



# Living By Faith

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

August 23, 2009

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801  
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office@4thstreetcoc.org

### 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.

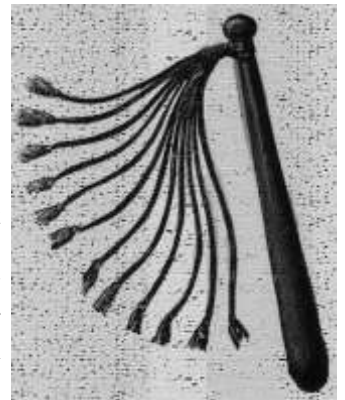
## GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

By Josh Romo (Josh has been hired as the preacher at 9th&Main in San Angelo)

There have been great examples of love throughout Biblical history. Rebekah loved her son, Jacob, so much that she deceived her husband to see that he was given a blessing (Genesis 27). Jacob loved Rachel so much that he worked for her father for fourteen years just so he could marry her (Genesis 29). Moses loved the people to the point of standing between them and God to save them (Exodus 32). Jonathan loved David to the point of defying his father, the king, to save David's life (1 Samuel 19). However great these examples may be, none of them can hold a candle to the love that Jesus Christ showed for all of mankind in giving his life upon the cross for the remission of sins. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13).

The pain and suffering of Jesus Christ started hours before He ever reached Calvary. Luke states, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44). Two verses earlier He had asked the Father to remove this cup from Him. The condition mentioned in Luke 22:44 is known as hematidrosis. This condition causes one's capillaries to burst near the surface of the skin causing bloody sweat and is a very painful condition that is caused by tremendous stress.

From this point, Jesus was betrayed at the Garden of Gethsemane by Judas. He was arrested and taken before an illegal Jewish court. He was taken before Pilate after He had been struck, spit upon, and scorned. After much deliberation, Pilate finally gave the go ahead for Jesus to be crucified. However, before crucifixion, He was scourged. That word may not mean anything to you right now, so let me explain exactly what was entailed in a scourging. Scourging was a Roman prerequisite to the cross. When a victim was to be scourged, he was first stripped either totally naked or at least to where they wore nothing but a loin cloth. After the victim was stripped, he would be chained to a post that was about two feet high with an iron ring on either side of the post which the chain would be hooked. In some cases they would use a cross beam that would be laid across two supports about 6 feet high and the victim would be hooked to this crossbeam. In either case, the victim's body was positioned in such a way that the shoulder blades provided little or no protection for the underlying flesh. The Roman personnel that would carry out the scourging was known as a licitor. Unlike the Jewish system, there were no limitations upon how many times the victim could be struck. The extent of the beating was dependent entirely upon the disposition of the



*(Continued on page 2)*



*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!  
For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

*Psalm 100:4-5*

(Continued from page 1)

licitor. Their only instructions were that the victim was to die on the cross, not on the scourging post. The weapon used was a whip that was made of several corded strands with either bits of metal or bone tied in at the end of the whip. These pieces of bone or metal were very sharp and oftentimes hooked. Normally, at a scourging there would be two lictors with these kinds of whips standing on either side of the victim and they would take turns striking. As the lictors struck, the whips would nearly encircle the body with these sharp pieces biting into the flesh and ripping the flesh to shreds. Brother V.P. Black said that Jesus' shoulder blades would have looked like, "2 whitecaps on a sea of blood." Oftentimes, it has been recorded that the lictors would not stop until they could see the lungs inflate and deflate through the back of the ribs. Now I hope when you read your Bible that you won't simply skip over the word "scourged" anymore. There is much that is associated with that word that we take for granted. Jesus did not begin to shed blood upon the cross but much sooner than that. Modern day doctors say that had this taken place in this day and time and had Jesus gone to an emergency room, he would have been immediately admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and would have been listed as being in critical condition. His body would have been in shock. So, please don't just skip over this word anymore, think about what he went through in the scourging and not just on the cross. Even after all this, he was made to carry his own cross (the cross-beam) to the hill of Golgotha, nearly 2.5 miles away.

This writer believes that we too often take for granted what Jesus had to endure both before the cross and while upon the cross. Dr. C. Truman Davis paints a very graphic word picture for his readers. He writes,

"The crucifixion began. Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh, a mild analgesic, pain-relieving mixture. He refused the drink. Simon was ordered to place the patibulum on the ground, and Jesus was quickly thrown backward, with His shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire felt for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drove a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moved to the other side and repeated the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexion and movement. The patibulum was then lifted into place at the top of

the stipes, and the titulus reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" was nailed into place.

The left foot was pressed backward against the right foot. With both feet extended, toes down, a nail was driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The victim was now crucified."

In further description of the process, Dr. Davis writes,

"As Jesus slowly sagged down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shot along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain. The nails in the wrists were putting pressure on the median nerve, large nerve trunks which traverse the mid-wrist and hand. As He pushed himself upward to avoid this stretching torment,

He placed His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there was searing agony as the nail tore through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet.

At this point, another phenomenon occurred. As the arms fatigued, great waves of cramps swept over the muscles, knotting them in deep relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps came the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by the arm, the pectoral muscles, the large muscles of the chest, were paralyzed and the intercostal muscles, the small muscles between the ribs, were unable to act. Air could be drawn into the lungs, but could not be exhaled. Jesus fought to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath. Finally, the carbon dioxide level increased in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subsided."

