



Living By Faith

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

August 30, 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

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

Things That Are Precious To The Christian

By Marvin Weir

This article will focus only on six things that are precious to the child of God.

First, God's love is precious to the Christian! Without God's love there would be no hope for fallen mankind. All accountable people sin (Rom. 3:10, 23), and *"the wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23). When one sins he is separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2). One cannot simply pardon himself from the sin he has committed. Without the love of God providing a plan for reconciliation and redemption sinners would have no hope. To the Ephesian brethren Paul said, *"that ye were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus ye that once were far off are made nigh in the blood of Christ"* (Eph. 2:12-13).

That often referred to golden text says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Think about that little word **"so."** God **so** loved that He purposed, planned, and provided a way by which man can be forgiven of his sins and reconciled to God. Man would be hopelessly lost were it not for the love of God!

God's Word is precious to the Christian! Spiritually speaking, man is not capable of directing his steps; *"the way of man is not in himself"* (Jer. 10:23). A trustworthy guide is needed, and one's emotions, feelings, and opinions do not measure up to the challenge. The Psalmist knew the answer and was right in saying, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path"* (Psa. 119:105). The Word of God is *"right"* (Psa. 33:4), *"pure"* (Psa. 119:140), *"true"* (Psa. 119:160), and *"settled in heaven"* (Psa. 119:89).

God's complete will for mankind is revealed **only** through the His inspired Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). *"The word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved it is the power of God"* (1 Cor. 1:18). Paul reminds one that *"belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ"* (Rom. 10:17). For one to be saved he must *"hold fast"* to God's Word (1 Cor. 15:2). Only the *"word of his grace"* can build us up and give us *"the inheritance among all them that are sanctified"* (Acts 20:32). The *"seed"* to be sown before a lost and dying world is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). God's Word *"liveth and abideth...forever"* (1 Pet. 1:23, 25) and will judge all mankind in that Day (Jn. 12:48). Put your trust in *"the sword of the Spirit"* (Eph. 6:17).

Heaven is precious to the Christian! There are only two roads one can travel through this life – one leads to eternal life and the other to eternal ruin (Matt. 7:13-14). Hell is to be avoided at all costs (Matt. 10:34-38) and has been *"prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:41), and for those who *"know not God"* and *"obey not the gospel"* (2 Thess. 1:8). What a joy it will be for the faithful to get to Heaven as God

(Continued on page 2)

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



*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Psalm 51:17

(Continued from page 1)

will “wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be any mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more...” (Rev. 21:4). **All** of those “written in the Lamb’s book of life” shall be in heaven but those who “maketh an abomination and a lie” shall never enter this precious place (Rev. 21:27).

Grace and mercy are precious to the Christian! The apostle Paul says it best, “for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory” (Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is God’s wonderful gift, but salvation is not unconditional. God’s wonderful grace covers **only** those who love Him and submit to His will. As Jesus said, “If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23). One cannot **continue** in a life of sin and expect God’s grace to abound (Rom. 6:1).

Salvation is precious to the Christian! Paul describes it like this: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing” (2 Tim.4:7-8, emph. MLW).

Fellowship is precious to the Christian! How wonderful it is to associate with those of “like precious faith” (2 Pet. 1:1)! We dare not, however, fellowship those walking in darkness (Eph. 5:11). To aid, support in any way, participate with, or encourage those who are enemies of the cross is **wrong**.

Let us be thankful for the fellowship that is ours **in** Christ Jesus. How wonderful it is to be in the company of those who love God! Never forget the many things precious to the Christian!

Light and Darkness

By Tom Moore

A little boy named Bobby entered his first science fair in second grade. Because his Mom has a green thumb, they decided to experiment with the growth of plants. He took two small green plants and placed one on a sunny windowsill and the other in a cardboard box. After a couple of weeks, Bobby checked on the two plants. The one on the windowsill had grown a couple of inches and had vibrant green leaves. The one in the box had actually grown a bit, but it had lost all of its green color, becoming almost white and its leaves drooping. Thinking that the plant might die, Bobby cut a hole in one side of the box, and set the box, with the plant inside, by the windowsill - with the hole facing toward the incoming light. Well you know what happened - but Bobby was so excited by this discovery! Yes, over the course of a few weeks, the plant began to grow out through the hole! And, a couple of weeks later, it turned to grow up toward the light and even blossomed! The plant that had been in gloomy darkness was all but dead, but seen a great light and turned toward that light and blossomed!

In like manner, the souls of men will soon fall in the darkness of sin – there can be no growth, only doom. “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not” (John 1:4-5). John says that Jesus is the light that all men

must reach toward, but many will not receive the light from Jesus – they would rather stay in their box of darkness. Why? “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reprov’d. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God” (John 3:20-21). The apostle Paul declared, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. Seeing it is God, that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:3-6).

“If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:6-7). Are you walking in the light? If you are, then you are heeding these words of Jesus, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Cut a hole in your box of darkness and turn to the Light.

