



Living By Faith

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

September 13, 2009

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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..... 10:00 AM
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.

Are We Thankful?

By Marvin Weir

Scriptures are plentiful in God’s Word that remind Christians to be thankful. The Psalmist noted that one is to “*come before his presence with thanksgiving*” (Psa. 5:2). The presence under consideration is Almighty God! The apostle Paul speaking by inspiration stated on three occasions: “*giving thanks always for all things unto God,*” “*be ye thankful,*” and “*in nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:6). All people should be grateful for the blessings that flow from God’s bountiful hand, but Christians should especially be thankful for the unique blessings that belong to them.

The Psalmist is quick to remind the reader that the Word of God is to be laid up in one’s heart so that sin might not occur (Psa. 119:11). But this requires a love for the law (Psa. 119:97) – more love for God’s laws than for the world and its pleasures (1 John 2:15-17). Joshua makes it clear that everyone has choices to make (Josh. 24:15), and so each person must decide if he is **for** or **against** God (Matt. 12:30).

Peter admonishes that “*as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation*” (1 Pet. 2:2). Such a “longing” or “desire” is to be characteristic of the child of God throughout his life. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews warns of those who should be teachers but instead have need that someone teach them again God’s truths (Heb. 5:12). One can cease to be thankful, cease to study and mature in Christ, and cease to be zealous toward spiritual matters. Some claim one cannot **lose** what he once **possessed**, but the Word of God begs to disagree. Peter again states, “*For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire*” (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

One’s attitude toward God and spiritual matters is of tremendous importance. There are indicators that reveal just how thankful one may or may not be. Please consider carefully the following questions.

1. Am I faithful to the Lord and His church? How can one who refuses to assemble with the saints on a regular basis consider himself faithful to the cause of Christ? The Bible warns that the assembly must not be forsaken (Heb. 10:25).

(Continued on page 2)



*Though he were a Son,
yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
And being made perfect,
he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
Hebrews 5:8-9*

Don't Give Up

One is not thankful who treats spiritual matters with indifference.

2. Do I make time to study the Word of God on a regular basis? One does not lie down at night and wake up the next morning rooted and grounded in the truth! One who is thankful for what Christ has done will put forth a diligent effort to study the Sacred Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15).
3. Am I regular in prayer? Prayer is one way we demonstrate to God how thankful we are. The created must always recognize his dependency and need of the Creator. Saints are to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17). One does not know what the *"supplication of a righteous man"* can avail (James 5:17).
4. Do I make every effort to flee from evil (1 Thess. 5:22)? Am I willing to give worldliness a wide berth? Will I choose to forego what is popular for what is right? Do others view my life as an exclamation point or a question mark? One who is thankful for the sacrifice of Christ will **not** see how close he can come to the broad gate without actually entering therein (Matt. 7:13-14).
5. Do I examine myself in light of God's Word? Paul admonishes, *"Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves"* (2 Cor. 13:5).

There is always the ever-present danger of the child of God being sidetracked by the fiery darts of Satan and forgetting the blessings uniquely his as a citizen of the heavenly abode. One must keep things in their proper perspective as he travels through this life. Failure to do so will keep one from possessing a heart of thanksgiving, and this can start a chain reaction that leads to eternal ruin.

Remember that if Heaven be our goal we can learn whatever state we are in to be thankful and content (Phil. 4:11). A faithful Christian can **always** rejoice because his citizenship is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20). May we ever be grateful that this eternal city is ours to claim! Let us strive to manifest a spirit of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father each day that we are privileged to live and then gratefully serve in the wonderful kingdom of His dear Son!

By 1989, baseball player Nolan Ryan reached an incredible 5,000 strikeouts, and all of those were no hitters. Ryan is a phenomenal baseball player. In his rookie year, 18 years earlier, Gil Hodges was the manager of the Mets, and was impatient with Ryan. Although Ryan could consistently throw the ball over ninety miles an hour, most of the time it didn't go over the plate. He was walking everybody, hitting a lot of people, too. Hodges told Ryan at the beginning of a particular game that he was to pitch better in that game or he would pull him out and trade him. He would be finished.

Ryan went into that game trying to do his best, determined that he was going to succeed. He was miserable. He walked something like seven or eight batters in four innings. Hodges took him out. Later that season he was traded to the Angels.

