



Living By Faith

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

January 3, 2010

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.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Adam B. Cozort

As Paul concludes the letter to the Philippians he exhorts them to “Rejoice in the Lord always,” (Phi. 4:4). In order to do that, an individual must first set his mind so as to have the proper outlook, allowing one to rejoice in any situation. Because of that, Paul will give these brethren a list of things they need to think on (Phi. 4:8).

The word translated “think” comes from a word which means “to reckon, weigh the reasons, deliberate,” (Thayer). Therefore, Paul calls upon the Philippians to reckon on and weigh the following things.

Whatever things are true. These are things which are proven to be true. They are not assumptions, suppositions, or wishes; instead, they are facts based upon evidence. More problems and sins have entered the body of Christ because people have stopped contemplating truth and instead followed their own suppositions than from any other cause. If we are to continue to be able to rejoice in the Lord we must continue to think on things of truth.

Whatever things are honest. More literally Paul is emphasizing the need to think on the things that are honorable. There are people who seem to spend all of their time focusing on people and actions that are disreputable instead of those things which are honorable. We should not be concerned with all the celebrity gossip and worrying about all the bad things that others are doing, but instead should be focused on those things which are right and honorable in the sight of God.

Whatever things are just. Christians have an obligation to be constantly concerned with what is right and just. It requires time and effort to find the answers to problems and situations which arise, but the Christian must be willing to search God’s Word to find the just response.

Whatever things are pure. This point goes hand in hand with that of being honorable. Those things that are pure are the things without flaw or blemish. We are not to be those who have the attitude of seeking to see how close to the line we can get without crossing over. Instead, the Christian must continue to look at things from the perspective of purity.

Whatever things are lovely. This term literally means those things

(Continued on page 2)



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

Matthew 6:33

which are “acceptable, pleasing,” (Thayer). Therefore, we are to think on those things which are acceptable and pleasing. Some might try to contort this to say if it feels good, do it. However, if one’s mindset is already placed upon the previous four statements, it will be readily understood that those things which are acceptable and pleasing will come from God’s Word.

Whatever things are of good report. These are things which sound good, are well reported, and attractive. It is often the case that people will do things with one group of people, or by themselves, that they would not do with another group because it would be perceived as wrong or unwise. Our endeavors should be to think, talk, and act upon things that are above reproach. If we are doing things before others we would not do before Christians, we need to begin thinking on things of good report.

If we are to be people who are found virtuous before God and ones who praise Him both in word and deed, these things must be the focus of our lives. If we “think on these things” we will be able to lead lives that are above reproach. Such a life will be rich in spiritual blessings and fulfilling in our work both toward God and man. It is taking thought of these things that will finally and truly allow us to “rejoice in the Lord always.”

*We are living a Gospel
A chapter each day,
By deed that we do,
By word that we say;
Men read what we live,
Whether faithless or true,
Say! What is the Gospel
According to you?*

~Author Unkown

Think About It...

By Tom Moore

An artist created a painting of a wintry twilight. The trees were barren and laden with snow while a dreary-looking house stood desolate in the midst of the drifted field. It was a bleak and depressing picture. Then the artist took some yellow paint and with a few quick strokes painted a candle glowing in one of the windows of that home. The effect was almost magical. Just one little light and the entire scene was transformed into a vision of comfort and cheer.

The prophet Isaiah looked at his own country and recognized a need for comfort and cheer. He saw the spiritual darkness that enveloped many parts of his nation, especially in the north around the Sea of Galilee. This area had been conquered by the Syrian king Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) and became a melting pot of Jews and Gentiles. A mixture of Judaism and paganism became the dominant religion. The situation looked hopeless, but even into this stronghold of darkness and spiritual death, Isaiah saw a light break forth, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined” (Isa. 9:2). Centuries later, when the apostles began to preach concerning the Christ’s church, this area saw many become Christians (Acts 8). Indeed, the light of Christ’s redemption shone brightly.

The light of Christ makes a difference in your life. In the darkness of sin, you can find the light of His forgiveness. In the darkness of ignorance, His wisdom illumines the way. In the darkness of trials and trouble, His presence dispels the blackness. Whatever darkness threatens to overshadow your life, let Jesus be the light who drives it away. Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

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>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</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 .. Genesis 6-7; Matthew 3</p> <p>Monday .. Genesis 8-10; Matthew 4</p> <p>Tuesday .. Genesis 11-12; Matt. 5:1-20</p> <p>Wednesday . Genesis 13-15; Matt. 5:21-48</p> <p>Thursday .. Genesis 16-18; Matt. 6:1-15</p> <p>Friday .. Genesis 19-20; Matt. 6:16-34</p> <p>Saturday .. Genesis 21-22; Matthew 7</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		<p><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

1st Sunday

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

Ladies Class

Remember the **ladies class will resume this week**, Wednesday, January 6 — Join us as we study the life of Christ.

Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received in this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. The theme is “**How a Church Changes.**” This is certain a needed warning for congregations around the world and a reminder that we must be ever diligent to seek and follow “sound doctrine” lest we be led away unto “fables” (2 Timothy 4:2-4).



