



# Living By Faith

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

September 06, 2009

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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

## Where in the Bible Will I Find: That One Church Is As Good As Another?

By Gary Colley

Newspapers and billboards often advertise "Attend the church of your choice." These suggest and many tell us, that one church is as good as another. To those who are moving into new communities and searching for churches to attend, it may be an impressive building that attracts their attention or a friend might invite them, but most seem to believe that one church is as good as another. If one church is as good as another, then to attend the church of one's choice would be correct, BUT WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES (Romans 4:3)? The Lord said he would build His church (Matthew 16:18). Could a man-built church be as good as the church Christ built? Christ is the foundation of His church (I Corinthians 3:11). Could any other foundation be as good as this foundation? Christ established His teaching in His church (Matthew 28:18-20). Could the division and confusion of denominationalism made by the creeds of men be as good as the "unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:1-6, Matthew 15:13)? Christ shed His blood to save man and purchase His church (Hebrews 2:9, Acts 20:28). Can any man claim that his blood could purchase his church and cleanse as Christ's blood does? Christ proclaims that He is the Head of His church (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18). Now, men claim to be the head of their churches and one even claims to be the pope of his, but who would claim that a human head is as good as the Divine Head Jesus Christ of His church? The Lord commanded His apostles to teach people who obeyed the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:20). This included the commands for His worship. The five items He commanded in worship were singing, preaching, giving, partaking of the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day, and praying (Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7). There are many different kinds of worship in the many man-made churches. Would any be foolish enough to contend that what man has commanded in worship equals what Christ commanded in worship (John 4:24, Matthew 15:9)? No, one church is not as good as another! Let us choose the church of Christ's choice!

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

*Titus 2:11-12*

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



## Preventative Maintenance

By Tom Moore

I am sure we are all aware of the term “preventative maintenance.” When one practices preventative maintenance, he is doing those things that will help prevent breakdowns and to help various parts from wearing out too quickly. We understand this concept in regard to our automobiles. We change the oil, the various filters, we rotate the tires, we keep the car greased - we do whatever it take to prevent breakdowns. We own many other things for which we follow similar procedures.

In like manner, we need to be involved in preventative maintenance in our spiritual lives. Many a soul has been lost because they failed to prevent a spiritual breakdown. Sadly, many do nothing to prevent this disaster. Let us now consider various ways that we can be successful in spiritual preventative maintenance.

First of all, we must be diligent students of the word of God. The apostle Paul declared, “Be diligent [study—KJV] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). One of the major downfalls, and the item that leads to many other difficulties, is a lack of Bible knowledge. Notice what God said through the prophet Hosea, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children” (Hos. 4:6). Many Christians have committed sin, not realizing it, because they lacked Bible knowledge. Paul said, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, You shall not covet” (Rom. 7:7). As we involve ourselves in spiritual preventative maintenance we need to cultivate the attitude of David, “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my

meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:97) and “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” (Psa. 119:105). Are you studying the “manual” for good spiritual maintenance?

Secondly, we must be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jam. 1:23). A host of God’s people have failed to properly maintain their spiritual uprightness because they do not put into action the truths they have learned from God’s word. “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (Jam. 4:17). It is vital that we practice what we know to be good. That is why Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). Some have a great deal of Bible knowledge, but if they are not putting that knowledge to use in obedience to God - that knowledge is of little value. Are you following through with the needed maintenance?

Finally, we need to be careful with whom we associate. The apostle Paul warned, “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33 - ASV). In most cases, those with whom we associate frequently we will tend to be like. When we spend most of our time with the worldly, we are putting ourselves in a vulnerable position. Solomon said, “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Pro. 13:20). It is for this very reason that Paul said we are to “abstain from every form of evil” (1 The. 5:22). Beloved, the best people for us to associate with are those of like precious faith - those who help us get to heaven, and not hinder us.

Are you involved in spiritual preventative maintenance? If not - you better get started quickly. Your soul’s well-being is depending on it!

### Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)  
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB  
In Search of the Lord’s Way (Mack Lyon)  
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org  
Dish Network: Good News Today, Daily  
@ 11:00 am on channel 9407 or 9396

### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)  
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

**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)

### Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday .. Ps. 148-150; 1 Cor. 15:29-58  
Monday .. Proverbs 1-2; 1 Cor. 16  
Tuesday .. Proverbs 3-5; 2 Cor. 1  
Wednesday.. Proverbs 6-7; 2 Cor. 2  
Thursday .. Proverbs 8-9; 2 Cor. 3  
Friday .. Proverbs 10-12; 2 Cor. 4  
Saturday .. Proverbs 13-15; 2 Cor. 5  
*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)*

# News & Notes

## 1st Sunday Fellowship Meal

This week is our 1st Sunday fellowship meal; whether you are visiting or a member, we hope that you can join us.

