2 Timothy 2:15)?

Paul in 1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16, told Timothy that in order to progress he need to: Give attention to reading; meditate on the word; give himself entirely to applying the word; and pay attention to himself and to the doctrine- and in doing these things he will grow (progress) as he should.

Following God's path is obeying His will. God's way, is not ours to decide-Jesus in Matthew 16:24 said, "*If any one desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me*". You cannot get to Heaven until you get out of your own way.

Our will must be surrendered to His. Our barriers must be refused; knowing that everyone and everything else is just an excuse and "you" are the reason, if you are not following Jesus today--Jesus' way is the way (John 14:6). Walking on God's path is following Jesus and obeying His word (John 8:31-32); His commandments (John 14:15); and His doctrine (2 John 9)

Stay with Him

Once we submitted to God, we must stay with Him. Unlike what some falsely-teach, we do have to remain faithful to God to have His hope of salvation (Hebrews 10:35-39).

The Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:20-23, Paul speaks of the great blessings and hope that is ours in Christ, "if" we continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast. There are things that we must do to gain and maintain this place in God's sight. We must "continue in the faith"; therefore, we must continuing in the word of Christ (John 8:31-32). We also must continuing in our doing of God's word (James 1:17-25).

We are also told to be grounded and steadfast, which means to continue to learn, knowing what it means and what it means to your life (2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:12-14). Steadfast means persistent in our study and growth of knowledge (1 Peter 2:1-2).

In Colossians 1:23, we are also told not to be moved away. There are many things wanting to pull us away from our hope-temptations (James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:15-17). Our salvation is dependent on "if" we do not move away from the hope of the gospel that Jesus provides. We must continue strong and not quit, in order to continue in the comfort of God.

Conclusion:

There is nothing better than being comforted in this life. We typically search for comfort in this life, so why not search for the greatest comfort that we can ever know?

The comfort of God is near Him; so, draw near to God (James 4:8). The pathway of God is yours to find with God's guide, His word. You can find His way and follow it to Him. But once you are there you must stay with Him.

There is only one thing in your way right now; and that is you!
Quit stalling, quit waiting, now is the time. The comfort of God is a great promise, and it can be yours today. Gospel-obedience is your entrance point and the opportunity is yours right now.

TOP TEN THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH....

(author unknown)

10. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
9. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
8. Personally I find teaching others about Christ much more enjoyable than golf.
7. I've decided to contribute the \$500 a month I used to spend on my hobbies.
6. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Bible class.
5. Forget the minimum salary; let's pay our preacher so he can live like we do.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
3. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
2. Preacher, we'd like to send you to this Lectureship in the Bahamas.
1. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like a good old fashioned sermon on giving!

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, Nathan Cox, Anita Harris, and Fred Johnson.

Prayers And Condolences To The Family Of Isaiah Switcher who passed away June 6th.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"When The Truth Offends...."*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Hebrews
Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: *Page 13, Question #11*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Blake Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: *Genesis 12:8-13*
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur (For Dan)
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Pitching Our Tents Toward Sodom"*
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 12, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Minor Prophets
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: *Page #12, Question #1*
Invitation: Dan Cottrell
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

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For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.



“When The Truth Offends....”

Lesson Text: **Matthew 15:7-12.**

I. How Can The Truth Offend Anyone?

— The Nature Of Truth- Matthew 10:34-36.

- Truth Is Objective— Not Subjective. **1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:17; 1 Corinthians 16:1.**
- Truth Is Exclusive— Not Inclusive. **1 Corinthians 15:12; Acts 4:12.**
- Truth Does Not Change— Not Changeable. **Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Revelation 22:18-19.**

— When People Don’t Like What Is Being Said.

- Many Don’t Like To Be Told They Are Wrong For Believing Something False.
- When Truth Exposes The Error Of What Others Believe Or Practice. **Ephesians 5:11.**
- Sometimes People Fall In Love With A Particular False Doctrine. **2 Thessalonians 2:12.**
- When Truth Goes Against The Long Accepted Beliefs Or The Majority’s Thinking.

— Bible Examples Of Those Who Were Offended By The Truth.

