

"Blessed Are The Meek"

By Greg Gwin

People generally have the idea that a "meek" individual is one that is extremely quiet, withdrawn, timid, and one who finds it very difficult to be confrontational or straightforward. It is thought that it would be hard for a "meek" person to hold or defend a strong opinion or conviction. Even modern dictionaries define this characteristic as "unduly patient or submissive; spiritless." Such definitions miss the mark.

Jesus was described as "meek" (**Matthew 21:5**), yet He never hesitated to express the truth. His strong rebukes of the hypocritical Pharisees (**Matthew 23**) certainly show Him as bold, courageous, and confrontational. Moses was said to have been "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (**Numbers 12:3**). But we well remember how he boldly demanded the freedom of the Israelites from Pharaoh and ultimately led the people out of bondage. Do you begin to see that Biblical usage of the work "meek" is far different than the modern concept?

W.E. Vine says: "The meaning of 'prautes' is not ready expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness and pusillanimity to a greater or less extent, whereas 'prautes' is nothing of the kind. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 738)

"Meekness" is one of the fruits of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22, 23**). We need it! Let's be sure that we are "showing all meekness to all men" (**Titus 3:2**).



The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

When Jesus Does Nothing

By Larry Rouse

We would be wise to carefully listen to our Savior who came from heaven to show us the way to God. Throughout His ministry Jesus emphasized His relationship with the Father along with the kind of heart required to know God.

It would take great humility for the Jews that heard Jesus to understand that they really did not know God and that they needed to hear the One who actually had come from God. Jesus stated the obvious to the unbelieving Jews when He said: "You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form." (**Jn 5:37**) Why would they resist listening to the One who came from Heaven and accurately testified of things that these men had never seen? They were blinded by their own relationships and religious pride so that they would not hear. "But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?" (**Jn 5:42-44**)

Today I am seeing a large movement within churches to surrender fundamental attitudes because they are considered "traditional." The question of instrumental music in praises to God, the role of women, the work of the church and like things are now being described as issues of "freedom" where we can make choices with no consequences.

wards the will of God was exactly the attitude He had towards God Himself, one of a deep reverence for all that God spoke. "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (**Mt 4:4**)

Jesus knew that His Father was perfect, therefore anything that God does or gives would be complete for the purpose it was given. This was especially true of the revealed will of God. Being a perfect revelation Jesus sought to only abide in what was revealed. Jesus did only what He saw or received from the Father. If He had no instruction Jesus did nothing! Consider some verses from the book of John.

1. Jesus did only what He saw the Father
(Continued on page 2)



Thoughts to Ponder

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' (**Matthew 4:4**)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College Devo at the Anderson's, Paul Grubbs teaching!	Monday 7 PM Men's class at Walker Davis'	Tuesday 10:00 AM ladies' class at Becky Daniels' house "Seasoning your Words"	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center
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Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseith's Mother)

October Birthdays

- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 4-Jordan Corneil
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 6-Josh Hartsell
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 18-Eric Shotts
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Stewart West
- 29-Abby Ambrose
- 30-Caleb Gandy
- 31-Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please pray for Rachel Hobgood's grandfather, James Palmer, who is having some problems with his kidneys and bladder.
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens and Cristin Chavez.
- ☒ - Please pray for Hayden Phillip's grandmother as she continues in rehab.
- ☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson.
- ☒ - Please pray for Rachel Hobgood's friend's dad, Jimmy Wright, who is having some issues with his liver.
- ☒ - The Lagrange church will have a weekend meeting Nov. 4-6 with Lance Blackburn.
- ☒ - Please continue to park in the grass when possible at all services.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to www.auchurch.com

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do. If He did not see the Father do something, Jesus did nothing. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (Jn 5:19)

2. Jesus demonstrated what it means to be committed to doing the will of God. If He did not hear instruction from the Father, Jesus did nothing. "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." (Jn 5:30)

3. Jesus only taught and did the things that the Father taught Him. His sacrifice on the cross was evidence of the God-glorifying fruits of this attitude. If He had no teaching from the Father, Jesus did nothing. When Jesus was given instruction He yielded and obeyed. "Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things." (Jn 8:28)

Jesus Expects His Followers to Have the Same Attitude

When Jesus describes how you and I must receive God's will and not reject it, He points to the attitudes that He had already shown in His relationship with God. You and I must not speak or act without the authority of God. If we want everlasting life we must have the complete confidence in a perfect will of God so that we only speak when we have positive authority from the will of God. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. "And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." (Jn 12:48-50)

This kind of humility and reverence towards God is how you and I can give Him glory. When we only speak as the oracles of God we glorify God in the same way that Jesus glorified God! When hear of teachings and practices that are not found in the oracles of God, then you and I should be silent and do nothing in these things. "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Pt 4:11)

Men Today Still Reject Jesus' Words

Religious practices will be dramatically impacted by how we approach the revealed will of the Father given through Jesus. One who makes Jesus their Lord will do nothing when there is no authority given. They also will be filled with good works as they abide in those things we are told to do. Do you want a God-centered faith or one centered in the theology of the great thinkers of today?

