



Living By Faith

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

December 27, 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

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.

WHO AM I?

by Johnny Ramsey

The Psalmist often took an introspective look as he meditated upon the benevolent mercy of God. In Psalms 8 we have the haunting refrain, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?"

Again, in grateful consideration, the writer honestly states: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?"

Made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) for His glory (Isaiah 43:7) it ought to be normal for all ages to magnify His greatness. A new song meditates upon this matter: "Who am I that Christ should die for me?"

We certainly stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene and wonder how He could love me a sinner condemned and unclean! Yes, made by Jehovah, saved by Jesus (Matthew 1:21), taught by the Bible. If I can live productively as a Christian and praise God, a golden street of glory awaits me!

Comprehending these truths truly warms the heart. "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, the Lord reigneth" (1 Chronicles 16:31).

In addition to all of these considerations, our Redeemer has bestowed upon our earthly existence the marvelous power and privilege of prayer. We can actually communicate with our Maker! He talks to us in the Scriptures, and we send our thoughts to Him in petitions before the throne of heaven! "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

Who am I?

I am a soldier of Christ fighting the good battle of truth (1 Timothy 6:12). God has supplied the sword of the Spirit which is the word of the Lord (Ephesians 6:17). Protected by the shield of faith, we go forth valiantly and victoriously as we confront Satan and his forces. Always outnumbered, we still are always triumphant when we never wander away from the captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10). When we absolutely trust in God, no power can defeat us as we journey toward eternity (Romans 8:30).

Who am I?

I am a soul-winner for Jesus! There is no greater joy than helping to redeem lost mankind. We work with Christ in this work of eternal consequence (1 Timothy 4:16). When we realize that the value and worth of one soul is greater than all the wealth and treasure of the world, we will pursue sinners bound for hell and turn them back to righteousness (Proverbs 11:30). Sharing the mercy and grace of our heavenly Father will grant us peace and joy. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10).

Who am I?

I am a pilgrim on earth (1 Peter 2:11) on my way home to everlasting bliss.

(Continued on page 3)



But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

A New Year

Well, 2010 is almost here and we are reminded that time slips on as normal and soon this year will be a thing of the past, a memory fading into the distance. As we get older, I think that it becomes easier every year to understand the words of James, "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). I am reminded too of the words of a song that says something along the lines of "...so this is Christmas and what have you done, another year over, a new one's just begun..." Think back over last year and remember the things you hoped to get done and how much of it got accomplished. It may be that our time here is passing us by and with each passing year we put off things that we should be accomplishing.

I hope that you will take some time if you have not already to pause and think about the things that you need to work at this year. I am sure that list will include personal items but specifically think about some things that matter most—our spiritual concerns. I hope that each member of the congregation will take some time to decide to make the most out of the time and opportunities that we will be given this year, if the Lord Wills (James 5:15).

A good friend of mine that I went to school with sent me this list of resolutions that would be good for every Christian to make: (1) Participate even more fully in the congregation's work, (2) Make time for frequent prayer, (3) Make time for frequent Bible study, (4) Be in each and every Bible class, (5) Be in each and every worship service, (6) Participate in the work of the visitation, (7) Be prompt at each and every meeting, and (8) Make and take the time to meet and welcome newcomers and visitors at our services.

Let us determine that we will be active and do all that we can do as we approach this new year; then we can always look back with fondness on all that we have accomplished in the year instead of lamenting that which could have been.

~Ryan Smithey

I Will...

Speaking of resolutions that we should make...that is what we will be focusing on this Wednesday night. We will be meeting in the auditorium for a night of singing, prayer, scripture reading, and lessons as we look forward to the new year.

The night should give an opportunity for some that do not always get a chance to do some things to have that opportunity. We are encouraging every male of the congregation that wants to, to lead a song that night and we are encouraging all of our teen boys to take a part in it as well either in singing or scripture reading. I think it will be beneficial to all as we teach and admonish one another with our singing (Col. 3:16) and encourage ourselves to set some good goals for the coming year.

The theme for the night will be "I Will..." and focuses on a acrostic from the word 'will.' We will be encouraging everyone to determine that I Will:

Worship — Determine that I will be present at every worship service and not just attend but truly worship God.

Interact — Determine that we will be more involved in the work of the church and personal work. Let us interact more with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and with those that are in need.

Lead — Determine that in our lives this coming year we will be an example others can follow. Determine even to go beyond just being an example and decide that we will lead others to obedience to the Gospel by inviting them to worship, studying with them, or encouraging others to remain faithful or be restored.

Learn — Determine that this year I will not just rely on classes and sermons to learn but I will involve myself in personal Bible study—and not just reading, but truly studying to learn more about God's Word and His Will.

Obviously we will not be able to spend a lot of time on each topic but we at least want to give you some things to think on and hopefully encourage you to set these as some of your goals/resolutions for this coming year.

