



Living By Faith

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

September 20, 2009

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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.

Notes / Events / Fundamentals of the Faith

It is great to be back with you once again. My family and I greatly enjoyed being able to “get away” for a few days and enjoy time with family. It was also nice to sit and listen to a sermon on Sunday rather than give it! While I do enjoy preaching, it serves as a great encouragement and refresher to get to listen from time to time. On Sunday morning, we were able to worship with the Centerville Road congregation in Garland, TX where Ken Hope preaches and enjoyed a great sermon on being a servant which gave me ideas for two or three sermons I hope present soon. Then on Sunday night we got out to Rowlett, TX to worship with the congregation where Priscilla and I attended before entering preaching school. It was great to be back with them and we got to hear another great sermon by Ivy Powell on being active in the work of the Lord. Thank you for the time away and to Jim Moore, Tom Wilcox, Allen Griffith, Mike Bannister, and Gene Bannister for filling in while I was away — we certainly are blessed with a number of talented men and women here that are willing to do whatever they can in the work of the Lord; thank you and keep up the good work.

Speaking of work, the **gospel meeting with Maxie Boren** is just around the corner! I looked at the calendar this week and was a little surprised to find that it begins **just 4 weeks from today!** There is certainly much to do in preparation and I hope that you will do everything that you can to make it a great success. The theme will be **“Finding Peace and Hope in a Troubled World”** and it is scheduled for **October 18-21**. I hope to have flyers made by Wednesday night that you can have to hand out to others as an invitation. Also the House to House issue that is going out this week contains information about the meeting on the back page. Be thinking of those that you can invite (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) and give them a personal invitation and a flyer to serve as a reminder. Also make sure that you have put it on your calendar that you might be here every time. Here are a few other areas in which you can help: there will be a sign-up sheet tonight for those willing to host Maxie and his wife for dinner at night either in your home or taking them out to eat; also we are adding a class this year on Wednesday morning in place of the ladies class and will have a potluck lunch following—make plans to attend class if you can and bring food to help with that lunch as we are not sure how many visitors will be here for it; and certainly keep the meeting and its success in your prayers.

I realize the timing of my Sunday morning sermon series has not been the greatest; between my vacation and the upcoming meeting there have been a few interruptions but I still hope that it has been and will continue to be beneficial. So far we have considered the need for studying “basics” and the fact that the church we read of in the New Testament can be restored today and anywhere the “recipe” or seed of the gospel (Luke 8:11) is taught. The next four sermons, which will take us up to the meeting, all focus on recognizing some identifying marks of the New Testament church so that we can make sure that is the church we are a part of today. These lessons are 1) The Time,

(Continued on page 2)



*Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you
always in remembrance of these things,
though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.*

2 Peter 1:12

(Continued from page 1)

Place, Foundation, and Name of the church; 2) Entrance, Membership, and Work of the church; 3) Organization and Doctrine of the church; and 4) The Worship of the church. These are fundamental things that may seem basic to many but sadly the knowledge of such is lacking in the lives of many Christians. I was reminded of this as I read a letter this week from Focus Press (founded by Brad Harrub and Jim Palmer) that reminds us, “we are losing approximately 75% of our young people in the church.” That means, on average, only **one out of four young people are remaining faithful!** That is a statistic that should greatly sadden, trouble, and motivate us — not because it represents just smaller numbers or smaller contributions, but because it represents MANY souls that are lost who should know the truth. I do not know everything concerning the why of this statistic but I think I know some of the major causes:

