



Living By Faith

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

December 06, 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
325-646-4343 325-646-5104

Deacons:

Mike Bannister Jim Moore
325-646-5107 325-646-6000
Don Smith..... James Thomas
325-646-1120 325-646-2702

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.

God Needs Men

By Terry Jackson

"Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her."

Jeremiah 5:1

It appears that in our society today there is a shortage of men. There may be plenty of the male species, but unfortunately not many real men. Though John Wayne may be our icon for real manhood, that is not what this discussion is about. We need more men like God described to Jeremiah: those who execute good judgment and seek the truth in everything. There seems to be a problem with the male gender "manning up" to their responsibilities.

In the Home—

Our society needs committed husbands and fathers in the home. Anyone can father a child or marry a wife, but what about being the example of leadership at home? Okay gentleman, it is time to man up in our responsibilities of discipline to the kids. Though punitive action is a part of discipline there is so much more involved. Solomon wrote, "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Discipline involves training. Too often folks allow the children to raise themselves. Children must be shown and led in the right direction. That is why God gave them parents. Children need fathers who love their mothers. When the Holy Spirit sought to describe the relationship between Christ and the church, He used the husband and wife. Imagine if Christ loved the church like I love my wife, Eph. 5:25-28. Anyone can build a house but are you building a home?

In the Church—

Men, who is the spiritual leader of the home? If you say it is your wife, then shame on you! God made men to be the spiritual head of the home. We need men who, like Joshua, will commit, "as for me and my house we will serve Jehovah" (Joshua. 24:15). The Lord's church needs men who are leaders in the church. Men dedicated to Christ and who love the Lord with all their hearts who are willing to teach, and to serve as qualified elders and deacons. God needs men who are students of His Word and willing to stand in the gaps defending the truth. Too often as men we become lazy and complacent in our God given responsibilities. **Do not expect things in this messed up world to get any better until we as Christian husbands and fathers become more responsible and man up to our God given responsibilities.**

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."
Ezekiel 22:30



...Joseph...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins...and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
Matthew 1:20, 21, 23

How To Grow and Mature Spiritually

By Mike Dugger

I, seeking to believe the best about every Christian (1 Cor. 13: 7), am convinced that Christians want to grow and become more mature spiritually. However, I am also convinced, perhaps through nothing more than my own life's experiences and observations, that many Christians do not know how to grow in spiritual maturity. Yes, there are scores of scriptures that teach that Christians are to grow in spiritual maturity—but the “how” of it is often left up to the individual to determine. So “how” does one grow?

You must make a determination to grow. Someone has said, “If you aim for nothing, you will hit it every time.” This adage is true with regard to everything in life, and particularly matters concerning spiritual growth. In order to grow, one must not only desire to grow but he also must establish goals that will help him chart a course that he can follow. Christianity is a “doing” religion. Without goals one hardly will have any idea of “how” he can begin to grow, nor will he have any real way of measuring whether or not he is growing.

You must emulate a good pattern. I really believe this is the key to proper spiritual growth. The use of a pattern certainly has good precedence (Heb. 8:5). Christians are commanded to follow the example of Christ (1 Pet. 2:21). Paul teaches us that we can also follow godly people as they follow Christ in faith (1 Thess. 1: 6; 2 Thess. 3:7). Imagine trying to sew a dress with no pattern. Or, imagine trying to perform some technical action without instructions to follow. Patterns make tasks understandable and easier to perform. In the realm of growing in spiritual maturity, one must certainly follow Christ—but one also should connect with someone at the local congregation who is spiritually mature. Making this connection will enable an individual to witness first hand what it means to live as a Christian. Undoubtedly, in such a relationship, one will get to experience different types of visits, different acts of kindness or thoughtfulness, Bible studies in homes, and many other things related to living a faithful Christian life. Some might wonder if the one who is mature will mind the company. I can say personally that I know of no one who would mind—in fact—there is nothing but pure joy knowing that someone else desires to grow in spiritual maturity

and live a faithful Christian life! Over a period of time, you will learn to do the things that the spiritually mature do—and then hopefully you will mentor someone else who is in the same boat in which you used to be (cf. 2 Tim 2:2).

You must consistently put into practice what you see. The hardest part of doing anything is typically starting it. Unless one starts, he cannot grow. An individual wanting to grow in spiritual maturity must determine to put God first in all things. He must decide to get out of the recliner and turn off the television. He must make the time to do the things God demands that he do. He will likely need to rearrange his priorities and deny himself in the process (Matt. 10: 37-39). When a person takes the steps and actively begins to live the Christian life, he will likely find that it takes relatively little time to do a lot of good. You see, when a person lives for others, his own life becomes even more enjoyable in every area (family, work, responsibilities, recreation, etc.).

What are some of the benefits of growing in spiritual maturity? You will have a greater sense of God's love in your life. When you mirror Jesus' life, your life will be the “abundant life” of which the master spoke. You will have a greater appreciation for all of the Bible truths related to faithful Christian living. You will also have an improved attitude toward faithful Bible preaching. Sermons that used to bore, or possibly offend, will now sound like golden nuggets of truth. Your desire for more truth will be insatiable. Within a congregational context, the effect will be tremendous. Brethren will have an increased love for one another and an increased desire to work together in unity, and thus, they will be blessed by God in their efforts.

