



Living By Faith

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

August 9, 2009

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Redstone Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class 10:00 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..... On Break
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey 325-646-7170

Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten
Cherokee Home for Children
Food Pantry
Gospel Broadcast Network
Gospel Chariot Missions
House to House, Heart to Heart
Lake Cisco Camp
Mission Printing
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.

Faith in Christians, or Faith in Christ?

By Jason Hilburn

Have you ever been disappointed by someone you admired? Have you ever had high expectations of someone, only to discover they had done something you would not have expected them to do? When a Christian is the source of this disappointment, some would go so far as to turn their backs on God! When we are disappointed by a brother or sister it can be discouraging, but we should be careful that we do not put our faith in people instead of God. Should our faith be in Christians, or in Christ? Paul wrote that salvation is *"through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 3:15). Our faith must be built upon the solid foundation of Christ! (1 Corinthians 3:11).

What if Peter and the rest of Jesus' disciples had decided to stop following the Lord because of the actions of Judas? (Mark 14:44-46). What if the early Christians decided to turn their backs on God because of what Ananias and Sapphira did? (Acts 5:1-10). What if Paul decided to "quit the church" because Peter *"walked not uprightly"*? (Galatians 2:11-14). What sense would any of that make? If one is thinking rationally, how can he justify the rejection of God (who is eternally perfect) because of something done by a man (who is fallible)? Unfortunately, this is something that takes place far too often.

The Bible instructs us to put our trust in the Lord instead of men: *"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord"* (Jeremiah 17:5); *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"* (Psalm 118:8). If we expect people to be absolutely perfect their entire lives, then we are bound for disappointment! All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23; 5:12), and even those who become Christians will not live an absolutely perfect life totally devoid of sin. Regarding Christians, John wrote, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:8-9).

It may be easier for us to remember occasions when others have let us down than it is to remember the fact that we have probably let other people down as well. Let us remember that we all have needed forgiveness at some point, and we should be willing to forgive others if they repent. Christ said, *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14, 15). Paul wrote, *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger,*

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Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Serve the LORD with gladness:

come before his presence with singing.

Psalm 100:1-2

(Continued from page 1)

and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). If a brother will not repent, he cannot be forgiven by men or by God! "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke 17:3, cf. Acts 8:22).

It should also be stated that there should be a certain amount of trust between brothers and sisters in Christ. Love "thinketh no evil" (1 Corinthians 13:5), and "evil suspicions" are spoken against in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 6:4 NKJV). We should have a certain amount of confidence in preachers, elders, or other exemplary members of the body of Christ who have shown their faithful devotion to God, but at the same time we realize they are not the Lord, and they are not infallible. So while some amount of trust is needed between brethren, it should not be to the point that we allow ourselves to be led astray from the path to Heaven, or that we allow sin to be ignored. The Holy Spirit called the Bereans "noble" for double-checking the apostle Paul, and it is still noble today to "search the Scriptures" to make sure we are all on the narrow way (Acts 17:11; Matthew 7:13-14, 21).

Let us be thankful that we can always trust in someone eternally dependable – GOD! God does not make mistakes! God does not sin! He will NEVER disappoint us! He is always true to His Word and His holy nature. We should rejoice that we have a perfect Savior who, even though He was tempted in all points like we are, committed no sin (Hebrews 4:15). Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can now obey the Gospel, which is the power of God unto our salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). Once we are in Christ, we can "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16; cf. 1 Peter 5:7). God is ever holy and faithful – therefore, may our ultimate confidence be in Him rather than men!

Sound Theology

By Tom Moore

In the Peanuts comic strip, Linus and Lucy are standing at the window looking out at the rain falling. Lucy says to Linus, "Boy, look at it rain...What if it floods the earth?" Linus, the resident biblical scholar for the Peanuts, answers, "It will never do that...in the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow." With a smile on her face, Lucy replies, "Linus, you've taken a great load off my mind." To which Linus responds, "Sound theology has a way of doing that."

Sound theology will indeed give us boldness to enter "the holy place" (Heb. 10:19) – it gives us peace which "passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7). The Bible speaks often of being sound in doctrine. We must hold "to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers...This testimony is true. For which cause reprove them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith...But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine" (Tit. 1:9, 13; 2:1).

May we heed the words of the weeping prophet, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). A great load can be taken off our minds concerning our eternal destination if we will always do things the Lord's way. For this reason we must as the Bereans, where of them it was said, "Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

"These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:13-14).

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB Let the Bible Speak (Brett Hickey) Sunday @ 8:30am on KXVA Good News Today (Everyday) DirecTV, Channel 323, 7:00am Dish Network, Channel 9407, 11:00am	Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17). Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24) Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33) Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5) Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Sunday .. Psalm 77-78; Romans 10 Monday .. Psalm 79-80; Rom. 11:1-18 Tuesday .. Psalm 81-83; Rom 11:19-36 Wednesday.. Psalm 84-86; Romans 12 Thursday .. Psalm 87-88; Romans 13 Friday .. Psalm 89-90; Romans 14 Saturday .. Psalm 91-93; Rom. 15:1-13 <i>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)</i>
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		

News & Notes

Summer Youth Series

Remember that we are hosting the last Summer Youth Series for this year this Tuesday, August 11th at 7 PM. I hope that you can be here to support this event and help wherever needed. Our own James Fuller is speaking and I am sure that he will do a great job and you will not want to miss it.

