



Living By Faith

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

January 10, 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, Africa
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.

A New You In The New Year

By Allen Webster

This sounds like a commercial line from a weight loss clinic, a fitness club, a hair salon, or a skin cream company, but it's not. It's about making decisions about spiritual well-being. Are you satisfied with 'you' at the beginning of a new year? This is the time of year we generally look at ourselves and make resolutions for self-improvement. We often write them down or tell someone so we'll feel some pressure (encouragement) to stick to them. As you think about 'a new you for the new year,' please consider these common clichés and their spiritual applications.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR HAND TO THE PLOW.' The Christian life is compared to running a race (Hebrews 12:1-2), winning a fight (1 Corinthians 9:27), sailing a sea (2 Timothy 4:6), 'departure,' analysis, literally means 'to loose the ropes of a ship and let it drift way'), and plowing a field. Jesus said, 'No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God' (Luke 9:62). A farmer who looks back while plowing will have crooked rows. A Christian who looks back longingly to the life he has left behind will find that he strays from the 'strait and narrow way' (Matthew 7:13-14). This year, let's keep our eyes focused on the pearly gate of 'the city laid foursquare' (Revelation 21:16), and never look back at the devil's glittering trinket jewels.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE.' We use this phrase to refer to applying oneself to a dreaded task. Is there a spiritual duty we need to do which we have been putting off? Perhaps it is obeying the Gospel. Have I believed, repented, confessed, and been immersed for the remission of my sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21)? Perhaps I need to make a public confession of sin, but have dreaded humbling myself and asking for prayers (James 5:16). Perhaps I have offended a brother and have put off getting things straightened out. It's time to do it (Matthew 18:15-18). 'Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend' (Proverbs 6:3). It could be the grindstone of a bad habit--drinking, smoking, cursing, gossiping--that I need to break. Let's go ahead, 'put our nose to the grindstone,' and get right with God and others.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR EARS TO THE GROUND.' We use this phrase to refer to listening for feedback from associates. It comes from the practice the Indians had of listening for approaching horses or buffalo by literally putting an ear to the ground. We are wise to listen to the constructive criticisms of those who love us. 'Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning...he that regardeth reproof is prudent...A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool' (Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 15:5; Proverbs 17:10). Those 'dull of hearing' were criticized by Jesus (Matthew 13:15). This applies to stopping the ears to God's Word (Psalm 58:4) and

(Continued on page 2)



*Happy is that people, that is in such a case:
yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.*

Psalm 144:15

refusing to hear God's messengers (Acts 7:51, called 'uncircumcized' ears here). We should also be open to those who have been offended by our actions who come to talk.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR MIND IN GEAR.'

If you had a daydreaming employee or student under you, you might tell him to 'get his mind in gear,' which means 'concentrate on the task at hand.' The young Solomon was told to serve God with a 'willing mind' (1 Chronicles 28:9). God says that we must 'renew our minds' (Romans 12:2, 'renew,' anakainosis, literally 'renovate'), because they can become 'faint' (Hebrews 12:3, ekluo, 'relaxed'). If we have just been going through the motions of worship and Christians living, it's time to 'put our mind in gear' and get serious about serving God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL.'

If a weight is small, a man might move it with the strength of his wrist; if it is of medium weight, it might require the strength of his arm; but if it is heavy, he will have to put his shoulder to it. We use the phrase 'put your shoulder to the wheel' to mean 'give this project your full strength.' Christianity is not to be approached with 'wrist' or 'arm' strength, put with all the force of the 'shoulder.' Jesus said, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind' (Matthew 22:37). During this year, let's give 'all diligence to make our calling and election sure' (2 Peter 1:10, 'diligence,' spoude, 'speed, by implication, dispatch, eagerness, earnestness').

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR BACK TO THE WALL.'

One with his 'back to the wall' realizes the gravity of a situation. He has but one option--fight. Christians need to appreciate the gravity of the situation in which they daily exist. We are in a free-for-all-no-holds-barred-winner-take-all fight for our souls. We are not playing war games or firing blanks. This is for real. Nobody gets out of this world alive physically (until Jesus comes), and few get out alive spiritually (Matthew 7:13; Ephesians 2:1). This may be the year that determines my destiny. Am I taking my battle with Satan seriously (1 Peter 5:8)? Have I strapped on my armor (Ephesians 6:11-18)? Will I sur-

vive? Will my family?

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR FEET TO THE FIRE.'

A man whose feet are held to the fire tends to become enthusiastic! To put a person's 'feet to the fire' is to make him/her responsible for his/her actions. God does hold us responsible for our actions. 'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad' (2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus even spoke of each word we use being significant: '...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned' (Matthew 12:36-37).

God likes enthusiastic people. Phinehas was given a covenant of peace because he was 'zealous for his God' (Numbers 25:13). Dorcas was loved by many because she was full of good works (Acts 9:36). God redeemed and purified us that we might be 'a peculiar people, zealous of good works' (Titus 2:14). We 'are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them' (Ephesians 2:10). God wants us to 'consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works' (Hebrews 10:24).

THIS YEAR, LET'S 'PUT OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE.'

A man with his eyes on a prize has it as the object of his heart, the apple of his eye. He wants nothing more; he will settle for nothing else. Paul had his eyes on the prize of heaven: 'Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:13-14). May our eyes, too, stay on the prize until we hold it in our hands.

A 'new you' in the 'new year'?

There's no better time to start than today!

| 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 23-24; Matthew 8</p> <p>Monday... Genesis 25; Matthew 9:1-17</p> <p>Tuesday... Genesis 26-27; Matt. 9:18-38</p> <p>Wednesday.. Genesis 28-29; Matt. 10:1-15</p> <p>Thursday... Genesis 30; Matt. 10:16-42</p> <p>Friday... Genesis 31-32; Matthew 11</p> <p>Saturday... Genesis 33-34; Matt. 12:1-8</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

Rohan Jones

Rohan Jones and his family are back in Africa to begin their work there. This congregation supported them while at Brown Trail and continue to do so as he begins his work. Along with that financial support, please continue to keep them in your prayers. There is a letter from them on the bulletin board.

