



# Living By Faith

*“The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17*

August 16, 2009

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org  
4thst\_churchofchrist@verizon.net

### 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 .....

### 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.

## Astonishing Love

*Eager acceptance from the God who runs*

by Tyler Young

Wonderful to contemplate. Impossible to fathom. There is, in the most familiar and beloved story told by Jesus Christ, a striking image of the amazing love of God for man. In three parables recorded in Luke 15, the Master Teacher emphasizes his Heavenly Father’s concern for sinners. This concern is portrayed in the first parable when the shepherd who left the flock to find one wayward sheep returns, exclaiming, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!” (15:6). In the second, the woman who finds the lost coin likewise calls for her friends to join in her rejoicing, with Jesus making the point: “Likewise...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (15:10).

But it is in the third—the famed parable of the prodigal son—that this joy finds expression in a most poignant and unforgettable fashion. The son, having requested his portion of his father’s inheritance, journeys to a far country and wastes it all with reckless and sinful self-indulgence. Eventually he finds himself in desperate need, and determines to return home—not to resume his former status as a privileged son, but only to confess his sin and beg to be a slave in his father’s house. As he makes his way home—humbled, ashamed, prepared to acknowledge to his father “I am no longer worthy to be called your son”—we find this astonishing response: “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him....The father said to his servants, Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (15:20-24).



The marvel here is that the father is not only willing to receive his son back,

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*Know ye that the LORD he is God:  
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Psalm 100:3*

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but anxious to do so, and that eagerness is seen in the dramatic image of the father running—yes running!—to meet his now haggard but humbled son. Our Heavenly Father not only receives sinners who repent of their prodigal ways and return to him, but he rejoices in bestowing upon them all the blessings of sonship. Not only does he show mercy to sinners, but he delights in doing so: “He does not retain his anger forever, Because he delights in mercy. He will have compassion on us” (Mic. 7:18-19).

How our Holy and Just God would rejoice in receiving me, a lowly sinner who has rebelled against him and dishonored his Holy Name, is beyond my ability to comprehend. That he would give his Son to make my return possible and grant me an honored place in his household, is more than I can grasp. Why, after all I have done, would he run to meet me, array me in glorious apparel, and celebrate my return? Thankfully, I do not have to understand how he could love me so. I will simply rejoice in knowing that he does.

Dear friend, if you have not obeyed the gospel of Christ, or if you have ceased walking in the light of God’s word, you are estranged from him and recklessly continuing in a course that will only lead to despair and, ultimately, eternal hell. The good news is that heaven awaits your repentance and will rejoice at your return. Let us help you come home to the Father. He will do more than make you his own. He will run to meet you.

“Behold, what manner of love  
the Father hath bestowed upon us,  
that we should be called the sons of God...”  
1 John 3:1

## To See Is To Love To Love Is To Follow

By Bill Burk

The prayers of others can bless the soul of the devoted follower of Jesus. What diligent Bible student hasn't thrilled at the sentiments found in the Psalms? It's practically impossible for the spiritually in tune not to marvel at the prayer of Jesus (John 17), the early church (Acts 4:24-31) and those of Paul (Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; Phi. 1 :9-11; Col. 1 :9-12). Even contemporary prayers can be a blessing. Richard of Chichester, who lived during the thirteenth century, penned these devotional thoughts.

Dearest Lord Jesus, Savior and Friend,  
Three things I pray:  
To See thee more clearly,  
To Love thee more dearly,  
To Follow thee more nearly, Day by Day. Amen.

Although there may be some disagreement regarding the addressing of the Lord Jesus (cf. Mat. 6:9ff), the tenor of the thoughts should cause a longing in the heart. In fact, there's a natural progression to be found. If we see Jesus clearly, we will love Him even more so, and loving Him more will motivate us to follow Him that much closer. Let's break individual parts down by noting the need to...

1. **See Jesus More Clearly.** The Hebrews writer wrote, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Heb. 2:9). The disciple of Christ should strive to see Jesus in His humanity (Heb. 2:14; 4:14-15); in His majestic rule and reign (1 Tim. 6:17; Rev. 19:16); regarding His substitutionary death (1 Pet. 3:17) and the grace He provides (Titus 2:11-14). We like the Greeks should say, "Sirs, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21).
2. **To Love Him More Dearly.** If! keep my eyes focused on Jesus (Heb. 12:2); if! see Him as He is;

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Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord’s Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Let the Bible Speak (Brett Hickey) Sunday @ 8:30 am on KXVA</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Dish Network: Good News Today, Daily @ 11:00 am on channel 9407 or 9396 Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p><b>Radio</b> Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday .. Psalm 94-96; Rom 15:14-33</p> <p>Monday .. Psalm 97-99; Romans 16</p> <p>Tuesday .. Psalm 100-102; 1 Cor. 1</p> <p>Wednesday.. Psalm 103-104; 1 Cor. 2</p> <p>Thursday .. Psalm 105-106; 1 Cor. 3</p> <p>Friday .. Psalm 107-109; 1 Cor. 4</p> <p>Saturday .. Psalm 110-112; 1 Cor. 5</p> <p><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></p>

