



# Living By Faith

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

November 1, 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  
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.

## Attendance Matters

By Kevin W. Rhodes

For whatever reason, attendance is one of those subjects that people do not want to discuss very often when it pertains to their spiritual lives. To some, the preacher mentions it too frequently as it is, instead of getting around to other more important topics. I suppose that some grow frustrated hearing about it and assume that the preacher or the elders are only interested in the number on the board at the front of the auditorium, but that would be inaccurate and quite unfair. That number represents individual souls who are troubled, tired, hurting, growing, searching, weak, maturing, apathetic, and even hypocritical. It includes elders, deacons, preachers; teachers, workers, new converts, visitors; singles, couples, babies, families, widows; people brought up in the church, people who were converted; people with money, people with nothing; young, old, and in between (Gal. 3:26-29). The nature and mission of the church make this not only inevitable but also proper. All of these people have different strengths, different weaknesses, and different backgrounds, but the Lord calls on them all to gather together for their mutual benefit.

The current climate in society spurns the Lord's design, expecting the church to cater to people and provide specialty groups where people can find a guarantee of others with similar interests. "Designer" churches are cropping up everywhere to try to fill a niche in "the market." Community churches, cowboy churches, biker churches, and political churches, to name a few, now spot the landscape, intermingling with traditional denominations to produce an even more confusing pattern of religiosity. Even some in the church have fallen prey to this thinking. But the beauty of studying the Bible, seeking to improve our lives before God, and bowing down before our Lord is sometimes lost on people due to their simplicity. Some grow weary of attending regularly because it seems like "too much" for them, while remaining completely oblivious to the fact that it is the world that is wearing them out—not the Lord or His people! Other find the "sameness" boring, apparently unaware that the "sameness" is in their hearts rather than in worship and Bible study. Many people are simply takers: they want to take from the Lord and take from the church without ever giving anything of themselves (2 Cor. 8:5).

Your attendance matters. It matters to those who watch for your souls and set up opportunities for us to assemble together (Heb. 13: 17). It matters to the Bible Class teachers who spend hours preparing material for you and your children (Jas. 3: 17). It matters to the preacher who has spent the week preparing something from God's Word for your spiritual benefit (2 Tim. 4:2-4). It matters to the guest speakers who are receiving an impression of what you are as a Christian. Most of all, it matters to the God, who calls on us to assemble (Heb. 10:25), and to the Lord, whom we are to remember every Lord's day (1 Cor. 11 :23-29). So, does your attendance matter to you? I guess we will see.



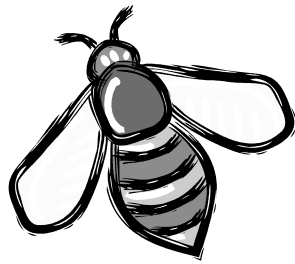
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

## Let's Work Our Wings Off

By Mike Riley

Beekeepers know that a bee's age is determined by the condition of its wings. Because bees constantly work, their wings get a lot of wear and tear. Young bees have wide well-formed wings, whereas older bees have narrow, torn, and tattered wings.



The bee doesn't die of old age. It dies when its wings are completely worn out and it can no longer work or fly. Near the point of death, the bee points itself away from the beehive and begins to fly, never to return again. The bee literally wears itself out working!

As we look at the worn out bee, there's a spiritual lesson for us. As Christians, we must be diligent servants, doing the work of the Lord. In Revelation 2-3, when Jesus evaluated the spiritual condition of the seven churches of Asia, He refers to their labor in the Lord's kingdom (Revelation 2:2; Revelation 2:9; Revelation 2:13; Revelation 2:19; Revelation 3:1; Revelation 3:8; Revelation 3:15). Their degree of acceptance was directly proportional to the kind and amount of work they were doing.

The inspired writer James records these words in this regard:

"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:25)

If we desire to be recipients of the spiritual blessings of this life and the life to come, we must be "a doer of the work." We must be a people who are willing to "work our wings off" in the Lord's service (1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Jeremiah 48:10 AMP).