Also, those who signed up to bring chips or desserts please remember to bring those items Tuesday afternoon or when you come Tuesday night. The sheet is still at the back of the auditorium if you need a reminder of what you signed up for!

For Your Reading...

In the last two weeks new issues of *The Spiritual Sword*, *House to House*, and *Seek Ye First* have come in. They are located at the back of the auditorium. All contain excellent material to help you in your study of God's Word; make sure you pick one up, read it, and share it with others.

You Tell on Yourself

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of the dollar and dime.

You tell on yourself by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which you your burdens bear,
By the kind of things that make you laugh,
By the places you go to photograph.

You tell on yourself by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from the well filled shelf,
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself.
So there is not a particle of sense,
In an effort to keep up a false pretense.

“Ye shall know them by their fruits.”

- Matthew 7:16a

~from The Biblical Messenger — 9th & Main COC in San Angelo

Visitation Program

Remember to join us tonight for our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall**. Keep reporting your contacts made during the week and turn them in each Sunday morning — last week **57 contacts** were made. This is the **highest number of contacts made since we began this program back in March!** Keep up the great work and remember that next Sunday is the **third Sunday** and so bring snacks and finger foods and plan to stay for a period of fellowship following the meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10); Don Smith (14); Betty Bailey (28); Roy Dodson (29); Addie Long (29).

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15); Pam & Terry Teague (16); Darlene & Don Smith (29).

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Rom. 12:15)

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	July 26, 2009	August 2, 2009
Bible Class	61	71
AM Worship	79	98
PM Worship	53	62
Wednesday PM	47	50
Contribution	1793	1727

Privileged to Serve	08/09/09 - AM	08/09/09 - PM	08/16/09 - AM	08/16/09 - PM
Greeters	Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler		Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford Acts 17:10-12		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister
Wait on Table	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Gene Bannister, Michel Bickford	Allen Griffith
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	August 12 Jim Moore	August 19 Don Smith	August 26 James Fuller	September 2 Ken Makuta

Studies For The Week of August 9th:

Sunday Class 2 Thessalonians

Wednesday Class Daniel 9

<p align="center">Purity</p> <p>1) PRACTICES – We need to follow God’s way not our old way of life (1 Pet. 1:13-16); care more for our inward character than physical appearance (1 Tim. 2:9); and remember we are judged by our actions (Rom. 2:6).</p> <p>2) UTTERANCES – We must watch and control our tongue lest our religion be vain (James 1:26); one can be justified or condemned by the words they speak (Matt. 12:36-37).</p> <p>3) READING – Watch what we put in our minds (Phil. 4:8); test what goes in according to God’s Word (1 Thess. 5:21-22); remember the importance of feeding upon God’s word (1 Tim. 4:13; Ps. 119:9).</p> <p>4) INTIMACIES – Remember that nothing is hidden from God (Heb. 4:13); everything will be brought to judgement (Eccl. 12:14) so think not that my actions are in secret.</p> <p>5) THOUGHTS – Even our hearts are known to God; but also remember that as we think in our hearts, so are we (Prov. 23:7) and so keep it with all diligence (Prov. 4:23).</p> <p>6) YIELDING – We are a servant to whomever we yield (Rom. 6:16); take care not to yield ourselves as instruments of unrighteousness (Rom. 6:13) but instruments of righteousness unto God.</p>	<p align="center">God’s Word at Thessalonica</p> <p><i>Those that received it were greatly praised (1 Thess. 1:13) because:</i></p> <p>1) They RESPECTED it as God’s Word.</p> <p>a) It was/is not created by man – Paul preached it but he did not create it or learn it from another (Gal. 1:11-12).</p> <p>b) It was/is God’s Authoritative Word – Paul attributes it to God (1 Thess. 1:8, 2:8, 4:15), given by revelation (Gal. 1:11-12), and proven by the power of God (1 Thess. 1:5; Heb. 2:4).</p> <p>2) They RECEIVED it in their hearts.</p> <p>a) They accepted it and believed it – This set them apart from others who were less noble (Acts 17:11-12; Matt. 13:19-23).</p> <p>b) They did so in the face of affliction – they obeyed the gospel and continued faithfully in the midst of persecution (Acts 17:5; 1 Thess. 2:14-16).</p> <p>3) They REFLECTED it in their lives.</p> <p>a) They were willing to change – turned from idols to serve God (1 Thess. 1:9), giving up what they were taught and trusted in.</p> <p>b) Others could see a change in them – they stood out and were noticed (1 Thess. 1:6-10) by neighbors & others around them.</p> <p>c) They allowed it to have an impact.</p> <p>i) Became evangelistic, examples, and expectant (2nd coming)</p> <p>ii) Chose to be changed (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 6:11-12).</p>
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Return Service Requested