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 Dish Network: Good News Today, Daily @ 11:00 am on channel 9407 or 9396</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday ..Ps. 129-131; 1 Cor. 11:1-16</p> <p>Monday ..Ps 132-134; 1 Cor 11:17-34</p> <p>Tuesday ..Psalm 135-136; 1 Cor. 12</p> <p>Wednesday..Psalm 137-139; 1 Cor. 13</p> <p>Thursday ..Ps. 140-142; 1 Cor. 14:1-20</p> <p>Friday ..Ps 143-145; 1 Cor 14:21-40</p> <p>Saturday ..Ps. 146-147; 1 Cor. 15:1-28</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

Berylene Beck

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our dear sister, Berylene Beck, who died Thursday morning, August 28th. Berylene had fought a long battle with cancer and yet consistently remained in high spirits. It certainly was an encouragement to see her faithfulness and love for others throughout that time. She was at every service that she could attend even when she surely did not feel well and often when visiting with her, she was interested in others and how they were doing. I know that she will be greatly missed by all who knew her and certainly by the members here at 4th & Stewart. Her funeral will be today at 2:30 PM in the Davis-Morris Funeral Home Chapel and burial will follow at Oakview Cemetery in Mullin.



Care, Inc. in Early

The number of residents at Care, Inc. in Early that are either members of this congregation or other area congregations has increased over the last few months. At least 7 members are there that we know of and of these only 2 are able to make it out to worship services. With that in mind, beginning next Sunday, Sept. 6th; we are going to be gathering every Sunday in room 50 at 2:30 PM to offer communion and a devotional. If you would like to help or want more information, please see Don Smith.

Website Changes — www.4thstreetcoc.org

Remember to visit our new website if you have internet access. A number of unexpected events this week kept me from adding new content, but soon additional links, bulletins, and audio sermons will be added. Use the site for your benefit and we pray that it will benefit others who may come across it as well.

1st Sunday Fellowship Meal

Just a reminder: next week is our 1st Sunday fellowship meal; we hope that you can make plans to join us.



Upcoming Gospel Meetings:

October 18-21, 2009 with Maxie Boren

May 2-5, 2010 with John Moore

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 **37 contacts** were made.

Thank You

Don and Darlene Smith wish to thank everyone for the anniversary cards they received and the birthday cards for him.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

September Birthdays: James Fuller (06); Stori Arnold (08); Gene Bannister (16); Billie Ford (17); Clarence Ford (17); Ben Griffith (18); Marie White (18); Jeff Newton (21); Kathleen Hodge (24); Cindy Proud (26); Garrett Barnum (27); Linda Nichols (30).

September Anniversaries: Mitzi & Stephen Dahlberg (04); Joyce & Jack Hill (10).

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



Recent Records	August 16, 2009	August 23, 2009
Bible Class	62	68
AM Worship	76	80
PM Worship	55	62
Wednesday PM	42	58
Contribution	\$1423	\$1534

Privileged to Serve	08/30/09 - AM	08/30/09 - PM	09/06/09 - AM	09/06/09 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford Acts 20:32-38		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Don Smith
Wait on Table	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore	Ken Makuta*, Allen Griffith Gene Bannister, Matt Churchwell	Ken Makuta
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	James Thomas	Jim Moore
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 2 Ken Makuta	September 16 Tom Wilcox	September 23 Allen Griffith	September 30 Jim Moore

Studies For The Week of August 30th:

Sunday Class2 Thessalonians (Chapter 2)

Wednesday Class Daniel 9-10

Back to Basics: Strong Foundation (Hebrews 5:11-6:2)

1. There are things they **should have known** (have not matured).
 - a. V12 – they should have been teachers by now as sufficient time has passed but instead they need to be taught again.
 - b. Christians may fall in the same condition: baptized over 30 or 40 years and still not know some of the fundamentals of faith.
2. Their lack of knowledge/understanding was a **hindrance**.
 - a. Their lack of maturing made it difficult for them to learn more (5:5-6); They needed a foundation on which to build.
 - c. They needed spiritual milk because they could not properly digest anything else.
 - d. Christian growth does not just happen, it has to be worked at.
3. They needed to progress and **build upon a good foundation**.
 - a. Prescription/remedy: be built up in the doctrine of Christ.
 - b. Some had begun to turn back to the Old Testament, the rudiments or first principles of Christ – things that pointed to Christ and no longer had any hope of salvation.
 - c. They needed to lay once this foundation of principles and then leave them behind to progress in the building of their faith in Christ (not a system of dead works—6:1-2).
 - d. We must have a foundation of fundamentals and exercise (put to use) by means of discernment between good and evil.

Saying Goodbye—Hard but reminds us:

1. **To be thankful** (for the time we got to spend together).
 - a. It is impossible to say goodbye to someone you never met!
 - b. Jesus said goodbye to His disciples (John 13:33, 16:5-7); it was hard but they benefited much from their time together.
 - c. Paul was grateful for the Philippians and the time they had together (Phil. 1:3-5, 8).
 - d. Paul and the Ephesian elders said goodbye (Acts 20:37-38).
2. **To be Diligent/Watchful** (Make the most of our time).
 - a. Reminds us we will be parted in life or death and that life has uncertainties (James 4:14); so we should cherish and use our time together wisely (Eph. 5:15-16).
 - c. We see this attitude in both Jesus and Paul (John 4:34, 9:4; Phil. 1:20, 4:1; Acts 20:19-27).
3. **To be Faithful** (There is a reunion for the faithful).
 - a. Without saying goodbye, how can we be reunited?
 - b. Though it grieved David to lose a son, he longed for the time they could be together (2 Sam. 12:23).
 - c. Jesus comforted his disciples by this hope of reunion (John 14:1-3, 16:22).
 - d. Paul urged others on to receive a like reward (Phil. 1:27-28; Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

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Return Service Requested