



Living By Faith

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

December 13, 2009

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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 5
Don Smith..... James Thomas 2

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey 3

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.

Pray Routinely

by Robert Dodson

Most of us have a certain routine that we go through each day. We don't even really think about doing it, we just do it out of habit. Is prayer a part of your daily routine? Jesus taught that men ought always to pray (Luke 18:1). From the beginning the church continued steadfastly in prayer (Acts 2:42). Paul admonishes us to pray on a regular basis (Rom. 12: 12; Eph. 6: 18; Col. 4:2; 1 The. 5: 17). Prayer was never meant to be just a ritual on Sunday, but a regular part of our lives. King David is a great example of this. He called upon God daily in prayer (Psa. 88:9), sometimes spending all day in prayer (86:3). Evening, morning and at noon he prayed (Psa. 55:17). It was Daniel's custom to pray three times a day (Dan. 6:10). These men saw the great need for prayer in their lives. They would not think of going a day without prayer. You and I should be just as dependent upon prayer, so that we would pray routinely.

Pray when faced with important decisions. Before selecting the twelve apostles, the Lord prayed all night (Luke 6: 12-16).

Pray before great events. The church's beginning grew out of a season of prayer (Acts 1: 14).

Pray when suffering physical afflictions (Psa. 88:9; James 5: 13; 2 Cor. 12:7 -9; 2 Kings 20:1-11).

Pray when anxious or distressed (Psa. 18:6; 118:5; 120: 1; I Pet. 5:7; Phi. 4:6-7).

Pray when problems arise. When the problem arose in the early church concerning the neglect of the Grecian widows, the matter was immediately taken to God in prayer (Acts 6:1-4).

Pray before entering trials. Oh! The strengthening hours Jesus spent in Gethsemane in prayer to His Father just before the ordeals of His trials and subsequent crucifixion (Mat. 26:36-46).

Pray when suffering persecution. Upon being beaten with rods and being cast into prison at midnight Paul and Silas prayed (Acts 16:23-25).

Pray before separations. Upon leaving the Ephesian elders, to see their faces no more, Paul knelt down, and prayed with them all (Acts 20:36-38).

Pray after great events in our lives. Immediately upon having fed the five thousand Jesus went up into a mountain apart to pray (Mat. 14:21-23).

Pray in the midst of the busy activities of life. As Jesus' fame was spread abroad and great multitudes were coming to hear Him and to be healed by Him, He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed (Luke 5: 15-16).

Pray when we sin. Psalm 51 is David's penitential prayer upon his having sinned with Bathsheba.

(Continued on page 2)



*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for he is faithful that promised;)*

Hebrews 10:23

(Continued from page 1)

Pray when dying. Did not Stephen thus pray (Acts 7:59-60)? Yes, and our Lord prayed when He was dying (Luke 23:34, 46).

It is so easy for us to allow prayer to be crowded out of our lives. Instead we must take time to pray. Here are some practical suggestions to help you to pray routinely.

Find a quiet place to pray (Mark 1 :35). Satan will try to distract us and interfere with our prayer life. But just as Jesus needed time alone with God, so do we.

Make a prayer list (1 Tim. 2:1). Keep up with our sick list, but also make your own list. Remember to pray for the church, your family and friends and all men, even your enemies. Also, don't forget to thank God for His many blessings and the victories He gives in your life. I often have a list of those I am trying to reach with the gospel. I may carry it in my pocket so that I will have it available to pray over and to add to it during the day.

Pray with others (Jam. 5:16). Find a friend with whom you can pray. Pray with your whole family. Pray with the church. Praying together draws us closer together. Others encourage us and help us to be consistent in our prayers.

Believe that God will hear and answer your prayers (Mat. 7:7-11). A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Momma, I don't want to go out there. It's dark." The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "God is out there. He'll look after you and protect you." The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure He's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and He is always ready to help you when you need Him," she said. The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "God? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?" Aren't many of us like that little boy? We approach God

in prayer, but do so with a questioning faith at best. It's like, if You are really up there, would You do such and such for me. It is like we really don't believe He is listening to us. Let us have faith in God and the awesome power available to us through prayer!

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."
James 1:6-7

If I Should Die. . .

"If I should die before I wake," prayed young Tommy. "If I should die before I wake. . . If I should die."

"Go on, Tommy," urged his mother, "You know the rest of your prayer."

"I'll be back," blurted the youngster.

Scrambling to his feet, he ran into the next room. Soon he was back. Dropping to his knees, he rattled off the familiar bedtime prayer without a bobble.

Tucking little Tommy into bed, his mother issued a gentle rebuke for the interruption, insisting that he should think about what he was saying when he prayed.

"Mom, I was thinking about what I was saying," said the boy defensively. "That's why I had to stop. You see, I stood all of Ted's wooden soldiers on their heads, just to see how mad he'd be in the morning. If I should die before I wake, I wouldn't want him to find them that way, so I had to go and fix them the right way."

