



Living By Faith

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

October 4, 2009

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
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
Eric Henry, SWSBS
Food Pantry
Gospel Broadcast Network
Gospel Chariot Missions
House to House, Heart to Heart
Lake Cisco Camp
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, BTSP
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

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

This morning, we will continue our sermon from last week about being members of the New Testament church. In this series we are looking at the marks of the New Testament church and seeing that if we follow the same pattern today, we will get the same results. Last week we saw how that one could become a member of the church, the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) by hearing and believing the gospel, repenting of sins, confessing Christ, and being baptized for the remission of sins. But, as I do from time to time, I simply planned to cover too much material and so we stopped there and I want to resume this week with the idea that now we must continue to be a New Testament Christian...it is not going to happen by accident. Instead what we will see is that the Bible and therefore the first century church teaches that one can cease to be faithful and lose his reward. The articles this week also encourage us along this line to continue faithfully in Christ to obtain our reward (2 Tim. 4:6-8) and be an example to others (Phil. 2:15-16).
~Ryan

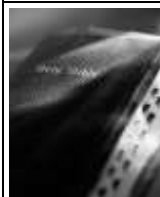
"What Does It Profit?"

By John Woodruff

The Bible is the greatest book that has ever been written or ever will be written. It is designed to produce faith in the hearts of humanity (Rom. 10:17). Most people will open their Bibles and read of the stories of Moses, Joshua, David, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and they will take joy in what they learn. It's fantastic to read of the great men and women of faith in the Bible and how they overcame great obstacles to serve our God. Isn't it wonderful to sit in worship services and hear great sermons on love, joy, and the forgiveness that has been provided to us through the blood of Jesus? Isn't it easy to get emotionally charged up during a lesson and start to feel good about our lives as Christians and the hope of Heaven that lingers in our future?

But what does any of that profit? You might be thinking, "What do you mean, what does it profit?" "Those things are the heart of Christianity!" Well of course those things are obviously important, but what I am referring to is what does it profit if you learn of the knowledge of God through His word and you keep your faith to yourself? What does it profit for us to spend our time in Bible classes and daily Bible reading if we close the good book and never act on what we believe? What good does it profit for us to get emotionally and spiritually charged up on the inside if we never take our faith to the outside world?

The book of James was written to Christians to help them make their lives consistent with their profession of faith. James 2:14-16 tells us, "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?" In other words, if our faith and our knowledge of the word of God doesn't propel us to service and actually living the teachings of Christ, what does it matter? He says in the next verse, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." If our faith isn't active, if our faith doesn't "go into all the world," if our faith doesn't serve others, then we don't really have Biblical faith! Biblical faith works, is active, is obedient, and cannot be contained. Biblical faith has to be spoken because we can't hold it inside; we can't wait to tell others about Jesus Christ. Biblical faith is alive and it always profits!



Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

A Blinking Light

By Oran Rhodes

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

A few years ago, we had a Beta VCR in our bedroom which faced our bed. The ability to set the clock on the dumb thing was beyond my feeble capabilities at anything needing technical understanding. Did you ever try to go to sleep in a pitch-dark room with just a tiny blinking light constantly in operation? I would throw my shirt over it, but it shined through it. Thus this became the place to put my trousers each night. Something this simple and bothersome should have been taken care of, but you are not me. Let me tell you: a blinking light doesn't give light, but it is extremely annoying.

In all of this, I believe there are some lessons to be learned that apply to our spiritual lives concerning the light we as Christians are supposed to be.

1. **To work properly, it requires being set by following the proper instructions.** As long as I could not properly follow the instructions to set the clock, it obviously would not do what it was suppose to do. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:7-8). Only when we as His disciples do as He has commanded in order to become a discipline and to live as a disciple, can we be and do what He wants. Following the wrong instructions will never produce what He intended.
2. **To give light, the light must be steady.** "He only is

my rock and my salvation: he is my defence, I shall not be moved." (Ps. 62:6). Recognizing that giving light is not the main purpose of the VCR light, it, however, is important to be light for its intended purpose. We, too, have a purpose in doing God's will for our own salvation, and in doing so, we will give light.

3. **It must be accurate to do what it is supposed to do.** "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 4: 12). The clock on the VCR is supposed to accurately give the time, but it requires the light in order that the time may be seen. We are suppose to be accurately demonstrating what a Christian is to be. Being off and on, cold or hot, gives an inaccurate picture of what God desires for the life lived for Him.

4. **It must shine day and night whether it is noticed or not.** "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Tim. 4:16). The VCR had no idea when someone was going to look at it; however, it had to remain true to its purpose so that when someone does look, it would fulfill its intent. So must we remain always true to our purpose so that when someone looks to us, we will be what they need to see!

I did not notice that the light was blinking until all the lights in the room were out and it was the only light I could see. We may think we are not watched, that no one pays any attention to us, but there will be an occasion if you remain faithful, that your light will be all there is in someone's realm of the darkness of sin. If you don't remain steady, doing what you are suppose to do, but are inconsistent, off and on as a Christian example, you are a hypocrite -a light that flashes on and off, providing no help, but are simply distracting and annoying.

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 style="text-align: center;">Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 .. Isaiah 20-22; Ephesians 6</p> <p>Monday .. Isaiah 23-25; Philippians 1</p> <p>Tuesday .. Isaiah 26-27; Philippians 2</p> <p>Wednesday.. Isaiah 28-29; Philippians 3</p> <p>Thursday .. Isaiah 30-31; Philippians 4</p> <p>Friday .. Isaiah 32-33; Colossians 1</p> <p>Saturday .. Isaiah 34-36; Colossians 2</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 truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)</i></p>



News & Notes

1st Sunday Fellowship Meal

Today is the 1st Sunday of October and so we will be having our monthly potluck lunch following the morning worship service. We hope that you can make plans to join us.

