



Daily Bible Reading - 2017

Sunday, December 24th
II John– Jude

Monday, December 25th
Revelation 1-4

Tuesday, December 26th
Revelation 5-7

Wednesday, December 27th
Revelation 8-10

Thursday, December 28th
Revelation 11-13

Friday, December 29th
Revelation 14-16

Saturday, December 30th
Revelation 17-19

Website: www.essexvillage.org

Essex Village Church of Christ
736 Savage Road
Charleston, SC 29414

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Deacons:

Jim Lamm 843.556.6756
Benevolence

Larry Polutta 843.795.5266
World Bible School

Eddie Haselden 843.991.5020
Financial

Durwood Collins 843.603.0120
Worship & Youth Activities

Scott Fowler 843.513.2009
Audio/Visual

Andy Streets 843.478.8876
Facility/Systems

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS MUST BE COMMITTED TO MEEKNESS



Essex Village Church of Christ

By Wes McAdams

December 24, 2017

One of the most important, but yet misunderstood and ignored words in the Bible is meekness. I often hear Christians boldly protest, “Meek does not mean weak.” Even if that sentiment is accurate, it still doesn’t tell us what it means to be meek. What is meekness? Why does Jesus say, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5H5)? Here are a few things I hope you will consider.

What is Meekness?

When Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth,” he was actually alluding to Psalm 37. If you want to know what meekness is, then read that Psalm.

First, it is nearly impossible to be meek, or to display meekness, except in adversity. The Hebrew word “anaw” is often synonymous with poor, lowly, and afflicted. Moses’ meekness was only highlighted when he was being criticized by Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12H13). In Psalm 37, meek is related to the words “righteous” and “blameless,” but also “poor” and “needy” (vs. 14).

Second, the meek “refrain from anger and forsake wrath” (Psalm 37H8). They do not lose their temper about the evil that is done to them. They do not “fret because of evildoers” (Psalm 37H1). In other words, they do their best to remain calm in the face of evil.

Third, the reason they can remain calm in the face of evil is that they “trust in the Lord” (Psalm 37H3). They believe God “will act” (vs. 5). They believe that “In just a little while, the wicked will be no more...But the meek shall

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*Sermon for Sunday,
December 24th*

*Sunday AM:
GIFTS FOR A KING*

*Sunday PM:
GUEST SPEAKER:
CARL JENKINS*

*You may visit
www.allanhornbuckle.com
for archived articles
and sermons.*



Schedule of Services:

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 am Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm Wednesday Evening Worship: 7:00 pm

Elders:

Howard Streets
843.766.7727

Bill Ragland
843.810.0227

Minister:

Allan Hornbuckle
804.832.6197

Office

843.556.1792



Week of December 17th

Bible Classes: 58 AM Worship: 109 PM Worship: 28
 Wednesday Evening: 22 Contribution: 3,409.00

Remember in Prayer

- Ken & Sue Adams**, friends of Wanda Brown.
- Dixie Akers**, Royce's sister-in-law, for her health.
- Royce Akers**—recuperating from surgery.
- Sydney & Mildred Carter**— health
- John Cummings** has stage 4 brain cancer and begin chemo & radiation. John is Terri Fagan's uncle.
- Tom Dennis**, Penny's cousin, is not doing well.
- John Dennison** had bypass surgery.
- Jeff Dugger**, Dug & Jackie's son, has throat cancer.
- Jim Gallagher** is recuperating from surgery.
- Linda Dover-Hill** has cancer and is the mother of Brittany's co-worker.
- Jim & Esther Lamm** - Esther for health & Jim as caregiver.
- Lillian Loomis** for health.
- Brooklyn Mayer**, Dawn's 4 year old niece, has cancer.
- Mac & Agnes McLawhorn** - prayers for their health.
- Chris Newell**, Stephen's grandmother, for her health.
- Ray Price** has congestive heart failure and overall health.
- Jill Rush**, Ronnie & Sharon's daughter, health issues.
- Hoite Sullivan**, Doris' brother-in-law, health.
- Cleatus Tucker** health.
- Frances Wakeland** for her health.
- Earl Watson** has a mass in his back near kidneys.