## Have We Become Too Busy?

By Wayne Rodgers

It was Ben Franklin who said, "*Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.*" What is time? Einstein said it is what the clock read. There is solar time, Atomic time, daytime, nighttime, local time, good times, and old times. The Bible says that Felix waited for a "*convenient time.*" Paul said that "*now is the accepted time*" (2 Cor. 6:2) and that the "*time is short*" (1 Cor. 7:29). James said "*life is but a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*" (James 4:14). Every birthday is a milestone of the relentless march of time and a reminder that we are quickly passing through the sands of this world. "*As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them*" (Psa. 103:15-18). We have learned that we can never go back, only forward in time.

Time comes from God, though God himself lives outside the boundaries of time. "*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*" (2 Pet. 3:8). Time began when God created the universe—"*And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day*" (Gen. 1:5). God created the stars in their courses that determine our hours, days, months, and years (Gen. 1:16). As the one who has control over time, God gives it out to us a moment at a time. Someday, we shall stand before God and turn in, as it were, a time card accounting for how we have used his gift (cf. 1 Cor. 4:2; Lk. 16:2). Are we good stewards of the "time" we have been given by God? We should all say with Moses, "*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*" (Psa. 90:12).

(Continued on page 3)

### 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 .. Jeremiah 24-26; Titus 2  
Monday .. Jeremiah 27-29; Titus 3  
Tuesday .. Jeremiah 30-31; Philemon  
Wednesday.. Jeremiah 32-33; Hebrews 1  
Thursday .. Jeremiah 34-36; Hebrews 2  
Friday .. Jeremiah 37-39; Hebrews 3  
Saturday .. Jeremiah 40-42; Hebrews 4  
*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*

We hope that you can join us for our **1st Sunday Potluck** lunch following the morning worship time.

## *Ladies Class*

Ladies, remember the ladies class will meet at 10 AM in the fellowship hall as we study the Life of Christ.

## *New Study Materials*

There are still a few copies of the latest **Spiritual Sword** available if you have not gotten one yet. Also a new edition of **Reflections** came in this week; it deals with family and marriage. Both are on the table at the back of the auditorium.

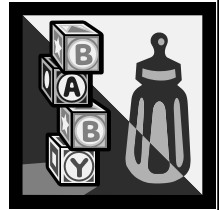
## *In the Area...Gospel Meeting*

The Hillcrest congregation in Stephenville is having a gospel meeting this week (Nov. 1-4) with Mike Bonner. The theme will be Balanced Christianity. See flyer on bulletin board for additional details.

## *It's a Girl*

The ladies are invited to a **baby shower** honoring **Mariah Martinez** on **Sunday, November 15 at 4 PM** in the fellowship hall.

Mariah is expecting a girl around the first of February—she is registered at Wal-Mart.



*(Continued from page 2)*

We are to look to Jesus for our example (*1 Peter 2:21*). Jesus was never too busy, and he did not waste time. He always took time to pray and mediate (*Lk. 9:18*), to go to worship services (*Lk. 4:16*) to give attention to the sick (*Gal. 6:9*), to rest (*Lk. 8:22-25*), to give attention to the children (*Mt. 19:13, 14*), and even found time to attend a social event, the wedding feast in Cana (*Jn. 2:1-10*). Jesus was certainly the example we should imitate. Jesus was master over His time, and we should ever strive to be the same. *“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:14-16)*. We should learn to prioritize the things in each of our lives, so that, our ultimate goal is fulfilled—to bring glory and honor to God through our service and daily offering (*Rom. 12:1-2*).