The importance of growing in spiritual maturity cannot be overstated. Imagine a room full of immature individuals who are given a goal and task to accomplish together. Likely, in such an environment of immaturity, there would be arguments, unhappiness, selfishness, disrespect, gossip, back talking, quitting, hurt feelings, and horrible attitudes. Such a group would have no chance of accomplishing the task set forth for them to do. But imagine the same room filled with mature people who are given the same goal and task. In

(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 .. Daniel 3-4; 1 John 5

Monday .. Daniel 5-7; 2 John

Tuesday .. Daniel 8-10; 3 John

Wednesday . Daniel 11-12; Jude

Thursday .. Hosea 1-4; Revelation 1

Friday .. Hosea 5-8; Revelation 2

Saturday .. Hosea 9-11; Revelation 3

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

Think About it...by Tom Moore

One writer said, "The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks through his telescope, then he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks at his telescope, then he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing to be looked through, to see that which is beyond."

Another writer penned, "The Bible is an ocean of knowledge that little children can wade around in, yet no man can fathom the depths thereof."

Abraham Lincoln said, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

George Washington admitted, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

Charles Dickens proclaimed, "The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world."

Robert E. Lee announced, "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give light and strength."

Now we know why the Psalmist declared, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psa. 119:97). How much time are you spending with your Bible?

(Continued from page 2)

stark contrast to the room of immature people, this room reflects great communication, fulfillment, cooperation, selflessness, respect, desire to achieve what was asked, and wonderful attitudes. Congregations made up of a majority of spiritually immature people reflect exactly what was described in the room above containing immature individuals. Congregations made up of spiritually mature individuals often are the ones who stand out as accomplishing great works for the Lord.

Peter wrote, "...giving all diligence to add (*choreograph is meaning of "add," mdd*) to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1: 5-8). All Christians must be striving to grow in spiritual maturity. When all Christians determine that they will grow, choose a good pattern to emulate, and begin to consistently put into practice what they learn and see, then the Lord's church will be well on its way to producing fruit for God.

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 **35 contacts** were made.

Ladies Class

Remember the ladies class continues this Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Priscilla is teaching again this week on the names of Christ.

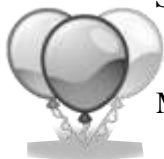
1st Sunday Lunch

This is the first Sunday of December so we will be having our last first-Sunday fellowship meal of 2009 following morning worship—we hope that you can join us.

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 22, 2009	November 29, 2009
Bible Class		64	60
AM Worship		75	80
PM Worship		43	52
Wednesday PM		49	49
Contribution		\$1407	\$1380

Privileged to Serve	12/06/09 - AM	12/06/09 - PM	12/13/09 - AM	12/13/09 - PM
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford Psalm 119:97-104		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Don Smith
Wait on Table	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore	Ken Makuta*, Allen Griffith Gene Bannister, Matt Churchwell	Ken Makuta
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	James Thomas	Jim Moore
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 9 Ken Makuta	December 16 Tom Wilcox	December 23 Allen Griffith	December 30 Jim Moore

Studies For The Week of December 6th:

Sunday Class..... 1 Corinthians (Intro & Chap. 1)

Wednesday ClassDaniel 11-12

Basics: Christ: God in the Flesh (Pt 1)

- 1) **What we think matters** because it relates to salvation and determines what we will do with Him (Matt. 16:13-18; Matt. 22:42; John 8:24; John 3:16).
- 2) **He was a Real, Historic Person;** some deny this fact but NT records along with uninspired histories including “hostile witness” record the fact that He did live.
- 3) **Humanity:** 100% Man; just as human as you and I.
 - a) Prophesied (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Isa. 53; many others).
 - b) Fulfilled (Gal. 4:4; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; Luke 2:52; Phil. 2:5-8).
 - c) Necessary for Him to associate with us (Heb. 4:15; 2:16-18).
 - d) Necessary for Him to be our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5; Rom. 8:3; 1 Pet. 2:22; John 3:14-15)
 - e) Necessary for Him to die for us:
 - i) That He might purchase the church and provide for forgiveness of sin (John 19:34; Matt. 26:28; 1 John 1:7; Acts 20:28).
 - ii) That He could overcome death that we might have hope (Heb. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:55, 57).
 - iii) That He could satisfy the righteousness of God (Isa. 53:11; Rom. 6:23).

Next week we will consider His deity and the evidence for it.

Do We Love the Word of The Lord Like David?

In Psalm 119, David extols the value of God's Word and reminds us of the attitude that we should have as well; he loved it because:

- 1) **It will help young people (v9).**
 - a) It shows them the way that is right; and that they should be expected to follow (Gal. 6:7-8; Eph. 6:11).
 - b) David was willing to stand for God even as a young person and so can children today.
- 2) **It will complete what is missing in man (v10).**
 - a) Our lives are empty without God (Prov. 16:25; Jer. 10:23; Eccl. 12:9, 13).
 - b) Should desire to know and do God's Will (Lk 6:46; Matt .7:21)
- 3) **It was a constant to which he could always turn (v11).**
 - a) People and things will fail us, standards of men change, God's Word stays constant (1 Pet. 1:25; John 8:32).
 - b) Only God's Word equips us for life and its trials (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2:15; Ps. 23; Phil. 4:13).
- 4) **It brings joy to the believers (v16).**
 - a) Better than pleasure, true happiness & peace (Phil. 4:6-9).
 - b) We have this joy by knowing we are following that which is right (John 10:10; Phil. 4:4) — all of it (v97, 160, 172).
- 5) **It will lead us all the way to glory (v105; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 2:11-13).**

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Return Service Requested