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, loved each of us to the extent that He laid down His life for us WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS!!! (Romans 5:8). If that's not love, I don't know what is! He loved us enough to personally pray for those that would believe on Him through the teaching of His disciples (John 17:20-23). All He has asked for in return is that we keep His commandments. He says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). Not just a few of them, not just what we want to, but ALL of His commandments. Jesus showed His love for us by going to Calvary when He had the power to call ten legions of angels. How will we now show our love for Him and the sacrifice He made for us?

**I am the good shepherd... and I lay down my life for the sheep. ~John 10:14-15**

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>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Dish Network: Good News Today, Daily @ 11:00 am on channel 9407 or 9396</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 113-115; 1 Cor. 6</p> <p>Monday .. Ps. 116-118; 1 Cor. 7:1-19</p> <p>Tuesday .. Ps 119:1-88; 1 Cor. 7:20-40</p> <p>Wednesday.. Psalm 119:89-176; 1 Cor. 8</p> <p>Thursday .. Psalm 120-122; 1 Cor. 9</p> <p>Friday .. Ps. 123-125; 1 Cor. 10:1-18</p> <p>Saturday .. Ps 126-128; 1 Cor 10:19-33</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>
<p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		

# News & Notes

## Website Changes — [www.4thstreetcoc.org](http://www.4thstreetcoc.org)

I was able to get our new website up and running this week...so, if you have access to the internet, stop in and check it out. By switching hosts and managing the site ourselves we have been able to save quite a bit of money and have more control over the site.

The new look is up and quite a bit of the site is complete. Continue checking over the next few weeks as hopefully new content will be added very rapidly. I hope that it will be a site useful for those finding out more information about the congregation and interested in studying the Bible. Of particular interest to you may be the weekly bulletin in PDF format, links to other useful content, and audio recordings of the sermons presented here (coming soon). Check it out and give feedback if you see areas in which it can be improved (or if you find something not working!).

## Mark your Calendars



Make sure you 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

## Back to School...

Ready or not, here it comes! I guess most schools are starting back this week to begin a new year of learning. We have students here at all stages...kindergarten to college-level and we wish you the best.

Let us remember to pray for these students as they begin another year of education and challenges. More than ever the classroom poses a great threat to our young people—physically, emotionally, and most importantly spiritually. Let us all do what we can to provide encouragement and a Christian example.

In conjunction with this I plan on beginning a “Back to Basics” sermon series next week. I hope that you will enjoy it and benefit from it.



## 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 **24 contacts** were made.

## 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 9, 2009	August 16, 2009
Bible Class	59	62
AM Worship	78	76
PM Worship	60	55
Wednesday PM	55	42
Contribution	1673	1423

Privileged to Serve	08/23/09 - AM	08/23/09 - PM	08/30/09 - AM	08/30/09 - PM
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler Psalm 62:5-8		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	August 26 James Fuller	September 2 Ken Makuta	September 16 Tom Wilcox	September 23 Allen Griffith

**Studies For The Week of August 23rd:**

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

Wednesday Class .....Daniel 9

**The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)**

1. **Jesus was prepared.**
  - a. He knew the importance of this situation (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
  - b. We must prepare for temptation (1 Pet. 5:8; Dan. 1:8).
2. **Jesus used scripture as His tool of defense.**
  - a. He knew the Word of God and therefore had an answer.
  - b. We need to study and know God's Word, the best and only weapon of the Christian (Eph. 6:17; Ps. 119:11, 105).
3. **Jesus analyzed the situation.**
  - a. He did not look just as the immediate benefits/results.
  - b. Be like Moses who cared more for pleasing God (Heb. 11:25).
4. **Jesus was unwilling to compromise.**
  - a. He did not try to justify sin or minimize its importance – He gave a strong/right answer and held firm.
  - b. We should stand for what is right (Eph. 6:13; Jude 3).
5. **Jesus resisted the devil and the devil fled.**
  - a. Jesus proves that Satan cannot argue with truth (James 4:7).
  - b. But it requires resisting and it is only for a season (Lk 4:13).
6. **Jesus was later comforted.**
  - a. After the temptations, Jesus was comforted by angels.
  - b. There is a mental comfort we should gain by doing right, but also a comfort of an assurance of an eternal home (Rev. 2:10).

**Give Me A Mountain! (Joshua 14:12)**

Often we are tempted to want to take the easy road, yet Caleb was ready to accept challenges with God's help.

- 1) **He was a leader.**
  - a) He was trusted and respected. (Num.13:2)
  - b) He was given honor and responsibility.
- 2) **He trusted in God.**
  - a) He saw what everyone else saw but spoke up with confidence they could accomplish God's task. (Num. 13-14)
  - b) He was willing to "go it alone" to stand up for what was right.
- 3) **He didn't mind challenges.**
  - a) He accepted the mission of a spy and was ready to take the land.
  - b) Even 45 years later at 85 he was still ready to take the land.
  - c) This was because his confidence was in God (Josh. 14:8).
  - d) Even knowing what awaited him, he asked for his mountain and accepted the challenge of conquering it (Josh. 14:9; 15:14).

We need more Calebs – those who will be examples, those who will show confidence in God, and those who are ready to face challenges with confidence in God.

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Return Service Requested