PROGRAM OF WORSHIP

- Announcements:** Howard Streets
- Song Service:** Keith Dee
- Opening Prayer:** Andy Streets
- Communion:** Jim Lamm
- Serving:** Larry Polk Ray Brown
 Eddie Haselden III Herman Porter
- Sermon:** Allan Hornbuckle
- Closing Prayer:** Eric Zink

For the Month of December

- Elder:** Howard Streets
- Communion Preparation:** Sandy Dee
- Baptismal Garments:** Michelle Porter

VISITS APPRECIATED

- Ruby Cooper Esther Lamm Janet Jenkins
 Evelyn Pack Tex Patton

MILITARY

- Jordan Akers Robert Bagley R J Boris
 Kristopher Black Adam Bowles
 Brandon Boyles Kimberly Boynton
 Russell Coble Ryne Collins James Dalton
 Ellis Flenoid Steven Hilton Michael Hilton
 Matthew Lemieux Katie Bledsoe
 Kevin Mitchell Shawn Reynolds
 Nicholas Ragland Dylan Such

BULLETIN BOARD



SECH: Thank you to all who contributed towards the Christmas gifts for Brian & Erin. They will have a wonderful Christmas thanks to your generosity!

Pease join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm before Bible study.

Nursery: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those willing to volunteer in the nursery.



Hope Lodge: If you are interested in helping to prepare lunch on the last Monday of the month for the Hope Lodge, please see Doris or Ray.

Coffee for Troops: If you would like to contribute, there is a basket in the foyer to place items in. Please speak to Eric if you have questions.



12/02	Margaret Casbeer
12/10	Andrea Hanlon
	Jim Lamm
12/12	Hilton Googe
12/15	Anna Claire Collins
12/20	Marvin Wouldwyk
12/21	Sarah Polk
12/22	Peggy McLawhorn
12/27	Ray & Ellen Brown
12/29	Eric Zink
12/31	Ron & Christine Herman

ARTICLE CONTINUED

inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace" (vs. 11). They believe that if they just wait, God will take care of the wicked and will bless His faithful people.

If we put those three elements together, we get a good picture of biblical meekness; and it might sound something like Peter's description of Jesus: When the meek are reviled, they do not revile in return; when they suffer, they do not threaten, but continue entrusting themselves to Him who judges justly (see 1 Peter 2H21). That's what it means to be meek, to be kind and gentle in the face of injustice, because we know God will reward the meek and punish the wicked.

Are Americans a Meek People?

Consider our American culture, all the way back to our Revolution. We don't like the idea of enduring injustice quietly and gently. That seems like weakness to us, doesn't it? We don't like the idea of waiting on God or trusting Him to take care of the wicked in His own time. We think the right thing to do is fight and kill.

I think about the, "Don't Tread on Me" Revolutionary War flag that I still see people flying. Is this meekness? Can you be meek and also say, "I will take up arms against my government if I feel like they are oppressing me"? Isn't meekness the exact opposite of that sentiment.

For an American, I know this sounds radical, but think about the things Jesus taught. He taught His followers to gently submit to mistreatment, humiliation, and oppression (Matthew 5H38-42). He said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5H44-45).

As Americans, we do not tend to be a meek people. We tend to be a people who fight (even violently) for our rights. We tend to see meekness as a sign weakness or cowardice. We think, "People who don't stand up for themselves will always be run over and taken advantage of." The zealots of Jesus' day thought the same thing about the Romans.

The Meek will Inherit the Earth

The natural man says, "If you don't stand up and protect your pride, your property, and your people against tyrants, you'll lose everything you have." Jesus disagrees. He essentially says, "If you fight for what's yours, you'll lose everything. If you wait meekly, you will eventually be given everything."

This is taught all throughout the New Testament, you just have to open your eyes and see it. Listen to the apostle Paul in Romans 8H31-32: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" Disciples of Jesus believe that because of the death, resurrection, and ascension of God's Anointed One, we have nothing to fear from anyone in this world (Matthew 10H28). We do not even fear death, because we believe in the coming resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).

This is why we can bless those who persecute us (Romans 12H14). And why we feed and give drink to our enemies (Romans 12H20). This is why, so far as it depends on us, we live peaceably with everyone (Romans 12H18).

We believe through goodness and self sacrifice, rather than violence and retaliation, evil will be overcome (Romans 12H21).

Someday there will be no evil and no tyranny. No matter how big their weapons get, no matter how many people they kill, no matter how much land they accumulate, their fate is sealed. They've been defeated already, they just don't know it yet.

So, we will also wait patiently and meekly "for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3H13), because we believe the promise of our Lord, the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5H5).