



Living By Faith

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

January 17, 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.

Selfishness Leads To Worldliness

By Marvin L. Weir

In the third chapter of James, it is evident that worldliness is the result of **earthly wisdom**. This wisdom does not come from Jehovah! *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy”* (James 3:17). One’s faith is surely tested by his attitude toward God and his attitude toward his fellow-man.

Some brethren make a habit of declaring war upon the precious body of Christ (James 4), and the Bible stresses that such conflicts do not come from God. Those who cause strife and faction in the body of Christ do so because of their own evil desires and lusts. Far too many times brethren are determined to have their own way regardless of the cost. This is the same type of spirit that possessed Diotrefes and Ahab. Diotrefes wanted preeminence (3 John 9) and Ahab desired Naboth’s vineyard (1 Kings 21). One who has succumbed to evil desires will **always** attempt to justify doing things in the **wrong** way for the **wrong** reason.

James 4:2 vividly describes the vain attempt to satisfy the lusts of pleasure and the world. It seems that the flesh is always **coveting** something. Hungering and thirsting after material matters is dangerous. The Lord admonishes, *“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”* (Matt. 5:6). If we heed the Lord’s admonition we will not selfishly *“ask amiss”* (James 4:3) in our prayers. The Father is to be petitioned in prayer (Matt. 7:7-8), but we are to always *“ask according to his will”* (1 John 5:14).

An ever-present danger and constant temptation is for one to become **friends** with the world. Committing spiritual adultery is just as sinful as committing physical adultery. James points out this truth in saying, *“Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God”* (James 4:4). It is a serious matter when one is called the enemy of God.

To conquer selfishness, envy, jealousy, and a lustful disposition, one must humbly submit to God’s will. The proud, haughty, and arrogant will never bow to God’s will. Only those who are truly *“poor in spirit”* (Matt. 5:3) will strive to obey the Lord’s commands.

There is a divine formula given in James 4:7-10 that will cure the attitude that produces conflicts, strife, and selfishness in the Lord’s church. **First**, one must **submit** himself to God. Christ makes this clear in saying, *“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”* (Matt. 16:24). Self-denial is something that many people will adamantly refuse to do!

Second, the devil must be resisted. To successfully resist the devil it is imperative that one recognize that Satan is a real and formidable foe (1 Pet. 5:8), that there is always a way of escape from temptations (1 Cor. 10:13), that evil must be

(Continued on page 2)



*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly,
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*

Micah 6:8

(Continued from page 1)

abstained from (1 Thess. 5:22), and that things pure and holy are to control our thinking (Phil. 4:8).

Third, one must make a sincere effort to “draw nigh” to God (James 4:8). God will not force His will on any person. The Father desires “all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). One will not, however, accidentally go to Heaven. The process of drawing nigh unto God takes effort, sacrifice, and a determination to be “single-minded” in a world filled with the devil’s distractions. Do not forget that the person who puts his hand to the plow and then turns back is not worthy of God’s kingdom (Luke 9:62).

Fourth, one’s hands must be clean. This surely involves repentance (Luke 13:3; 1 John 1:9) as the Father will forgive and cleanse **only** those sins that one confesses and turns from. Far too many pretend to serve and worship God while having unclean hands. God will not accept such hypocrisy.

Fifth, it is essential that one have a pure heart. The Savior said, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8). Worldly thinking will not produce pure and godly lives.

Sixth, James notes the affliction, mourning, and weeping that accompanies true repentance. This is simply a way of saying that genuine repentance will be noticed. A change of mind will **always** produce a change of action. If repentance is genuine, one will not have to wonder whether or not one has turned from his evil and worldly ways.

Seventh, one must humble and surrender himself before God. Jehovah will resist the proud and arrogant, but He lovingly gives grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5-6). Paul shows his great humility as he willingly crucifies self (Gal. 2:20) for the cause of Christ.

May we be persuaded that succumbing to worldliness will make us an enemy of God and cost us a home in Heaven! Beware of the sin of selfishness!

GOD IS CALLING, BUT THE LINE IS BUSY

by Jason Hilburn

God has a desire for all men to be saved, and He calls men to Him by the Gospel of Jesus Christ: “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:14). God only speaks to men today through the Holy Scriptures, but what if God were “calling us” via the telephone? When God calls us today:

Are our lines busy? (Are we too busy for God?)

Do we misuse Call Waiting? (Do we make God wait on hold while we are doing other things?)

Do we often see "GOSPEL_CALL" on the Caller ID, yet refuse to answer the call? (Do we sit idly through Gospel sermons when we know we need to answer the Gospel call?)

Have we "stopped our ears," or turned the ringer off? (Do we no longer pay attention to sermons or Bible classes? Have we removed any possibility of hearing the Gospel call by refusing to attend worship services and study our Bibles?)

Are we too busy talking to let God get a word in? (Are we more concerned about what we have to say to God in our prayers than what God has to say to us through His Word?)

What if there were static on the line? Would we be willing to move to a better spot? (Are there areas of our lives that are separating us from God? Are we willing to leave those areas behind to be closer to God?)

Would we dare hang up on God? (Knowing God's supreme authority and power, would we deliberately choose to defy Him and serve the enemy? Knowing God's abounding love for us, would we callously "hang up" on Him and reject the ultimate loving sacrifice of Jesus Christ?)

What about when we call on God through prayer? What if His line were always busy? What if He would not take our calls, or what if He hung up on us? Of course God would never do those things to us because He loves us, and we should never do such things to Him!