How many in their service to God really know Jesus as the one Lord? (Eph 4:4-6) What would happen in the religious world if men begin demanding instruction for all that we teach and practice? What would be the outcome if modern practices were put to the test? I do know that those committed to the Lordship of Christ will only have the simple organization, worship and teachings that are found in the New Testament. This will glorify God.

A Warning for Our "Non-traditional" Advocates

Today I am seeing a large movement within churches to surrender fundamental attitudes because they are considered "traditional." The question of instrumental music in praises to God, the role of women, the work of the church and like things are now being described as issues of "freedom" where we can make choices with no consequences. Brethren that insist on book, chapter and verse (which is a simple way of expressing that we must have authority from God) are being ridiculed as "legalists" and are slowly being pushed out of local churches.

Ask Your Preacher

I am hearing from more and more sources that there is a rising flood of men in pulpits that cannot oppose instrumental music in local churches because they have made a fundamental shift in their view towards the authority of scripture. Rather than do nothing when God is silent, these men believe that they have freedom to act. However, a large number of brethren that support and hear these men are not told of this change of beliefs.

Sadly, many of these men do not have the basic honesty to tell brethren where they stand. Please ask your preacher and the eldership where you attend to address these basic fundamental truths. Sadly I am hearing of preachers when asked to preach on instrumental music and the silence of the scriptures, refuse.

Let each of us address the attitudes in our hearts and be sure that our goal is simply to glorify God by following Jesus as our Lord. Brethren, this is a truth worth fighting for! "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Lk 6:46)



When God thinks of the church of Christ...

By Gardner Hall

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of saved individuals (Acts 20:28). When men think of the Church of Christ they think of parties, either a broad conglomeration of alliances such as the "one cup Church of Christ," "liberal Church of Christ," "conservative Church of Christ," etc. or one of those parties individually.

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of a number of individuals unknown to men (2 Tim. 2:19). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of a loose association of local churches whose numbers can be approximated, for example 1,260,838 in the United States according to Mac Lynn's 1994 directory. Perhaps they will focus more on the numbers given for a more narrow association of churches ("non institutional," "one cup," "no class", etc.).

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He sees an indivisible body composed of individuals with different levels of spiritual growth (1 Cor. 1:13; 2 Peter 3:18, Rev. 2,3). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of a group of local churches that has divided through the years over issues such as instrumental music, premillennialism and institutionalism. They say that the "next thing that will divide the church" (the conservative alliance, or collection of churches) will be the marriage, divorce and remarriage issue.

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of those growing in Him with obedient hearts in spite of imperfections (John 17:6). When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of those who conform to unwritten creeds composed of doctrines that "leaders" have declared to be essential.

* When God thinks of leaders in the church of Christ, He thinks of spiritually poverty stricken servants, who are "last" in the minds of men and yet whose quiet examples transform others (Matt. 5:3,16;19:30; 20:25-

When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of a glorious body of saved individuals who are allowing themselves to be transformed into the image of His Son, in spite of the wrangling and political maneuvering of men (Eph. 5:25,26; 2 Cor. 3:18).

28). When men think of leaders in the Church of Christ, they think of editors of papers, leaders in colleges or well known preachers who hold many gospel meetings.

* When God thinks of the Savior of the Church, He thinks only of His Son, Jesus Christ. When men think of the Church of Christ, they think of an alliance of local churches that David Lipscomb "saved" from the Missionary Society, Foy E. Wallace "saved" from premillennialism and other leading editors have "saved" from other dangers.

* When God thinks of where to find the church of Christ, He thinks of the hearts of men (1 Samuel 16:7). When men think of where to find the Church of Christ, they think of church directories.

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of those who have responded to the spiritual attraction for those who are of good ground - the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:2). When men think of the church of Christ, they think of an alliance or movement that itself is the primary attraction to those who are of good ground.

* When God thinks of the church of Christ, He thinks of a glorious body of saved individuals who are allowing themselves to be transformed into the image of His Son, in spite of the wrangling and political maneuvering of men (Eph. 5:25,26; 2 Cor. 3:18). When men think of the Church of Christ, they either think of a religious movement that has fragmented itself into dozens of warring factions, each claiming to "have" the truth on dozens of difficult issues, or they think of one of the factions.

What do you think of when you think of the church of Christ?