1. **Lack of grounding in the fundamentals of the Christian faith** (Hebrews 5:11-14). The Hebrews writer shows the harm that is being caused by those that have not matured as Christians—not only are they harming themselves, they are harming those around them. Many Christians have not matured in their faith even though they have been Christians for 20, 40, 60 years. Now they have not been able to teach or ground their children or others in the fundamentals. Having no base to build on, when their faith is challenged, it simply falls flat.
2. **Failure on our part as parents and teachers to teach constantly and consistently** even as Moses instructed Israel (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Moses instructed families to make teaching God’s law a part of their everyday lives and that is the same approach we need to take. Our children need to be shown evidences for God that are all around in nature. We need to be taking opportunities to instruct our children about God and His Word. Sadly, I am afraid we rely far too much on the church to provide the only instruction our children receive. While that instruction is necessary, **IT IS NOT ENOUGH!** Most children will spend a mere 4 hours a week in Bible class or worship with the church and maybe another hour or two in Christian fellowship. Yet they spend around 40 hours a week at school and maybe another 14+ hours in front of the TV (for many kids). If what is taught in Bible classes and worship is not reaffirmed and built upon in the home, that child will not be equipped to face the challenges that will be presented in the classroom and in life. They need

to see us studying and teaching everyday as an example for them to follow.

3. **Failure to show the uniqueness and singularity of the truth and the church** (John 17:17; John 14:6; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; etc.). It really does not surprise me that many will leave the church when they grow up because we have not countered the ideas of the world. The world will tell them that there are many ways to the same goal, that what is right for you may or may not be right for others, and many other such things. Many that have “been in the church” for a long time cannot even tell you why the church of Christ is unique or any different from other “churches” around. So if another religious body is more “exciting” or more friendly or appealing in some way, you might as well go there! They have not heard any different, so why not? We must learn and teach that indeed Christ promised and died for **ONE** church (Matthew 16:18) and it is the church which we **MUST** be a member of and not some man-made body that will be cut off (John 15:6). We need to teach and remind that the unity we are to have is based on the truth of God’s Word (John 17:17, 21, 1 Corinthians 1:10) and if we would all follow it as our guide, we would be united and we would be the **ONE, TRUE CHURCH** that Jesus purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28) and we find in the Bible.
4. **Failure to know or be able to give an answer for the reason of our faith and hope** (1 Peter 3:15). It seems many do not know why they believe what they believe and do what they do. As Christians we should be able to defend our own personal faith and the system of faith (the gospel) (Jude 3). But that requires knowing what we believe and why. If we go to a church or do something because someone else does or it is what we have “always” done, then we should not be surprised when our children fall away and we cannot interest others in coming either, because we cannot defend what we believe. I am not sure that there was not a generation that was raised to believe “just because;” one that was told not to question anything, just believe and do and as a result many have a blind faith. As a result, that generation was not able to tell their children why we do what we do and why we believe what we believe and therefore will go somewhere else looking for answers. We should be ready to tell someone why I am a Christian and why they should be too. We should be encouraging people to ask questions and search for the

(Continued on page 3)

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>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 .. Eccl. 4-6; 2 Corinthians 12</p> <p>Monday .. Eccl. 7-9; 2 Corinthians 13</p> <p>Tuesday .. Eccl. 10-12; Galatians 1</p> <p>Wednesday .. Song of Sol. 1-3; Galatians 2</p> <p>Thursday .. Song of Sol. 4-5; Galatians 3</p> <p>Friday .. Song of Sol. 6-8; Galatians 4</p> <p>Saturday .. Isaiah 1-2; Galatians 5</p> <p><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

Ladies Class

The ladies class got started again this past Wednesday. Remember that they meet every Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. We hope that you can make it as we continue a study of 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.

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

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

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Sept. 25-27: Lectureship at 5th & Grape in Abilene. "Redeeming the Time" - See Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Oct. 4-7: Meeting at Bangs with Otho Rogers.
- ◆ Oct. 4-7: Meeting at Ave. T in Temple with Wayne Jones; "Gearing up for Greater Service".

October 18-21, 2009 with Maxie Boren:
"Finding Peace and Hope in a Troubled World"

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

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.

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

Baptism

We rejoice with God and the angels in heaven (Luke 15:10) over the decision of **Jack Stultz** to be baptized into Christ last night. He desires to work and worship with us here; let us pray for and encourage him.

