



Living By Faith

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

November 15, 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.

Treasuring God's Word

By Tom Moore

“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye” (Pro. 7:1-2). With these words, Solomon in a very gentle way so as to encourage his son to listen, warns his son against immorality. Today, with these same words we can see the importance of treasuring the word of God.

In the text before us we see the need of laying up the commandments of the Lord within ourselves. In others words, we need to store the word of God in our hearts that we may have them at our disposal in time of need. It was the word of God that was stored up in the mind of Jesus that enabled Him to overcome the temptations of the devil in the wilderness by the words “It is written,” thus, defeating Satan by using the Scripture that He had committed to His memory (Mat. 4:1-11).

If we expect to overcome temptation in our day, we must “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). In doing so, we will be “ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). Paul said that was “READY to preach the gospel” (Rom. 1:15). We must have God’s word stored in our minds—READY TO USE!

Solomon also says that if we keep the commandments of the Lord we shall live. We gain spiritual life as we obey the instruction of God. Remember, that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23), that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23), and that who ever “committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). We understand more clearly then, the words of Jehovah, “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD” (Lev. 18:5).

Isaiah, speaking for the Almighty, declares, “Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live...” (Isa. 55:3). The Lamb of God proclaimed, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). It is easy to see from the afore mentioned verses of scripture why we should treasure the word of God - IT GIVES SPIRITUAL LIFE!

Solomon says that the word of God should be “as the apple of thine eye.” In other words, the word of God should be a very valuable possession to us - the most valued possession! The word of God is “more to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psa. 19:10), and “the law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver” (Psa. 119:72). Why is the word of God so valuable? Because it brings us spiritual life if we obey its instructions. Are you treasuring the word of God?



...at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:12-13

“Warning! You Have Activated the Sin Control System”

By Joey Davis

On occasion, I have been near the entrance/exit of one of the popular convenience stores when suddenly, over the speaker was heard, “Please return to the store; you have activated our inventory control system.” Obviously one of two situations has occurred. Either the person is attempting to leave the store without paying for an item or the appropriate clearing procedures were not followed at the register to deactivate the security strip on the purchased product.

Now I would not think of stealing something but I must admit that I am often very reluctant to approach the scanner at the exit in fear that it might alarm out of error. You can imagine the scene: the preacher standing there with bag in hand and the alarm suggesting that he had stolen something. That would be embarrassing, to say the least. It is my guess that the installation of such systems has cut down on the number of shoplifters, because most sensible people fear public exposure for wrongdoing.

Suppose for a moment that the Lord had installed at the entrance and exit off the church facility such a system that would detect and broadcast our violation of His laws. Admittedly, many Christians would not bother coming to services out of fear of being exposed as practicing sinners. Still, I wonder what sort of broadcasts would come over the loud speaker.

First, there would be the “Excuse me, but your late for the third time in a row” alarm. Surely the fear of such public attention would motivate us to get out of bed a little earlier so that we could make it to services, at least on time.

Second, there would be the “Where have you been for three weeks?” alarm. The fear of having our assembly-forsaking practices announced during the middle of the announcements would certainly be a deterrent to absenteeism (Hebrews 10:25).

Third, there would be the “Are you going to repent of your sinful behavior today?” alarm. Far too many Christians are openly practicing sin and yet they show up at worship services in an attempt to worship God. I am persuaded that pleasing God is not their real motivation for coming anyway, else they would repent. Are we so naive to think that God is ignorant of our evil deeds? It is pointless for a Christian to offer worship to God when they have sins in their life that they are unwilling to acknowledge and of which they are unwilling to repent (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Fourth, there would be the “You are blowing another opportunity to obey the Gospel” alarm. Sunday after Sunday, individuals sit in pews and listen to heart-wrenching appeals to move them to obey the Gospel and yet they leave as if it was not intended for them. An alarm at the door would surely help them make personal application of the sermon.

It is a sad commentary on our society that we need security systems in stores to discourage us from stealing things that do not belong to us. Yet the saddest commentary of all is that of church members who would only change their behavior if they feared a public announcement of their sinfulness. The mere fact that God knows our wrongs ought to be sufficient motivation to correct them (Hebrews 4:13).



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 ..Ezekiel 1-2; Hebrews 11:1-19</p> <p>Monday ..Ezekiel 3-4; Heb. 11:20-40</p> <p>Tuesday ..Ezekiel 5-7; Hebrews 12</p> <p>Wednesday.. Ezekiel 8-10; Hebrews 13</p> <p>Thursday ..Ezekiel 11-13; James 1</p> <p>Friday ..Ezekiel 14-15; James 2</p> <p>Saturday ..Ezekiel 16-17; James 3</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>

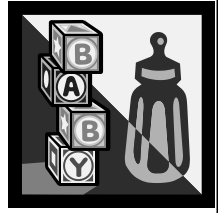
News & Notes

Vicksburg Devotional

Remember that along with the regular services at Care, Inc. and Redstone at 2:30 PM we will also have the 3rd Sunday devotional at Vicksburg today at 3:30 PM; your help/presence at any of these would be greatly appreciated.