- **Matthew 15:1-6.**
- **Acts 4:1-2; Mark 12:18-27; Acts 23:8.**
- **Acts 17:5-8; 19:23-41.**
- **Mark 6:14-24.**
- **Galatians 4:16-17; 1:6-10.**

II. Ways That Truth Can Be Offensive Today.

— Preaching The God Of The Bible.

- **1 John 5:20.** Offends Those Who Believe In Many Gods Or No God.

— Preaching On The Lord’s Church.

- **Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18.** Offends Those Who Believe In Many Churches.

— Preaching On Righteousness.

- We Must Repent Of Sin- **Ephesians 4:22-24.** Offends The Sinner Who Loves Sin.

— Preaching On True Worship.

- **John 4:23-24; 19:22.** Offends Those Who Want Worship Their Own Way.

— Preaching On The Work & Organization Of The Church.

- **1 Peter 5:1-4; Ephesians 4:12.** Offends Those Who Change The Church’s Ways.

— Preaching On God’s Way Of Salvation.

- **Acts 16:31; Acts 17:30; Acts 8:34-39.** (Believe, Repent, Confess Christ, & Baptism).

III. Proper Attitudes Toward The Offended.

- Be Kind, Loving, And Humble- **Matthew 10:16; 11:29; Ephesians 4:15.**
- We May Have To Leave Them Alone- **Matthew 15:12-14.**
- We Need To Pray For Them- **2 Timothy 2:24-26.**
- Don’t Be Discouraged, But Stay Strong In The Lord- **1 Cor. 16:13-14**

“Pitching Our Tents Toward Sodom”

Lesson Text: **Genesis 13:8-13.**

I. The Tragic Results Of Living In Wicked Sodom.

- God Saw The Wickedness Of Sodom And Sought To Destroy It.
 - **Genesis 18:16-22.**
- Abraham Sought To Save The City.
 - **Genesis 18:23-33.**
- **Lot’s Experience At Sodom.**
 - **Genesis 19:1-29.**

II. Why Did Lot Pitch His Tents Toward Sodom?

- Lot Used Poor Judgment In His Decision To Live In Sodom.
 - It Began When He Looked More To The Physical, Than The Spiritual.
 - **Genesis 13:12-13.** It Benefitted Him Physically, But Was A Spiritual Disaster!
 - **The Enduring Word Commentary** says:

“There was a steady progression of compromise in Lot’s life. He went from looking toward Sodom (Genesis 13:10), to pitching his tent toward Sodom (Genesis 13:12), to living in Sodom (Genesis 14:12), and losing everything when Sodom was attacked. Now, back at the infamous city, Lot sat in the gate of Sodom, indicating he was a civic leader.”

- Why Would A Righteous Man Choose To Live There?
 - **2 Peter 2:6-8.**

III. How Others Are Making The Same Mistake Today.

- Progression Of Attitude Toward This Sin:
 - From Opposing It, Calling It Deviant & Unlawful Behavior, And Sinful.
 - To Silence, Toleration, And A Refusal To Call It Sin.
 - To Condoning, Embracing, Promoting, And Congratulating This Sin!
- Even Though God Calls It Sin- **Romans 1:26-27; Jude 7.**
- Corporations/Businesses Require Sensitivity Training And Cater To LGBTQ.
- There Are Four States That Require LGBTQ History To Be Taught In Their Schools.
 - California, New Jersey, Colorado, And Illinois.
- Some Churches Have Abandoned Biblical Morality And Embraced The LGBTQ.
 - They Are Not Preaching It As Sin Or Calling Sinners To Repent.
 - The Episcopal Church. “We believe in following the teachings of Jesus Christ, whose life, death

and resurrection saved the world. We have a legacy of inclusion, aspiring to tell and exemplify God’s love for every human being. Ordination and the offices of bishop, priest, and deacon are open to all without discrimination. Laypeople and clergy cooperate as leaders at all levels of our church. Leadership is a gift from God and can be expressed by all people in our church, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. We believe that God loves us all – no exceptions..”

- The United Church Of Christ, The United Methodist Church, and Others....