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:** Our Spring Gospel Meeting with John Moore, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*; keep this effort in your prayers and on your calendars.

BE THANKFUL (Author Unknown)

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something,
for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.

During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary,
because it means you've made a difference.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who
are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.

Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,
and they can become your blessings.

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 **36 contacts** were made.

Thank You

- ◆ Many have expressed appreciation to the congregation for the holiday gift baskets they received and for those who put them together and delivered them. Besides those who have sent cards, Zelma Leslie and Jimmy Claborn specifically asked me to express their appreciation. — Thank you all.
- ◆ Zelma Leslie also called to thank everyone for the cards they received.
- ◆ It was great to have Lavenuia Herridge and her son Waymon with us last Sunday, while here she told me she could no longer write but wanted everyone to know that she is thankful all the cards she continues to receive.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

January Birthdays: Kathy Burcham (03); Billie Jean Walters (05); Beth Chambers (09); Daniel Middleton (09); Debbie Perkins (11); Tom Wilcox (17); Anita Boyd (19); Charley Perkins (22); Mattison Churchwell (25); Corine Thomas (29).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



	Recent Records	December 20, 2009	December 27, 2009
Bible Class		66	52
AM Worship		87	70
PM Worship		52	41
Wednesday PM		42	40
Contribution		\$1561	\$1104

Privileged to Serve	01/03/09 - AM	01/03/09 - PM	01/010/09 - AM	01/10/09 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford Philippians 2:12-16		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Paul McClung	Allen Griffith	James Thomas	Matthew Churchwell
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	January 6 Don Smith	January 13 James Fuller	January 20 Ken Makuta	January 27 Tom Wilcox

Studies For The Week of January 3rd:

Sunday Class1 Corinthians (Chap. 2-3)

Wednesday ClassMinor Prophets

<p align="center">What If It's An Ordinary Year? <i>What if you heard "this year thou shalt die" (Jer. 28:16)?</i></p> <p>1) Would you make some changes? a) Likely most people would change something in their life. b) Would you: obey the gospel (Acts 24:25; Mark 16:16); cease backsliding (2 Peter 2:20-22); cease being lukewarm (Rev. 3:14-19; 1 Kings 18:21); assemble with the saints more (Heb. 10:25); give more (2 Cor. 8:1-5; 2 Cor. 9:6-7); right wrongs (Matt. 18:15-17); reevaluate priorities and put God first (Matt. 6:33); do more work for the church (Eccl. 9:10; 1 Cor. 15:58); desire to be counted among the faithful (Rev. 2:10; 14:13)?</p> <p>2) But what if it's an ordinary year and you don't die? a) Hezekiah was assured he would live 15 more years (2 Kings 20:1); would you still change and/or live faithfully b) Paul encouraged the Philippians to live the same way (faithfully) whether he came or not (Phil. 1:27) as was his own example to be pleasing to God whether he lived or died (Phil. 1:20; 2 Cor. 5:9-10).</p> <p>3) Will you live so that whether you live or die, you please God? a) We don't know what will happen any day (Prov. 27:1) so always be ready (Matt. 24:42). b) Paul kept pressing on in life (Phil. 3:13-14) so he was ready for death (2 Tim. 4:6-8). <i>You might die this year! Or not! – live faithful to God either way!</i></p>	<p align="center">Every Member Faithful and Fervent <i>One of Robert R. Taylor, Jr.'s favorite sermons. Gives us a great charge in the New Year that requires us to have a mind to work (Neh. 4:6) and understand the importance of that work (John 9:4; 1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Thess. 1:3; Tit. 3:1; Eph. 2:10). May every member be:</i></p> <p>I. Truly Converted In Faithful and Fervent Fashion — (Matt. 18:2-3; Acts 3:19); requires change in heart, life, & relationship.</p> <p>II. A Faithful and Fervent Student of God's Word — else suffer from Biblical ignorance (Isa. 1:3-4, 5:13; Hos. 4:6; Matt. 22:29; 1 Cor. 15:34); the only answer is eagerness to read, study, and do God's Word (Isa. 8:20, 34:16; Jer. 22:29; 1 Tim. 4:13, 15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Rev. 1:3; James 1:22).</p> <p>III. A Faithful and Fervent Person of Prayer — regular in prayer (Ps. 55:17; Lk. 18:1; Acts 2:42; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17).</p> <p>IV. Faithful and Fervent in Worship — should be a delight (Ps. 122:1); to the right object (God), in the right manner (in spirit), and in the right way (in truth) (Matt. 4:10; John 4:24).</p> <p>V. Faithful and Fervent in Christian Living — we should live a life characterized by the beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12), good example (1 Tim. 4:12), distinction (Titus 2:11-12), the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), a new life (Col. 3:5-14), the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5ff); then we can be an example (Matt 5:13-16; 2 Cor 3:2).</p> <p>VI. Faithful and Fervent in Soul Winning — mark of true wisdom (Prov. 11:30) and the heart of our commission (Matt. 28:18-20).</p>
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