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
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	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)	Sunday... Gen. 35-36; Matthew 12:9-32 Monday... Gen. 37-38; Matt. 12:33-50 Tuesday... Gen. 39-40; Matthew 13:1-23 Wednesday.. Gen. 41-42; Matt. 13:24-46 Thursday... Gen. 43-44; Matt. 13:47-58 Friday... Genesis 45-46; Matthew 14 Saturday... Genesis 47-48; Matt. 15:1-20 <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>
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		

News & Notes

Ladies Class

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

Thank You

I want to thank everyone for all that you have done for me and my family during the sickness and passing of my grandfather. The cards, calls, offers of help, and even those who showed up at my grandfather's funeral all meant so much to all of us. Thank you so much.

Ryan Smithey

Are Bible Classes a Waste of Time?

by Jerry Joseph

In the minds of some, Bible classes are not important. They may even consider them "a waste of time." Why do we have Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday? Are we trying to waste people's time?

Bible classes are significant because: they help promote the work of the church. The Bible classes are one avenue through which the Word of God can be taught.

Bible classes are significant because: they help provide a way for the elders to "feed" the flock. The Ephesian elders were instructed to "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Through our Bible classes we are helping the elders to do their work.

Bible classes are significant because: they help produce tomorrow's elders, deacons, preachers, and teachers. We want to encourage our young people to grow up being servants of God. In our Bible classes, we are training potential soldier in the Lord's army. The Bible classes are helping to train the young in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

Bible classes are significant because: they help prevent unfaithfulness in the church. We all need encouragement in living the Christian life. Through our Bible classes, we can encourage and edify one another (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25) to be strong in the Lord.

Bible classes are significant because: they help prepare one for eternity. Who is it that has doubts about the importance of studying the Bible? We must come to understand and know God's will (John 8:32; 1 Timothy 2:4). The time we spend studying the Bible in our classes is helping us to be prepared for eternity to come.

Are Bible classes a waste of time? I think not!

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 **32 contacts** were made. Also keep in mind that this Sunday is the **3rd Sunday meal** following the visitation meeting — hope you can join us.

Haiti Relief

Some may be wondering how they can help following the earthquake in Haiti that affected so many. If you would like to donate money to help in the relief efforts and especially of the Christians there, you may give that money to the church earmarked for Haiti and that money will be forwarded on to those who are able to distribute it among the congregations there. For further questions, see the elders or Don Smith.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

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	January 03, 2010	January 10, 2010
Bible Class		53	56
AM Worship		76	73
PM Worship		55	45
Wednesday PM		51	48
Contribution		\$1665	\$1424

Privileged to Serve	01/17/10 - AM	01/17/10 - PM	01/24/10 - AM	01/24/10 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		John & Tina Barnum	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler Matthew 6:19-21		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Jim Moore	Paul McClung	Michal Bickford
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	James Thomas*, John Barnum Gene Bannister, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	January 20 Ken Makuta	January 27 Tom Wilcox	February 3 Michael Bickford	February 10 Allen Griffith

Studies For The Week of January 17th:

Sunday Class1 Corinthians (Chap. 3-4)

Wednesday Class Minor Prophets: Obadiah

Self-Emptied Life (Philippians 2)

This is the second key to living lives of joy and peace in a troubled world; instead of focusing on self, focus on others.

- 1) **Empty Yourself (v1-4)**
 - a) Common theme: don't put yourself first (Matt. 5:3ff).
 - b) We are to have a love and concern for one another; one that puts the interests of others before ourselves (cf. 1 Cor. 13).
- 2) **Follow the Example of Christ (v5-11)**
 - a) He humbled Himself for the good of others (v6-8a); He taught this by life and word (2 Cor. 8:9; Lk. 10:10; Mark 9:35; Matt. 20:25-28).
 - b) He was obedient even unto death and in turn was exalted by God (v8-11); we have to learn from that example of obedience to God's Will (Jn. 4:34; Lk. 22:42; Heb. 12:2;; 2 Tim. 3:12, 4:8; Rom. 8:18; James 4:10).
- 3) **Live that Example (v12-18)** – They were not just know that example, but live it to be seen of others and be examples to them.
- 4) **Consider Timothy (v19-24) and Epaphroditus (v25-30) as Examples.**
 - a) Do not think this charge is impossible, here are two men who you know and live this way; be encouraged by them.
 - b) They each showed more interest in others and their well-being than their own.

Things that Last

Decay and destruction awaits the things of this life (Matt. 6:19; Ecc. 12:7; 2 Pet. 3:10-12). So what lasts? What truly is incorruptible?

- 1) **God (Romans 1:22-25)** – Some worship that which is created and does not last; but we can know the God that always is!
 - 2) **The Seed, The Word of God (1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 24:35)** – Man's words come and go, they change and are forgotten. But the Word of God is constant, it cannot be altered or changed.
 - 3) **The Blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19)** – Man trusts in many things but the only thing that is and always will be effective in the cleansing and salvation of our souls is the blood of Christ!
 - 4) **Love (Ephesians 6:24)** – True love lasts; we have for us the example of God's love which does not fade away or weaken; with that sort of genuine, lasting love we are to serve God.
 - 5) **Ornament (1 Peter 3:1-5)** – That which we adorn our body with fades, but the beauty of a meek and quiet spirit lasts into eternity.
 - 6) **Body (1 Corinthians 15:49-55)** – This body is temporary, but we look forward to one that is eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1).
 - 7) **Inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4; Matthew 6:19-20)** – Earthly goods will not last; but God's children look forward to an inheritance that is eternal and far greater than the things of this life.
 - 8) **Crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)** – Many long for the accolades of this world but they too fade; not so for the reward of the faithful.
- Only those things that are spiritual truly last, where is our focus?*

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Return Service Requested