I hope that you can be with us.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2

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 .. Zechariah 1-4; Revelation 18
Monday .. Zechariah 5-8; Revelation 19
Tuesday .. Zech. 9-12; Revelation 20
Wednesday . Zech. 13-14; Revelation 21
Thursday .. Malachi 1-4; Revelation 22
Friday .. Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
Saturday .. Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
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

New Year's Party

We will be having a New Year's party on December 31 starting at 6 PM and going until whenever. We hope you can join us — bring food, games, etc. Feel free to come and go as needed; come and enjoy bringing in the new year with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **January 10-13:** Forth Worth Lectures on the Gospel Accounts held at Brown Trail; see flyer on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **May 2-5:** Spring Gospel Meeting with John Moore, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*; keep this effort in your prayers and on your calendars.

(Continued from page 1)

This earth is not my home; mansions on high await me (John 14:1-3). When this earthly tabernacle crumbles into the dust of all finite things (2 Corinthians 5:1), a heavenly goal is within reach (Hebrews 11:16).

The language of First Chronicles 29:11 fits here exceptionally well: "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."

In the little one chapter book of Jude, we are overwhelmed by the grand words of verse two that tell us of the mercy, peace, and love that is available to Christians.

Who am I?

Perhaps, most of all, I am one who should be the most grateful person who ever lived. In spite of the past mistakes, we can look forward to being in the presence of Deity forevermore! God sent His Son to give me abundant life (John 10:10) **now** and in the world to come! "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High" (Psalm 9:1-2).

A great song by Charles (Rusty) Goodman is appropriate for this lesson: "When I think of how He came so far from Glory, Came and dwelt among the lowly such as I; To suffer shame and such disgrace, On Mt. Calvary take my place. Then I ask myself a question, **Who am I?** The answer I may never know; Why He ever loved me so; That to an old rugged cross He'd go, for who am I."

Thank You

We were presented with a card and gift from the elders on behalf of congregation before Christmas and we want to thank you all. We truly have been blessed this year in working with this congregation and we look forward to the coming challenges and joys of the new year. ~*The Smitheys*

Ladies Class

Remember the ladies class will not meet again this week, December 30th. It will resume next Wednesday, January 6.

1st Sunday

Remember that next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the year and month so we will be having our monthly fellowship meal.

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).

January Birthday This Week: Kathy Burcham (01)



	Recent Records	December 13, 2009	December 20, 2009
Bible Class		63	66
AM Worship		86	87
PM Worship		56	52
Wednesday PM		50	42
Contribution		\$1577	\$1561

Privileged to Serve	12/27/09 - AM	12/27/09 - PM	01/03/09 - AM	01/03/09 - PM
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum Psalm 25:1-5		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Jim Moore*, Michael Bickford James Fuller, Garrett Barnum	Jim Moore	Don Smith*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 30 Jim Moore	January 6 Don Smith	January 13 James Fuller	January 20 Ken Makuta

Studies For The Week of December 27th:

Sunday Class1 Corinthians (Chap. 2-3)

Wednesday Class Special/Singing

The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11)

We will do well to learn from the problems at Corinth and see the significance Paul shows must be associated with the Lord's Supper.

1) Problems at Corinth

- a) Things were in such a condition that even their assembling together was for the worse (v17).
- b) Reminder of the importance of worshiping in spirit and truth (John 4:24) – cannot have one without the other.

2) Attitudes Condemned

- a) **Factious** (v18-22; 32): Their divisive attitude spilled into their worship making it impossible to properly observe the Lord's Supper which is a mark of unity (1 Cor. 10:16-17).
- b) **Friivolousness** (v21-22): They turned that which was holy/spiritual into that which is common/physical.
- c) **Forgetfulness** (v29): They failed to properly remember or think about that which they were doing (v24-25; 27, 29).

3) Mindset Commanded

- a) **Upward Significance** (v24-25, 29) – Remember Christ; a perfect memorial of the body and blood given in our stead.
- b) **Outward Significance** (v26) – Show His death to others until He comes again; a memorial that teaches (cf. Josh. 4:6-7).
- c) **Inward Significance** (v28) – Examine Self; time to reflect on the offering made for us and ask ourselves if we are living faithfully to the one who died for us (2 Cor. 13:5).

Be Patient, Brethren (James 5:7-11)

James tries to comfort His brethren who are being oppressed by the rich (v1-6) and reminds them that they must have patience.

1) Patience of the Farmer (v7-8).

- a) The patience to endure and wait for Christ's return.
- b) They must work as a farmer that labors diligently and then waits for harvest. (Gal. 6:7-8)
- c) Though oppressed they wait, for they know that they will be rewarded. (Heb. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58)

2) Patience of the Prophets (v9-10).

- a) They must be like the prophets who persevered even when mistreated. (2 Cor 5:10; Heb. 4:13, 11:36-38; Acts 7:51-52).
- b) They were mocked, rejected, threatened, and killed and yet they kept proclaiming the word of God as instructed.
- c) They showed a love for God and a love for their brethren even when it was not returned by their brethren.

3) Patience of Job (v11-12).

- a) They must be like Job who faced trials and still maintained his trust in God even when all around him turned against him. (Job 1:21, 13:15; Rom. 8:18)
- b) Job was rewarded with more at the end than at the beginning because of his patience. (Job 42:10)
- c) We must keep doing right no matter what others do.

Living by Faith is published weekly by the
4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 4th St.
Brownwood, TX 76801

Return Service Requested