(Continued from page 2)

truth that can only be found in God's Word. If we could teach our children what we believe and why and then encourage them to always prove their actions and beliefs by God's Word, I believe fewer would fall away and more would be grounded in the fundamentals of faith that will not be shaken or blown about by error (Eph. 4:14-16).

As I said, I don't claim to know all the answers, but I believe these are some of the major problems we have in the church and why we are beginning to rapidly decline. There was a time when we were known as one of the fastest growing religious bodies and it corresponded with a time when we were known as a people of the Book—that was no coincidence. Let us be taught, reminded, and fortified in the fundamentals of the faith and teach that to our children and family and neighbors, not to the boasting of numbers but to the rejoicing of many, many souls being saved instead of lost.

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..." (Romans 12:15)



	Recent Records	Sept. 06, 2009	Sept. 13, 2009
Bible Class		70	59
AM Worship		86	69
PM Worship		62	50
Wednesday PM		44	56
Contribution		\$1604	\$1426

Privileged to Serve	09/20/09 - AM	09/20/09 - PM	09/27/09 - AM	09/27/09 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum Jeremiah 9:23-24		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garret Barnum	Jim Moore	Don Smith*, Ken Makuta James fuller, John Barnum	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 23 Jim Moore	September 30 Don Smith	October 7 James Fuller	October 14 Ken Makuta

Studies For The Week of September 20th:

Sunday Class 2 Thessalonians 2

Wednesday Class Daniel 10

Basics: Identifying Marks (Pt 1: Foundation/Time/Place/Name)

1. Right Foundation/Founder

- a. Make sure we are a part of house that God built (Heb. 3:4, 6).
- b. The New Testament church is be founded by and on Christ (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-20; John 15:6; Matt. 16:18; Acts 4:12).
- c. No other founder/foundation will work (Matt. 7:24-27).

2. Right Time & Place

- a. Prophecy: last days, in the days of the Roman kings, in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2; Dan. 2:44).
- b. Gospel Promises: at hand, in the lives of those people, with power, and beginning in Jerusalem (Matt. 3:2, 4:17; Mk. 9:1; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8)
- c. Fulfilled exactly in Acts 2! And now the church no longer spoken of in future but established (compare Matt. 16:18 with Acts 2:41, 47 and Col. 1:3, Rom. 16:16, Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23).

3. Right Name

- a. Claims allegiance to the right founder and can be found in NT
- b. Various names (Matt. 16:18, Acts 8:1, 1 Cor. 1:2, Rom. 16:16, Eph. 4:12, Heb. 12:23; 1 Tim. 3:15) all of which show ownership by God/Christ, not any man (1 Cor. 1:13).
- c. Does another name glorify Christ and show our allegiance?
- d. Church of Christ is not a denominational title but a mark of ownership/possession – we are His body (Eph. 1:22-23).

In ____ We Trust

1. Wisdom

- a. We often think we know best and forget God (1 Cor. 1:21).
- b. Naaman (2 Kings 5) shows the folly of trusting human wisdom.
- c. What did Christ trust in? God or human wisdom? (Matt. 4:1-11)
- d. We must look to God instead of human wisdom (Jer. 10:23).

2. Might

- a. We trust in our military might, but we are not invincible.
- b. OT shows those who trusted in might and fell and those that trusted in God and won over might (Jer. 37:10; Ps. 33:16-17).
- c. Strength is fleeting; only in God can we ultimately trust.

3. Riches

- a. Might be fitting to change our motto to “In the dollar we trust.”
- b. In economic downturn, many people seem to lose all hope.
- c. We have examples and warnings not trust in uncertain riches and forget God (Deut. 88; Ps. 49:6-7, 10-12; 1 Tim. 6:6-10).

4. God

- a. Timothy is told not to trust in riches but in God (1 Tim. 6:17).
- b. A source of true wisdom, strength, and riches (Ps. 33:12, 18-22)
- c. More than words; must be combined with action (Ps. 34:8-22).
- d. Trust in Him who will never leave or forsake you! (Heb. 13:5).

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