"You're right, dear," said a happy mother, voice quivering. She thought of herself, and many other adults who should stop in the middle of their prayers and undo some wrong against another.

There are lots of things that may seem fun if you are going to keep on living. But you do not want them that way at the end.

"It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" -James 4:14

Glad Tidings of Good Things, Jacksonville COC, May 7, 2009

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

Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am
on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

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 .. Hosea 12-14; Revelation 4

Monday .. Joel 1-3; Revelation 5

Tuesday .. Amos 1-3; Revelation 6

Wednesday . Amos 4-6; Revelation 7

Thursday .. Amos 7-9; Revelation 8

Friday .. Obadiah; Revelation 9

Saturday .. Jonah 1-4; Revelation 10

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

Coffee

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as though just as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did, and noted that they were soft.

The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich flavor. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, Mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

*"If thou faint in the day of adversity,
thy strength is small" -Proverbs 24:10*

*From Glad Tidings of Good Things,
Jacksonville church of Christ, May 7, 2009*

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 **20 contacts** were made. **Remember that next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday** of December so we hope that you can bring snacks and stay for a time of fellowship following the meeting.

Ladies Class

Remember the ladies class continues this Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Linda will resume teaching on The Life of Christ; hope you can make it.

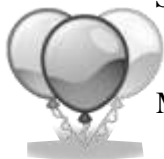
Miscellaneous

Please note that the Gospel Broadcasting Network has made some changes to their cable/satellite programming; these are reflected on page 2. Also a number of new DVDs and tracts have been added at the exits; make sure to check them out and use them for personal use or to pass along to others.

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 29, 2009	December 06, 2009
Bible Class		60	63
AM Worship		80	81
PM Worship		52	52
Wednesday PM		49	44
Contribution		\$1380	\$1608

Privileged to Serve	12/13/09 - AM	12/13/09 - PM	12/20/09 - AM	12/20/09 - PM
Greeters	Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler		Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Psalm 19:7-11		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Paul McClung	Don Smith	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Allen Griffith Gene Bannister, Matt Churchwell	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	James Fuller
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 16 Tom Wilcox	December 23 Allen Griffith	December 30 Jim Moore	January 6 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of December 13th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 1)

Wednesday Class Daniel 11-12

Basics: Christ: God in the Flesh (Pt 2)

- 1) Deity: 100% God; though Human, still God (Col. 2:9)
 - a. Eternal (John 8:58; Rev. 1:8, 11; John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:5-7)
 - b. Active in Creation (Gen. 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2)
 - c. Spoke of As God/Called God (Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:3; John 1:29-30; John 20:28)
 - d. Spoke and Acted Like God
 - i. One with the Father (John 10:30; John 14:9)
 - ii. Forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7)
 - iii. Accepted Worship (John 9:38; Matt. 4:10)
- 2) Evidence for His Deity
 - a. Fulfillment of Prophecy:
 - i. Fulfilled over 300 OT prophecies; statistically impossible.
 - ii. In Life: Matt. 1:22, 2:5-6, 2:15, 2:23
 - iii. In Work: 8:16
 - iv. In Death: 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 3:17-18
 - b. Miracles/Works He Did:
 - i. Only God could do (John 10:37-38, 5:36, 3:2, 9:32-33)
 - ii. Things Christ was supposed to do (Matt. 11:3-5)
 - iii. Witnessed (Acts 2:22)
 - iv. Designed to create faith (John 20:30-31)
 - c. Resurrection (Acts 2:36; 1 Cor. 15:5-8, 20; Rom. 1:4)

Jesus was God in the Flesh, uniquely qualified to be our Savior.

I Will... (Psalm 119)

The love expressed by the psalmist to God's Word is shown in his stated resolutions:

- 1) **I Will of Purpose** (v8) – he resolves to be obedient to God (cf. Dan 1:8; Josh. 1:7; Matt. 7:21).
- 2) **I Will of Right Thinking** (v15) – he resolves to study and think on God's Word (cf. Ps. 1:1-3; Josh 1:8; 1 Tim 4:15; Jas 1:25).
- 3) **I Will of Pleasure** (v16) – he resolves do God's will with pleasure (cf. Acts 8:39, 16:34, 5:41; 2 Jn 3; Lk. 10:20).
- 4) **I Will of Vigorous Effort** (v32) – he resolves to put effort into following God; not half-hearted (cf. Lk. 9:23; Heb. 6:10-12; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
- 5) **I Will of Voluntary Action** (v45) – he resolves to serve God of free-will (cf. Lk. 9:23; Acts 2:40-41; Josh. 24:15).
- 6) **I Will of Missionary Spirit** (v46) – he resolves to speak of God's will to others; he will not be ashamed of it (cf. Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15).
- 7) **I Will of Gratitude** (v62) – he resolves to give thanks to God (cf. v164; James 1:17; 1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 4:2).
- 8) **I Will of A Separate Life** (v69&78) – he resolves to follow God, regardless of others (cf. Phil. 4:11-12, 1:15-18; Lk. 22:42; Matt. 5:10-12; Rev. 2:10).

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Return Service Requested