Ladies Class

Remember our ladies class every Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall— Join us as we study the life of Christ.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **January 10-13: Forth Worth Lectures** on the Gospel Accounts held at Brown Trail; flyer on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **January 17: Devotional at Vicksburg** at 3:30 PM.
- ◆ **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.

THE PARABLE OF THE NAIL ~ Author Unknown

A new place of worship had just been completed. People came from near and far to see it. They admired the beauty of its windows, the walls, and the carpet on the floors. Preachers were carried away with the handsome pulpit Bible.

On the roof a little two-penny nail held down a single shingle. The little nail heard the people praising everything, but none mentioned the single nail or seemed conscious of its existence.

The little nail became angry and said, "If I am that insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit." So the little nail pulled out, raced down the steep roof and fell to the soft ground below.

That night, a big rain came and the shingle nail was buried in the mud. The difference between being buried in the mud and holding down a shingle is this: Before, the nail was obscure but useful. Now, he is obscure but useless. Before, he was protected in his dry place under the shingle. Now he will soon be eaten up with rust. The worst of this story is yet to come.

The shingle which the nail held down was now loose, and without the cooperation from that nail, it blew away, leaving a hole in the roof. The rain leaked through the vacant spot, ruining the walls, the carpet, and the pulpit Bible. Moral: Not in anger or envy, in humility or pride should any member of the Lord's church ever cease to be an active, useful saved individual.

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 **28 contacts** were made. Also keep in mind that next Sunday will be the **3rd Sunday meal** following the visitation meeting — hope you can join us.

Thank You

Anita Boyd is feeling better and hopes to be with us this morning. She wished to express her appreciation to all of you for your cards, calls, concern, prayers & thoughtfulness that you showed while she was sick. You indeed are great Christian friends and family.

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); Jaceten Evetts (20); Charley Perkins (22); Mattison Churchwell (25).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...

| | Recent Records | December 27, 2009 | January 03, 2010 |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bible Class | | 52 | 53 |
| AM Worship | | 70 | 76 |
| PM Worship | | 41 | 55 |
| Wednesday PM | | 40 | 51 |
| Contribution | | \$1104 | \$1665 |



| Privileged to Serve | 01/10/10 - AM | 01/10/10 - PM | 02/07/10 - AM | 02/07/10 - PM |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Greeters | Gene & Barbara Bannister | | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | |
| Scripture Reader Scripture Reading | | John Barnum Psalm 18:30-32 | | Hank Wheeler |
| Opening Prayer | James Thomas | Matthew Churchwell | Billy Chism | Jim Moore |
| Wait on Table | Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox | Hank Wheeler | Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta | Don Smith |
| Closing Prayer | Michael Bickford | Don Smith | Gene Bannister | Tom Wilcox |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey | | Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey | |
| Wednesday Devotionals | January 13 James Fuller | January 20 Ken Makuta | January 27 Tom Wilcox | February 3 Michael Bickford |

Studies For The Week of January 10th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 3)

Wednesday Class Minor Prophets: Obadiah

Life In Christ (Philippians 1)

The book of Philippians shows us how we can rejoice as Christians and have a life of joy and peace even in difficult times.

1) In Christ (1:1-11)

- a) The first step must be having a right relationship with God.
- b) Here are spiritual blessings found (Eph. 1:3) by obeying the gospel (Gal. 3:27) and continuing faithfully (1 John 1:7, 9).

2) Different Perspective In Christ

- a) We now have a different status and a new perspective.
- b) Instead of looking at his situation as a problem, Paul considers being in prison as an opportunity; instead of being mad some preach to harm him, he rejoices that the gospel is proclaimed.
- c) Problems can strengthen us and prepare us for future events (James 1:2-3) – it is determined by how we look at them.

3) Stability/Strength in Christ (v20-30)

- a) This gives us strength to face challenges and also stability.
- b) Paul is not rejoicing because things are going well, but because of an inner peace not affected by outside circumstances.
- c) We must remember our strength does not rely on ourselves but God—knowing His Work will be accomplished.
- d) If Paul lived or died, saw them or not, God was in control – all we have to do is live faithfully and He will reward us.

Trials of life make many want to quit, but the one in Christ has a new perspective that gives him strength and stability to face these things.

Soldiers in God's Army (Judges 7:1-22)

Those who served in Gideon's army were of a certain character that we need to continue to have today as soldiers in God's army:

I. Brave (v1-3)

- a. Gideon's army of 32,000 men were going up against an army of 135,000 and Gideon tells the fearful to go home leaving only 10,000 men.
- b. In serving the Lord we need courage (Luke 12:4; 1 Pet. 3:13-14; Heb. 13:6; Matt. 25:24-26).

II. Alert (v4-8)

- a. To further slim the number of soldiers down God commands that all who lap water out of their hands (those alert and in haste) are to be kept and the rest are to be sent away.
- b. We too must be watchful and alert (1 Pet. 5:8-9) for we have a constant foe, but one that can be conquered if we remain vigilant – let us be ready at all times (Matt. 24:42-44).

III. Obedient (v15-22)

- a. Thus Gideon has a small but capable army, but God also expects those who serve Him to be obedient – God instructed how they were to attack and His orders were to be followed.
- b. Will we display that same obedience today? (Matt. 22:37; John 14:15)
- c. If so, then we are well equipped for battle (Eph. 6:10-11) as we fight on the Lord's side.

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Return Service Requested