



# Living By Faith

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

November 8, 2009

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

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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.

## "Lifting up holy hands" (1 Timothy 2:8)

By Ryan Smithey

As we study the Bible, we should be asking ourselves if our lives conform to what we find therein. James illustrates this by referring to God's Word as a glass or mirror:

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:22-25)*

As we read, study, and meditate on God's Word, we should be able to see whether we have done those things mentioned, and if so be reminded of it and continue therein, but if not, then make the necessary corrections!

So that should be our attitude when we read something such as Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding prayer, "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8). We should ask what the verse means and whether or not we are applying it to our lives—specifically we want to consider what it means to lift holy hands in prayer.

In this context Paul is addressing the prayers offered in worship or the public assembly (cf 1 Timothy 3:14-15) and instructing that males (Greek aner=males; not just mankind) are to be leading these prayers. Additionally it should be done without wrath (anger; hatred) or doubting (disputing [ASV]; quarrelling [ESV]) meaning that we have a proper attitude toward God and man (cf. Matt. 5:23-24; Matt. 6:15; Phil. 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:7). But what are holy hands and is this a physical or spiritual posture?

**Holy hands are clean hands, not necessarily physically but spiritually.** The word for holy means "undefiled by sin, free from wickedness, religiously observing every moral obligation, pure holy, pious" (Thayer). It is the idea of showing forth our character to be tested, is it holy or not, just as a child would show forth their hands to see if they are clean or not. Consider Psalm 24:3-4, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." The psalmist equates clean hands with a pure heart, one that is righteous and can come before God. Similarly James 4:8 instructs, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." Is it the physical washing of hands that will make us pure before God, or a spiritual cleansing from sin? We might think about the process of baptism: it is a washing, a cleansing—not of the filth of the flesh, but of sin (cf. Acts

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,  
and cometh down from the Father of lights,  
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

*James 1:17*

(Continued from page 1)

22:16, 1 Peter 3:21). Someone might have been so dirty that immersion in water cleaned some dirt away but that is not what saved him; that is not what made him right in the sight of God—it was the remission of sins. Rising out of the water of baptism, we have been washed, our hearts have been purified and our hands are clean before God. Only if we stay in that right relationship with God by “walking in the light as He is in the light” and repenting of our sins (1 John 1:7, 9) can we still lift holy hands to God.

**Notice, too, that the physical posture of prayer is never dictated in scripture, but spiritual position before God is important.** Sometimes hands were lifted to God in prayer (1 Kings 8:22), other times the prayer was made “standing (1 Samuel 1:26), kneeling (1 Kings 18:54), prostrate (1 Kings 18:42), audibly (John 17:1; 18:1), silently (1 Samuel 1:13), with bowed head (Genesis 24:26), or with uplifted eyes (John 17:1)” (Jackson, “... Holy Hands”).<sup>1</sup> Isaiah provides an example in which the posture of lifting hands may have been literal or physical but shows what really matters is not the position of the body, but the spiritual position. Isaiah boldly proclaimed God’s word to Judah and told them that God would no longer accept their corrupt worship, “and when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear” (Isaiah 1:15). They are pictured as spreading forth their hands in prayer but God would not hear them because, “your hands are full of blood” (Isaiah 1:15). Their hands were not literally covered in blood, but spiritually they were. This nation was guilty of sins they refused to repent of and yet they were still coming before God. The spreading forth of their hands was never a posture required in prayer but I believe is figurative of our supplication before God. But here they reached out to God in hands covered with their own iniquity. They were guilty and the evidence was all over their hands. But God reminded them that there was a remedy:

*Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,*

*saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:16-18)*

There was a remedy, they could be washed, made clean on God’s terms—turn back to Him and away from their sins; if they did this they would be accepted. Think of a child rushing up to you with chocolate all over their hands (the evidence of what they have been doing) and reaching up to you. What will you do? Likely tell the child to go and wash, make their hands clean, then return and show you their hands. This is an idea of what God expects of us in lifting up holy hands, it is not the physical posture we are showing but the idea of showing if your hands clean from sin. If they are, He will accept you; but, if you refuse to wash, as they did, you will be turned away.

*“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness” (Isaiah 59:1-3).*

Can one physically lift his hands in prayer? It seems to be neither right nor wrong as long as it is not done in show or to draw attention to oneself (cf. Matthew 6:5). But let us remember what is truly important—the character of our lives, our spiritual posture before God. How are our hands? **Can we lift up holy, pure, clean hands or are they stained with sin?** Paul is reminding Timothy that those who would approach God must be those who can (figuratively) lift up holy hands, they can show they are clean, ready for inspection (Psalm 26:2).

*“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil”  
1 Peter 3:11*

<sup>1</sup>Wayne Jackson’s article, “Are Christians Required to ‘Lift Up Holy Hands?’ consulted and is also recommended for further study: <http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1093-are-christians-required-to-lift-up-holy-hands>

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
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	<b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17). <b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24) <b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33) <b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Sunday .. Jeremiah 43-45; Hebrews 5 Monday .. Jeremiah 46-47; Hebrews 6 Tuesday .. Jeremiah 48-49; Hebrews 7 Wednesday.. Jeremiah 50; Hebrews 8 Thursday .. Jeremiah 51-52; Hebrews 9 Friday .. Lam. 1-2; Hebrews 10:1-18 Saturday .. Lam. 3-5; Hebrews 10:19-39
<b>Radio</b>  Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	<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>

# News & Notes

## Thank You

Lucille McClung called this week and wished to express appreciation to everyone for their calls, cards, thoughts, and prayers in her behalf over the last few weeks.