### Attention All Ladies

Our **ladies class** will be resuming on Wednesday, **September 16th at 10 AM**. We hope that all of the ladies of the congregation will make plans to attend if possible. If you have been attending I hope you are looking forward to it again and if you have not been attending or have recently joined us, won't you consider being a part of this time of study and fellowship together? They meet every Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the fellowship hall.



As we start off the class, there will be a luncheon that day following class—see more details in next week's bulletin.

Many thanks to Linda Griffith for her work in preparing and teaching this class each week; the theme will be continued from last year, *"The Life of Christ."*

### Care, Inc. in Early & Others

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 this 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.

In addition, continue to remember our weekly service at **Redstone** (we thank the Moores, Griffiths, and Ken Makuta for their work there) at 2:30 PM and the monthly devotional at **Vicksburg** on the third Sunday of the month at 3:30 PM.

As the song says, "there is much to do, there is work on every hand" — indeed there are plenty of areas in which one can help, if you are looking for one these are some great options, or just ask and you can be put to work!

### Upcoming Gospel Meeting:

October 18-21, 2009 with Maxie Boren:

*"Finding Peace and Hope in a Troubled World"*



Continue to keep this effort in your prayers and start thinking now about those you can invite. Flyers and other "advertisements" will be available soon.

### Congratulations

- ◆ **Kris & Lena Groda** welcomed their new baby boy into the world Wednesday night. Mom and **Kendall Taylor** are doing fine and were able to go home Friday. Continue to keep them in your prayers.
- ◆ You will also want to congratulate and keep in your prayers **Mariah and Steven Martinez** who are expecting a new child around January 30th.



### Visitation Program

Remember to join us 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 **31 contacts** were made.

### 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 23, 2009	August 30, 2009
Bible Class		68	66
AM Worship		80	99
PM Worship		62	62
Wednesday PM		58	52
Contribution		\$1534	\$1604

Privileged to Serve	09/06/09 - AM	09/06/09 - PM	09/13/09 - AM	09/13/09 - PM
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Psalm 36:5-10		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Paul McClung	Don Smith	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Allen Griffith Gene Bannister, Matt Churchwell	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	James Fuller
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 16 Tom Wilcox	September 23 Allen Griffith	September 30 Jim Moore	October 7 Don Smith

**Studies For The Week of September 6th:**

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

Wednesday Class ..... Special

**Basics: Restoration is Possible**

*The Dr. Pepper plant at Dublin, TX is the oldest and the only plant that has always produced Dr. Pepper using pure cane sugar and I believe it can help teach us a fundamental fact about the church:*

**1. An Original Was Created (The Pattern)**

- a. For Dr. Pepper it was created in Waco in 1885 by Charles Alderton and bottling began in Dublin in 1891.
- b. The church had a start as well:
  - i. Eternally in the mind of God (Eph. 3:10-11).
  - ii. Prophesied of in the Old Testament (Dan. 2:44; Isa. 2:2).
  - iii. Day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection (Acts 2).
  - iv. Pattern preached to the world (2 Tim. 1:13; Rom. 6:17; 1 Cor. 11:1; Gal. 1:11-12).
  - v. A pattern that must be followed (Heb. 8:5).

**2. A Substitute was Put Forth (Departure from the Pattern)**

- a. For Dr. Pepper it was in the 1970's as sugar prices went up but Dublin Dr. Pepper vowed to stay with the original.
- b. Sadly, changes were presented in the church as well.
  - i. Warnings abound in the New Testament about such departures (2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Acts 20:28-30).
  - ii. Still changes to God's pattern were set forth and the wisdom of man was substituted for God's revealed truth.

**3. Accept Only the Original (Stay With or Return To the Truth)**

- a. The original Dr. Pepper can still be found today (at Dublin or anywhere else that would return to the original recipe) but whether we do or do not use it does not matter eternally.
- b. However we cannot use that same standard in worshipping and serving God—here the formula does matter eternally.
  - i. That which we preach/teach/follow must be God's Word (Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 4:2; John 12:48).
  - ii. Any substitute or alteration is not the truth of God's Word (Gal. 1:8).
  - iii. If we return to the original pattern, God's Inspired Word, and follow it and it only, we will have the church that God Design, Purposed, and Built (Col. 3:7; Luke 8:11).

**The Abundant Life of the Christian**

1. Abundant Life (John 10:10; Ps. 36:8; Luke 12:15)
2. Abundant Grace & Mercy (2 Cor. 9:8; Rom. 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 1:14; Titus 3:4-7)
3. Abundant Power & Supplies (Eph. 3:20, Phil. 4:19)
4. Abundant Honor & Worth (1 Cor. 12, esp. v23)
5. Abundant Joy/Rejoicing (2 Cor. 8:2; Phil. 1:26)
6. Abundant Entrance & Promises (2 Peter 1:11; John 14:1-3)

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