Recent Records	Oct. 18, 2009	Oct. 25, 2009
Bible Class	61	65
AM Worship	81	82
PM Worship	69	
Monday PM	68	N/A
Tuesday PM	67	N/A
Wednesday AM	33	N/A
Wednesday PM	63	
Contribution	\$1426	\$1331

## *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 **37 contacts** were made.

## *Thank You*

Make sure to see the thank you notes on the bulletin board from **Dorothy Graves** and **Carol Wilcox** for all of your acts of kindness during their recent ailments and also from **Eric Henry** for the congregation's support while he is at Southwest School of Biblical Studies.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:**

**November Birthdays:** Boyce Newton (02); Linda Jimenez (08); JD Tedford (09); Emily Evetts (13); Juanita Barnum (15); Bernice Perkins (15); Stephen Dahlberg (22); Xavier Martinez (28).

**November Anniversaries:** Barbara & Gene Bannister (06).

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

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



Privileged to Serve	11/01/09 - AM	11/01/09 - PM	11/08/09 - AM	11/08/09 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum Matthew 24:42-46		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Matt Churchwell	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matt Churchwell	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	November 4 Allen Griffith	November 11 Jim Moore	November 18 Don Smith	November 25 James Fuller

**Studies For The Week of November 1st:**

Sunday Class .....2 Thessalonians 2-3

Wednesday Class .....Daniel 11

<p align="center"><b>Basics: Identifying Marks (Pt 5: Organization)</b></p> <p><b>1) Christ is head over the church</b></p> <p>a. It is His; He is builder, purchaser, head, savior, and protector (Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23-27).</p> <p>b. No other person or group has authority to be head or change what has been revealed (Matt. 16:19; Gal. 1:8, 11-12).</p> <p><b>2) Elders as overseers of the congregation.</b></p> <p>a. Congregational – in every city/church (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23).</p> <p>b. Autonomy – only over local church (Acts 20:28).</p> <p>c. Plurality of elders (Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:17; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).</p> <p>d. Work – called elders/presbyters, overseers/bishops, and shepherds/pastors – indicates a work (Acts 20:28, 35; Titus 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:2-3; James 5:14; Heb. 13:17).</p> <p>e. Qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).</p> <p><b>3) Deacons as servants of the congregation.</b></p> <p>a. Specific office or work in the church under the oversight of elders (1 Tim. 3; Phil. 1:1). Qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.</p> <p><b>4) Evangelists to teach and preach God’s Word.</b></p> <p>a. A Work (2 Tim. 4:5; 1 Tim. 4:13) done with authority (1 Tim. 4:11); preaching God’s Word (2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:27).</p> <p>b. Not the ruler of congregation (see Acts 20:28 &amp; 1 Tim. 4:16).</p> <p><b>5) Members of the body.</b></p> <p>a. All are members of the congregation – no clergy/laity system.</p> <p>b. All are important, vital, and active in the work (Rom. 12:4-5).</p>	<p align="center"><b>What Did I Do? (Matthew 25)</b></p> <p><i>We must remember that one can be lost for something they <b>did not do</b>; just as they can for something they did do. I believe Matthew 25 is a picture of us, those in the church, standing in judgment?</i></p> <p><b>1) The 10 Virgins (v1-13). — Are we continuing faithfully?</b></p> <p>a) Reminds us there are two end results— joy or sadness—based on whether we have made proper preparation.</p> <p>b) All ten virgins were once ready, but 5 were foolish in that in the end they were unprepared, they were negligent and were not ready at the coming of the bridegroom.</p> <p><b>2) Master &amp; Stewards (v14-30).—Are we good stewards?</b></p> <p>a) Three men given charge of the master’s good, each according to his ability; two would work with what they were given, one would neglect it.</p> <p>c) We are all stewards of everything God has given us and we have to ask what we are doing with it.</p> <p><b>3) Sheep &amp; the Goats (v31-46).—Are we serving/doing His will?</b></p> <p>a) The sheep were put on His right hand (saved) and the goats were put on the left (the lost); the goats are lost for what they failed to do; they had not been servants/used opportunities.</p> <p>b) Maybe one has obeyed the “thou shalt not’s” of the Lord’s commands; but have we applied the “thou shalt’s” in addition?</p> <p><i>Ask not When Christ is coming, ask what your condition will be!</i></p>
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Return Service Requested