# News & Notes

## Summer Youth Series

I believe a great time was had by all that attended the Summer Youth Series last Tuesday night. Though we did not get a great count, we know **at least 189 people were present**. I want to thank everyone that had a part in preparing (from cleaning before and after, to cooking, to setting up, to providing food, to serving, and in any other way). It takes many people to make such an event a success so thank you all. The singing and the sermon presented were both great and encouraging for young and old. James did a great job presenting the lesson that night and **if you would like a CD copy of it please indicate such on your attendance card today by writing "SYS CD" or tell Ryan and we will get that for you.**

## Mark your Calendars



In our busy society it is never too early to start preparing for something. Make sure you go home and mark in permanent ink our next two gospel meetings so that you schedule other things around these dates and can be making plans to attend and praying for these efforts:

October 18-21, 2009 with Maxie Boren  
May 2-5, 2010 with John Moore

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then I'll have no choice but to love Him more. When I see how He has loved me (Gal. 2:20), my affection for Him will naturally increase (1 John 4:19). Truly to see Him is to love Him.

3. **To Follow Him More Nearly.** Finally, if my love for Jesus increases more and more I'll want to identify with Him in every way (phi. 1:10). I'll gladly take up my cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23). My daily pursuit will be to become more like He is. This naturally follows on the heels of loving the Lord. To see Him is to love Him, to love Him is to follow Him everyday (1 Pet. 2:21).

## Visitation Program

Remember to join us tonight for our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall and stay for food and fellowship following.** Keep reporting your contacts made during the week and turn them in each Sunday morning — last week **33 contacts** were made.

*"...let us not be weary in well doing..." (Galatians 6:9)*

## 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	August 2, 2009	August 9, 2009
Bible Class	71	59
AM Worship	98	78
PM Worship	62	60
Wednesday PM	50	55
Contribution	1727	1673

Privileged to Serve	08/16/09 - AM	08/16/09 - PM	08/23/09 - AM	08/23/09 - PM
Greeters	Jim & Peg Moore		James & Cindy Fuller	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Phil. 3:12-14		Hank Wheeler
Opening Prayer	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Gene Bannister, Michel Bickford	Allen Griffith	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister	James Thomas
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	August 19 Don Smith	August 26 James Fuller	September 2 Ken Makuta	September 16 Tom Wilcox

**Studies For The Week of August 9th:**

Sunday Class.....2 Thessalonians (Chapter 1)

Wednesday Class .....Daniel 9

**Seven Wonders of Hell**

- 1) WONDER there is a HELL.
  - a) God desires for all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16).
  - b) Will be home for many (Matt. 7:13-14, 25:41).
- 2) WONDER if there is a HELL?
  - a) Most American's don't believe in hell.
  - b) But it does exist (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10).
- 3) WONDER what HELL is like?
  - a) Fire, darkness, weeping... (Mark 9:44; Matt. 8:12).
  - b) A place apart from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- 4) WONDER how long is HELL?
  - a) Forever (Rev. 14:11, 20:10; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 18:8).
  - b) As long as heaven (Matt. 25:46).
- 5) WONDER where is HELL?
  - a) Not a physical location, not on earth, not the grave.
  - b) A place of punishment for the soul (Jn 5:28-29; Matt 25:41)
- 6) WONDER who will go to HELL?
  - a) Most think, "Not me!"
  - b) The Bible answers (2 Thess. 1:7-9; 2 Pet. 2:20-21; Gal. 5:4)
- 7) WONDER how to escape HELL?
  - a) The place of rest is in Christ (Matt. 11:28-30).
  - b) Obey the gospel, God's Will (Matt. 7:21). (*see chart pg 2*)

**Looking Back (1 Timothy 1:11-17)**

*We often think of looking back as a bad thing .*

*Yet Paul looks back on his life in a beneficial manner:*

- 1) Looking back **increased his zeal** (v11-12).
  - a) Recognizes great trust and responsibility placed in his hands.
  - b) This was a privilege (1 Cor 15:8-10) & pleasure (Acts 20:24)
- 2) Looking back **increased his gratitude** (v12).
  - a) He was thankful that he had access to the gospel of Christ and the grace of God (Rom. 1:16; Titus 3:7).
  - b) This thankfulness spurred him on to service.
- 3) Looking back **increased his humility** (v13-15).
  - a) He was not haughty about who he had been or now was.
  - b) This is seen in how he speaks of himself (1 Cor. 15:9); of others (with respect); and of his work (Eph. 3:8).
- 4) Looking back **increased his hope/patience** (v16).
  - a) There is hope even when it looks hopeless (consider Paul—might have considered him hopeless as Saul).
  - b) His hope was increased by remembering his example (Christ) and encouragement given.
- 5) Looking back **increased his reverence for God** (v17).
  - a) As he looks back at what he was, he utters praise for God.
  - b) He expresses adoration and appreciation to God (Ps. 111:9).

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Return Service Requested