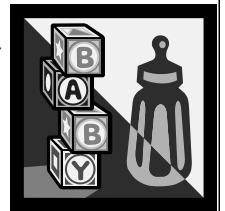
## Ladies Class

Ladies, remember the ladies class will meet at 10 AM in the fellowship hall as we study the Life of Christ. Also this week the ladies will be **going out to lunch** following class so make plans to join them if you can.

## 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.



## At the Cross

Centuries ago the Savior was born –  
This most precious of all babies would later be scorned.

Having known the Scriptures from His youth,  
He grew up to preach the Truth.

But His preaching of Truth was too much for some,  
So they tortured Him, though nothing wrong had He done.

Even Pilate could not begin to understand,  
Why he should crucify a sinless man.

They ignorantly mocked the Lord of all,  
And tried to make Him feel so very small.

One wonders how patient the Father can be,  
With those who nailed His Son to a tree.

Though He could have called angels by legions,  
He did not, for to His Father was His allegiance.

He came to seek and to save that which was lost,  
But our salvation came at the greatest cost.

At the cross the Lamb died for you and me,  
And His precious blood can now make us free.

Knowing He died for your sins and mine,  
Let us faithfully serve our God so divine.

**Jason Hilburn**

## 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.
- ◆ Remember that next week is the **3rd Sunday** and so plan on bringing finger foods and staying after the meeting to enjoy a time of fellowship if you can.

*As we have therefore opportunity,  
let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith.  
Galatians 6:10*

## 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...*



	Recent Records	October 25, 2009	November 1, 2009
Bible Class		65	66
AM Worship		82	82
PM Worship		48	48
Wednesday PM		53	54
Contribution		\$1331	\$1737

Privileged to Serve	11/08/09 - AM	11/08/09 - PM	11/15/09 - AM	11/15/09 - PM
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kalich	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum James 2:14-17		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Matt Churchwell	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	November 11 Jim Moore	November 18 Don Smith	November 25 James Fuller	December 2 Ken Makuta

**Studies For The Week of November 8th:**

Sunday Class ..... 2 Thessalonians 3

Wednesday Class ..... Daniel 11

**Basics: Identifying Marks (Pt 6: Mission)**

- 1) Evangelism: Preaching the Gospel to the World.**
  - a) Mission of Jesus and the church (Lk. 19:10; Mark 16:15-16).
  - b) Go – Action; example early church (Acts)
  - c) Preach – specific purpose (Acts 8:4, 5, 12)
  - d) The Gospel – specific message (Gal. 1:6-8, 10; 2 Tim. 4:2).
  - e) To all (Matt. 9:36-38; Matt. 11:28-30; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 3:26).
- 2) Edification: Teaching, encouraging, building up the body.**
  - a) Eph. 4:7-16 – Purpose is to build us up so as to not be tossed about by every doctrine but able to speak the truth in love.
  - b) Includes restoring the erring (Gal. 6:1).
  - c) Part of elders duty in feeding the flock (Acts 20:28); done by overseeing worship, preaching, teaching, meetings, literature.
  - d) Accomplished in our worship (1 Cor. 14:26) as we praise God but also strengthen each other in the acts of worship.
- 3) Benevolence: Helping others in need.**
  - a) Greatest example is Christ (Matt. 9:5; Acts 10:38; Phil. 2:3-8; Titus 2:14).
  - b) Early church was active in helping one another and all men (Acts 4:34; 2 Cor. 9:12-13; Gal. 6:10).
  - c) Sign of pure religion (James 1:27; James 2:15; 1 John 3:17; Matt. 25:31-46).
  - d) Physical cannot be focused on to the neglect of spiritual matters (Matt. 16:26).

**Call to Action**

*We are to be zealous of good works” (Tit. 2:14) and we are equipped unto “all good works” (2 Tim. 3:17); so what motivates us in such:*

- 1) Faith**
  - a) Faith must be living and active or it is dead (James 2:14-26).
  - b) Likewise Hebrews 11 gives great examples of men and women that were faithful to God and it showed in their actions and obedience to His Will.
- 2) Love**
  - a) We are first motivated by God’s love (1 John 4:19; Rom. 5:8).
  - b) But our love in return will motivate us to action (Gal. 5:6; 1 John 5:3; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 3:18).
  - c) Without love our actions are without profit (1 Cor. 13:1-3).
- 3) Judgment/End of the World**
  - a) Peter reminds us that the world will end and be destroyed (2 Pet. 3:10) and then asks, in light of that information, how we should live (v11).
  - b) We know that God will judge all people by their deeds (Rom. 2:6; 2 Cor. 5:10); so we should work and live right ourselves (2 Cor. 5:9) but also work to help others (2 Cor. 5:11).
  - c) We have a message that equips us and the world to be ready for that day, let us live by it and proclaim it (Titus 2:11-14).

*Let us be motivated like Christ to do God’s work now, while we can (John 4:34, 9:4).*

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Return Service Requested