Ladies Class

The ladies class continues every Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall and they are studying the Life of Christ. We hope that you can make it out.

Address Change

Please note that Kathleen Hodge has been moved to Room 63 at Care, Inc. (200 CR 616; Early, TX; 76802)

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 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*”.
- ◆ Oct. 17 at 9:30: Ladies Day at Ranger.
See bulletin board for flyers and additional details.

Finding Peace and Hope in a Troubled World

October 18-21, 2009

Our world is full of trouble from immorality to terror to false religion and in our own lives we have financial problems, problems at work/school, and family problems. In such a situation, one might wonder whether peace and hope can even be found!

But rest assured that the Bible contains the answers to this and all of life’s greatest questions. So please join us for our Fall Gospel Meeting at the 4th & Stewart church of Christ as we explore this timely topic from God’s Word with guest speaker, Maxie Boren.

Schedule: Sunday @ 9:45 AM, 10:40 AM, 6:00 PM

Monday-Wednesday @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday @ 11:00 AM with lunch following.

Please continue to keep this effort in your prayers it is now **JUST 2 WEEKS AWAY!** Flyers are still available at the back of the auditorium. Also there is still one opening for someone to host Maxie and his wife for dinner, please sign-up on the bulletin board.

The Word of God:

Our Guide – “When you go, it shall lead you.”

Our Guard – “When you sleep, it shall keep you.”

Our Guest – “When you awaken, it shall talk with you.”

Proverbs 6:22

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 **33 contacts** were made.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

October Birthdays: Jim Moore (03); Lisa Greer (05); Matthew Churchwell (07); Jo Maninger (12); Seth Smithey (13); Hank Wheeler (13); Tina Barnum (14); Cassie Freeman (23); Peggy Dudley (25).

October Anniversaries: Earlene & Earl Tomlinson (01); Freda & James Womack (19); Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25); Patti & Mike Bannister (27).

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



	Recent Records	Sept. 20, 2009	Sept. 27, 2009
Bible Class		69	74
AM Worship		79	86
PM Worship		46	58
Wednesday PM		45	44
Contribution		\$1544	\$1600

Privileged to Serve	10/04/09 - AM	10/04/09 - PM	10/11/09 - AM	10/11/09 - PM
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum John 15:9-14		Hank Wheeler
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	Matt Churchwell	Billy Chism	Jim Moore
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 30 Don Smith	October 7 James Fuller	October 14 Ken Makuta	October 21 Tom Wilcox

Studies For The Week of October 4th:

Sunday Class 2 Thessalonians 2

Wednesday Class Daniel 10

Basics: Identifying Marks (Pt 3: Membership)

1) Name:

- a) Having then been added the church/Christ we are called: Disciples (Acts 20:7), Saints (1 Cor. 1:2), faithful in Christ (Eph. 1:1); Brethren (1 Cor. 15:6); Sons of God (Rom. 8:14), Children of God (Rom. 8:16), Heirs of God (Rom. 8:17), Royal priesthood/priests (1 Pet. 2:9); Christians (Acts 11:29).
- b) We should desire to be nothing more, nothing less but glorify God in this name (1 Pet. 4:16).

2) Changed Life:

- a) The NT church teaches there is a change brought about in the life of a Christian (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 12:2).
- b) We become a new creature with a new aim, new character, and new will (Col. 3:1-17).

3) Continued Faithfulness:

- a) Baptism is a final act of initial obedience but is a beginning of the Christian life.
- b) One is only a Christian/Disciple/Etc. as he continues in Christ (John 15:1-8; John 8:31-32, 2 Tim. 4:2-4); otherwise we are turned away and need to repent (Acts 8:21-22; 1 John 1:7,9).
- c) It also proclaims the reward of continuing faithfully (2 Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 2:10).

Healing of a Palsied Man (Mark 2:1-12)

I. Helpless (Man Sick with Palsy); Needed a healer

- A. He was crippled by this disease and unable to help himself.
- B. Much like the problem of sin (Rom. 6:23; John 5:40, 8:24).

II. Helpers (4 Friends); Gave lessons in:

- A. **Love:** saw one in need and acted (Lk 10:25-37; John 13:34; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:1-11).
- B. **Determination:** didn't let anything stand in their way; endurance (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:58; Lk. 8:15).
- C. **Faith:** Trusted Jesus was the ONLY ONE that could heal (Acts 4:12) and ACTED on that belief.

III. Healer (Jesus); He showed:

- A. **Compassion:** cared for people physically and spiritually (Matt. 9:35-36; Lk 19:10; John 15:13; Rom. 5:8).
- B. **Authority:** proved He was the Christ (Jn. 5:36; Matt. 28:18).
- C. **He is the great physician** – the only one that can cure man's greatest ill, sin! (Acts 4:12; Luke 24:47; Rom 1:16)

IV. Hindrances (Scribes and Crowds)

- A. **Active:** the scribes spoke against Jesus; looking for flaws (Matt. 7:3) and keeping others away (1 Thess. 2:15-16).
- B. **Passive:** the crowds; stood in the way of reaching Christ; think about your actions, lest we keep others away (Matt 18:6)

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Return Service Requested