It's a Girl

Ladies, remember the **baby shower** honoring **Mariah Martinez today at 4 PM** in the fellowship hall. Mariah is expecting a girl around the first of February; she is registered at Wal-Mart.



Ladies Class

The ladies class will meet as scheduled this Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the fellowship hall; we hope that you can be there as we continue the study on *The Life of Christ*. But **please note that there will not be class on Wednesday, Nov. 25.**

Lost and Found

As announced Sunday night, a watch was found recently, I think in the auditorium last week. It is now in my office and I would like to find its owner; let me know if you lost it.

CD Requests

As CD requests have gone up, I have gotten lazy in carrying them around and trying to track you down! Please remember to look for your CDs on the table at the back of the auditorium (usually they are there by Wednesday night). If you forget, we will still get them to you, but this would make it much easier.

"It is of great importance to set a resolution, not to be shaken, never to tell an untruth. There is no vice so mean, so pitiful, so contemptible; and he who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and a third time, till at length it becomes habitual; he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world's believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good disposition."

--Thomas Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, 1785

*But I say unto you, Swear not at all...
But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay;
for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

Matthew 5:34, 37

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.
- ◆ Remember that this 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.

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	November 1, 2009	November 8, 2009
Bible Class		66	79
AM Worship		82	61
PM Worship		48	54
Wednesday PM		54	53
Contribution		\$1737	\$1643

Privileged to Serve	11/15/09 - AM	11/15/09 - PM	11/22/09 - AM	11/22/09 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kalich		John & Tina Barnum	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford 1 Cor. 9:24-27		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister
Wait on Table	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Gene Bannister, Michael Bickford	Allen Griffith
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	November 18 Don Smith	November 25 James Fuller	December 2 Ken Makuta	December 9 Tom Wilcox

Studies For The Week of November 15th:

Sunday Class 2 Thessalonians 3

Wednesday Class Daniel 11

Basics: Identifying Marks (Pt 7: Unity)

1) The Church Has Unity Because it is Unique.

- a) There is one and only one and it can be identified from the NT.
- b) Eph. 4:1-6 — foundational principles of this unity which begin with the one body over which Christ is head (His church - Eph. 1:22-23) that is following the pattern of these “seven ones.”

2) The Unity of the Church was:

- a) **Prophesied** (Isa. 11:6-8; Eph. 2:14; Gal. 3:28).
- b) **Prayed For** (John 17:20-21); Jesus prayed for unity based on:
 - i) The standard of God’s Word (John 17:17; 2 John 9)
 - ii) The church being separate (John 17:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 5:11; Matt.10:34).
 - iii) Unity being worked at, taught, and defended (Eph. 4:3; Rom. 12:18; Phil. 1:17; Jude 1:3).
 - iv) His relationship with His Father
 - (1) Unity of Love (John 3:16; John 10:15,18)
 - (2) Unity of Desire/Will (1 Tim. 2:4; Lk 10:19; John 4:34)
 - (3) Unity of Message (John 12:49)
- c) **Preached**
 - i) 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Phil. 1:27 – only possible by following God’s Word only.
 - ii) 1 Cor. 12:18-20 – Like the human body working together. *Unity is possible and must exist between Christians and faithful congregations (Lk. 11:17; Ps. 133:1)*

Stumbling Blocks to Iniquity

God rebuked His people because they put idols in their hearts which became stumbling blocks in their way, thus separating them from God (Ezekiel 14:3-7). We would do well to ask, what are some stumbling blocks we have to watch as Christians?

- 1) **Unbelief** (Heb. 3:12) – Like the 1st generation out of Egypt, unbelief can make us turn away from God; it easily besets us (Heb. 12:1-2).
- 2) **Neglect** (Heb. 2:1-3) – In any area of life this can bring disaster, but certainly if we neglect the salvation offered in Christ.
- 3) **Indifference** (Rev. 3:14-17) – Again can destroy any relationship just as it can with God; many are indifferent, thinking they are fine but they are detestable to God.
- 4) **Retardation** (Heb. 5:11-14) – Failure to grow; as we recently studied on Sunday AM this brings harm to ourselves as well as others around us; we are expected to mature (1 Pet. 2:2).
- 5) **Rebellion** (Heb. 10:26) – Willful disobedience to God; those who have rejected the only thing that can save them.
- 6) **Immorality** (Gal. 5:19-21) – In a society where immorality is the norm, we must remember to have no part of such things; these pleasures have no lasting good (1 John 2:15-17).

Whatever stands between us and God becomes a stumbling block that we must remove.

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