



Living By Faith

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

November 29, 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.

An Empty House

By Tom Moore

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation” (Mt. 12:43-45).

Jesus tells of an evil spirit which was removed from a man. The evil spirit looked every where for a place to reside after being cast out, but could not find a suitable place. The evil spirit then returned to his former dwelling place, and finding it vacant, returned with seven spirits more evil than he. Jesus informs us that this man was much worse off than he was originally.

Jesus is teaching us a very important lesson concerning the keeping of our heart. When one obeys the gospel by believing in Christ (Heb. 11:6), repenting of his sin (Lk. 13:3), confessing the name of Christ (Rom. 10:10), and being immersed in water for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38), we have, as the man in Matthew 12:43-45, cleansed the house, that is, we have removed the "evil spirit" from our house.

But all too often after we have removed the evil from our lives, we fail to fill our lives with those things that will keep the evil from returning. As the evil spirit returned to the unoccupied house of the man, so will evil return to our lives if we do not fill our house or our lives with righteousness.

It is very sad to see people converted to Christ, and yet, take no precautions to keep the evil from returning to their lives. James said, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Jam. 4:7). Paul declared, “neither give place to the devil” and “put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 4:27; 6:11). We are only able to keep the devil out of our house if we guard against his return. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:16-18).

Beloved, if the devil sees our house vacant of pure and undefiled religion (Jam. 1:27), if he observes that we are not thinking on pure, honest, just, true, lovely, good and virtuous things (Phil. 4:8), if he finds us no longer standing for

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*...the ways of the LORD are right,
and the just shall walk in them:
but the transgressors shall fall therein.*

Hosea 14:9

Lessons Learned From Nehemiah

By Marvin L. Weir

Most remember that the children of Israel were carried into Babylonian captivity because of their lack of faith in the true and living God. In 605 B.C., Babylon conquered Israel. Among those deported into captivity were Daniel and his friends (II Chron. 36:6-7; Dan. 1:1-3). In 598 B.C., Ezekiel and about 10,000 others were carried into captivity. In 586 B.C., the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed and the city burned, and all except the very poor were taken to Babylon (II Kings 24:20-25:21; Jer. 39:1-10). When the time came where God saw fit to allow a remnant to return to Jerusalem, they managed to restore true worship, but did not rebuild the walls.

In 536 B.C., Zerubbabel led the first return from Babylonian captivity. In 457 B.C., Ezra leads the next return of God's people. In 444 B.C., Nehemiah leads the final return. While in captivity, Nehemiah learned about the conditions of his brethren and the temple. He prayed to God that he might be able to return to Jerusalem. His prayer was answered. Upon Nehemiah's arrival, he set about the task of repairing the walls and God's house.

The Lord's church today can learn valuable lessons from Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the temple walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah **investigated** and saw the great need to restore the walls of the temple. The work was too important to ignore. God's house had been in disarray far too long. Thus, Nehemiah led the effort to begin the task.

We need brethren today who will take a serious look at the needs of the Lord's church. Some congregations carefully maintain the physical structure but are in spiritual shambles. More people are needed who will insist that God's pattern for worship and Christian living be followed. We need brethren like Nehemiah who will take the lead in encouraging others to do God's will.

Nehemiah called for **volunteers**. No one was coerced to help. No bait was dangled before people to entice them to help. Nehemiah wanted people to help who truly loved God. He knew that one who willingly volunteers to do God's work will be a happy worker and devoted to the task at hand.

It is no different today in the Lord's church. God's wants willing laborers in the kingdom who lovingly respond to His commands. Unless one is willing to "*deny himself, and take up his cross daily*" (Luke 9:23), he is not likely to volunteer to do much work in the Lord's vineyard.

The people were **united** in their efforts to repair the temple wall or they would have not been successful. The brethren worked side by side, cooperating one with the other, and steadfastly remained dedicated to the task at hand. They refused to be distracted by worldly people and worldly matters.

Brethren today must understand the necessity of speaking the same thing and being "*perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (I Cor. 1:10). Protection from false teachers is needed just as badly today as was protection from Nehemiah's enemies, "*Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites...*" (Neh. 4:7-8). Nehemiah says of his devoted workers that "*they all builded the wall and they that bare burdens laded themselves; every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other held his weapon*" (Neh. 4:17).

In doing the Lord's work today one must not forget to have in his hand the "*the sword of the Spirit*" (Eph. 6:17). May we always strive to "*give diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Eph. 4:3).

Nehemiah's volunteers **cooperated** in rebuilding the wall. All had a job to do, and each one did his individual task.

Each member of the body of Christ today has a job to do as they contribute to the needs of the kingdom (cf. I Cor. 12:13-27).

Nehemiah did not allow his people to become discouraged. Enemies from within and without did not deter the workers from their task. The devil never wants God's work to succeed. A stumblingblock will always be provided courtesy of Satan.

Some today say that the work of the Lord's church cannot be accomplished in the way the Lord intended. Such is false thinking and far from the truth. Let us never become discouraged in building upon a solid foundation (cf. Acts 4:12; I Cor. 3:11; Matt. 27:24-27).

Nehemiah's volunteers had a **mind** to work. They did not show up for only two hours per week. They did not possess the attitude that someone else could and should do the task. They prayed to God that they could be used for His service and glory — and God used them!

If we as members of the body of Christ possess the proper attitude and have a mind to work in His vineyard, the Lord will also use us to His service and glory. May we all have the spirit of Nehemiah!