After the game Richard Reeves went down into the locker room to interview the players. He noticed Nolan Ryan was apart from the others, looking into a mirror, obviously having difficulty tying his tie. Reeves got closer to him and noticed that there were tears in his eyes. He was crying. He couldn't see to tie his tie because of the tears.

Reeves remembered that incident on the occasion of celebrating Nolan Ryan as one of the immortals of baseball. He remembered that this legendary man, Nolan Ryan, **BEGAN** his long string of success thinking he had failed. But he kept on working. He kept on practicing. He kept on doing his job.

In like manner, a Christian's life will be filled with failures and disappointments. Many Christians have "thrown up their hands" in disgust and have quit the Christian race – thinking they have failed. But friends, we must be persistent! "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). When failure and disappointments come our way, we need to remember the words of our Lord's brother, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying

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 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 .. Proverbs 16-18; 2 Cor. 6</p> <p>Monday .. Proverbs 19-21; 2 Cor. 7</p> <p>Tuesday .. Proverbs 22-24; 2 Cor. 8</p> <p>Wednesday.. Proverbs 25-26; 2 Cor. 9</p> <p>Thursday .. Proverbs 27-29; 2 Cor. 10</p> <p>Friday .. Prov. 30-31; 2 Cor. 11:1-15</p> <p>Saturday .. Eccl. 1-3; 2 Cor. 11:16-33</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of</i></p>

News & Notes

Attention All Ladies

Our **ladies class** will be resuming this 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.



To help start off the class we will be having a luncheon that day following class. Salads, Baked Potatoes, and Deserts will be provided. See Linda for any additional details/questions.

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."*

Come start your day off right by studying the life of Christ!

Redstone, Care, Vicksburg

Continue to remember that we have started gathering every Sunday at 2:30 in Room 50 at Care, Inc. in Early to offer communion and a devotional there. If you would like to help or want more information, please see Don Smith.

In addition, continue to remember our weekly service at **Redstone** at 2:30 PM.

And also next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month so we will be meeting and having our monthly devotional at **Vicksburg** 3:30 PM.

Consider supporting one or more of these events every opportunity that you get.

Upcoming Gospel Meeting:

October 18-21, 2009 with Maxie Boren:

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

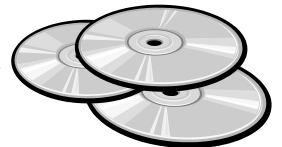


Continue to keep this effort in your prayers and start thinking now about those you can invite. Flyers and other "advertisements" will be available soon.

CDs Ready

All CDs requested last week are ready and have been placed at the table at the back of the auditorium.

Make sure and pick yours up.



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 **30 contacts** were made.

Also remember that next Sunday is the **3rd Sunday** and so we will have snacks/finger foods following the meeting. We hope you can plan on staying after the meeting to enjoy more food and time together!

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 30, 2009	August 30, 2009
Bible Class	66	70
AM Worship	99	86
PM Worship	62	
Wednesday PM	52	
Contribution	\$1604	\$1604

Privileged to Serve	09/13/09 - AM	09/13/09 - PM	09/20/09 - AM	09/20/09 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		John & Tina Barnum	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum Philippians 2:5-11		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garret Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 16 Allen Griffith	September 23 Jim Moore	September 30 Don Smith	October 7 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of September 13th:

Sunday Class Jim Moore

Wednesday Class Daniel 10

AM Sermon: Tom Wilcox / PM Sermon: Allen Griffith

(Continued from page 2)

of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (Jam. 1:2-4).

Beloved don’t give – don’t ever give up. Remember, the word of the apostle Paul, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13). “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

*From The Old Paths Bulletin
of the Grange Hall church of Christ, Warren Co., TN*

Something to think about...

In 1829, in Pennsylvania, George Wilson was convicted of mail robbery and murder and sentenced to death. President Andrew Jackson pardoned him, but Wilson refused to accept it. Confusion resulted. No one had heard of such a thing!

Finally, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall, ruled that a pardon is a document, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the parties implicated. A pardon refused is no pardon. George Wilson must hang! A few weeks later he did. Why? Because he had to? No, he refused the pardon.

While this is a sad story, there is a sadder one. It is the story of the lost man who refuses to accept the pardon Christ has made available through His death, burial, and resurrection. Christ has paid the price and offers pardon to all who will accept it through obedience to the gospel. Yet, most refuse to accept the pardon.

By Jim Dearman

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