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 .. Ezekiel 35-36; 2 Peter 1

Monday .. Ezekiel 37-39; 2 Peter 2

Tuesday .. Ezekiel 40-41; 2 Peter 3

Wednesday . Ezekiel 42-44; 1 John 1

Thursday .. Ezekiel 45-46; 1 John 2

Friday .. Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 3

Saturday .. Daniel 1-2; 1 John 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

Ladies Class

The ladies class will resume this Wednesday, December 2 at 10 AM; we hope that you can make it.

1st Sunday Lunch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of December so make plans to bring some food and join us for the last first-Sunday fellowship meal of 2009 next week following morning worship.

DVDs Available

- ◆ A number of people have requested copies of “*The Silencing of God*” DVD and they are now available in the racks at each of the exits. This is a DVD by Dave Miller that looks at the Christian/Biblical morals this country was built upon and how they are rapidly being attacked. Pick one up for yourself and also share them with others that you think will watch and benefit from them. **UPDATE:** I misjudged how many of these would be taken and so more have been ordered and should either be here today or at least by next Sunday.



- ◆ Also we have gotten in more copies of the “*Searching For Truth*” DVDs. These are great study DVDs for yourself but are especially useful in studying with others who are not members of the church. If you are not comfortable doing a one-on-one Bible study sit down with someone and study the Bible with them while watching this DVD guide or leave it with them to watch on their own time.



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the truth (Tit. 2:1), he will soon occupy our house once again. Jesus said that the state of this kind of person “is worse than the first” (Mt. 12:45).

This same thought is set forth by Peter in a different way, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then are once again entangled therein, and overcome, the later end is worse with them than the beginning. For it is better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Pt. 2:20-21).

It is an absolute necessity that after removing Satan from our lives, that we fill our lives with truth and godliness which will prevent Satan from returning where he once resided. Don't leave your house empty!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

December Birthdays: James Womack (04); Lucille McClung (08); Lloyd Leslie (12); Laverne Thomas (13); Veneta Nolen (17); Kaci Churchwell (18); Priscilla Smithey (18); Linda Griffith (20); Jack Stultz (20); Mia Stroope (22); Joyce Hill (24); Ben Whitsett (28).

December Anniversaries: Linda & Allen Griffith (20); Jo & Ken Maninger (25).



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

Recent Records	November 15, 2009	November 22, 2009
Bible Class	60	64
AM Worship	86	75
PM Worship	49	43
Wednesday PM	48	49
Contribution	\$1403	\$1407

Privileged to Serve	11/29/09 - AM	11/29/09 - PM	12/06/09 - AM	12/06/09 - PM
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler 2 Cor. 5:20-6:2		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 2 Ken Makuta	December 9 Tom Wilcox	December 16 Allen Griffith	December 23 Jim Moore

Studies For The Week of November 29th:

Sunday Class..... 2 Thessalonians 3

Wednesday Class..... *One Nation Under Who?* DVD

Basics: resurrection (1 Cor. 15)

1) Evidence of the Resurrection (v1-11)

- a) Message of Resurrection part of gospel message (v1-4).
- b) Many living, credible witnesses including Paul (v5-11).

2) Result of Denying the Resurrection (v12-19)

- a) This one false doctrine implied other false teachings as well.
- b) Christ not risen (v13); preaching & faith vain (v14); witnesses are false (v15-16); sins not forgiven (v17); death is end (v18); we are miserable (v19).

3) Fact of the Resurrection (v20)

- a) But Christ is without question risen from the dead.
- b) This sets Christianity apart – a risen Savior!

4) Hope of the Resurrection (v20-57)

- a) His resurrection is the promise of general resurrection (v20).
- b) Adam brought sin & death but Christ hope & life (v21-28).
- c) Without that hope why be baptized? Why live in jeopardy? Why not live for the moment (v29-35)?
- d) Faithful will be changed into spiritual, immortal body (v36-53).
- e) At that time death will be conquered forever and we have that victory in Christ (v54-57).

5) Response to the Resurrection (v58)

- a) The proper response to this is to continue faithfully.
- b) Know that the Christian life is not vain but one full of hope and reward.

All Things Are Ready

We sing this song but do we think about the meaning? Likely influenced by the Parable of the Great Supper (Lk. 14:15-24).

1) All Things Are Ready (Indicates Preparation)

- a) Reminder that God had a plan for man's salvation and He has fulfilled that plan (Eph. 3:9-12; Gal. 4:4).
- b) Jesus and His disciples preached the coming of that kingdom/ church (Matt. 4:17; Lk. 10:9) but beginning in Acts 2 the message is that all things are ready; the church is established and in existence.
- c) Shows God's great love – all was planned and now executed.

2) Come To The Feast (Indicates Invitation)

- a) The invitation goes out in Acts 2:38 beginning in Jerusalem and spreading to all the world (Acts 1:8)
- b) Now is the time to respond (Rev. 22:17, 2 Cor. 6:2).
- c) The song says "the door is open wide" (v2) – respond while the invitation is open (Matt. 25:10; James 4:14).

3) Ye Famishing & Weary Come (Indicates Need & Rejoicing)

- a) All indeed are invited (Matt. 11:28-30) but not all will respond—only those who recognized their need (Matt. 5:3,6).
- b) Those who do are filled (John 6:35; 2 Pet. 1:3).
- c) Leave behind the cares of this world and enjoy love, life, and honor (v2,4) (cf. 1 John 4:9; Matt. 11:11; James 4:10).

The feast is ready, the invitation is sent out, what will you do?

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