



Living By Faith

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

January 24, 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.

Lord, Increase My Faith

By Bill Burk

The Bible says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). What a blessing and privilege it is to have heaven's ear. At any time, in any place, we may cry out to the God of heaven believing that He will hear our petitions (1 John 5: 14). We pray for a number of things. We pray for daily provision (food, clothing, shelter); we pray for health; we pray for friends, family and others. These things are all well and good. However, do we ever pray that the Lord might increase our faith? Twice in Scripture we find such a petition. The first comes from the lips of the man who desired Jesus to cast a mute spirit from his son which the Lord's disciples could not.

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief*" (Mark 9:23-24).

Second, after Jesus spoke of the importance of forgiving others, not just once or twice but "seventy times seven" His incredulous disciples would say, "*Increase our faith*" (Luke 17:5). Just like the Lord's disciples, at times we need an increase in faith, consider the following instances when you and I should pray, "Lord increase my faith... help my unbelief."

- 1. When I'm Lonely And Think No One Cares.** "Look on my right hand and see, For there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul" (Psa. 142:4). When we are sad and alone we need to remember that the Lord is always with us (Heb. 13:5; Mat. 28:20; Psa. 23:1ff). He provides us with constant companionship and a family of brothers and sisters to help us when we are lonely. When we feel overwhelmed and alone each of us should pray, "Lord, increase my faith!"
- 2. When I'm Hurt And Seemingly Can't Forgive.** This is the situation addressed earlier with the disciples. Jesus taught that the forgiveness quotient of His followers must be immeasurable (Luke 17:1-5). When I feel like I can't forgive I should pray "Lord increase my faith!"
- 3. When I'm Blessed And Tend To Forget.** Leaning on God in difficult times comes fairly easy. However, when things are good it's human nature to forget the One who supplies the many blessing we enjoy (Psa. 68:19). The

(Continued on page 2)



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

(Continued from page 1)

Lord knew the Israelites would forget Him once they entered the land and enjoyed its blessings (Deut. 8:11-14). Let us not do the same. When blessed, every one of us should pray, "Lord increase my faith!"

4. When I'm Struggling And Tempted To Quit. The apostle Paul wrote, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9). The possibility of losing heart and giving up the fight is there. Therefore I must choose when my soul is dry and my motivation is low to pray, "Lord increase my faith!"

5. When I'm Afraid And Feel Helpless. Circumstances in life arise where we become keenly aware of the little control we have over our lives. When the walls come closing in it's especially easy to feel as if there's no solution and no help. Such is not true, the Lord is still working out all things for the good of His people including each one of us individually (Rom. 8:28). So, when I am afraid I need to pray, "Lord increase my faith!"

What To Do With Your Bible

*Know it in the head;
stow it in the heart;
show it in the life;
sow it in the world;
read it to be wise;
believe it to be safe;
practice it to be holy.*

~Author Unknown

Jesus Christ: The Hope of the Home

by Robert Taylor, Jr.

Perhaps each of us has seen plaques in homes where we have visited that suggest, "Jesus is the guest in this home" or "Jesus is the head of this home." It requires far more than a purchased plaque or one received as a gift for Jesus to be truly the real guest in a home. Submission to His will is the key—THE ONLY KEY—to His entrance into our hearts and homes—not just a plaque. If Jesus is really the head of a home, then he will not be the SILENT HEAD. I have an idea that is the ONLY JESUS that some religious people are interested in having within the family framework.

They do not want a Spiritual Head who directs their lives, who controls their speech and who regulates their daily deeds. Jesus cannot and will not be silent in the homes he heads. He will speak in crystal clear terms to every member of that home. He does not speak audibly as he did in the homes of Simon Peter, Jairus, Mary and Martha or Zachaeus. But he sill speaks. He speaks to us through his word.

That is, the Bible from which he speaks commands for us to hear Him. Clearly and convincingly the Bible says in Hebrews 1:1-2 "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;..." Later in this same epistle we read, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh, for if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth" much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven:...(Heb. 12:25)." No amount of exhibited plaques in honor of Jesus in the home will take the place of listening to and obeying his will as he speaks to us from the word of God, the Holy Bible.

(Jesus Christ: The Hope of the Home, pp. 8-9)

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>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</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... Gen. 49-50; Matt. 15:21-39</p> <p>Monday... Exodus 1-3; Matthew 16</p> <p>Tuesday... Exodus 4-5; Matthew 17</p> <p>Wednesday.. Exodus 6-7; Matthew 18:1-14</p> <p>Thursday... Exodus 8-9; Matt. 18:15-35</p> <p>Friday... Exodus 10-12; Matthew 19</p> <p>Saturday... Exodus 13-14; Matt. 20:1-16</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

Food Pantry Needs

We have two needs at this time if you are able to help:

- ◆ Our **regular food pantry** is running low and needs to be restocked. Particularly at this time we need: Canned fruit, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Soup and Chili, Tuna/Canned Meat, Spaghetti Sauce, and Peanut Butter.
- ◆ Cherokee Day for the **Cherokee Children's Home** is on May 1st and they have sent a pantry request list that is on the bulletin board by the water fountain.

Any help you can give in fulfilling these needs will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off in the copy room across from my office — regular pantry items on the shelf and items for Cherokee to the left of the copier. ~Ryan Smithey

Lucille McClung (1917-2010)



Our dear sister in Christ, Lucille, passed away this last Thursday, a little over a week following a stroke last Wednesday and after struggling with health issues over the last few months. Lucille was 92 years of age and had been faithfully married to Paul for 71 years. We know that she will be greatly missed by her physical family, her spiritual family, and surely all who knew her. She was a worker that loved people, the Lord, and His church. Not only was she a supportive wife and helper to Paul as he served as a preacher for over 60 years but she labored as well in teaching children and doing what she could to spread the gospel throughout the world. Surely she is a great example who like Tabitha was “*full of good works*” (Acts 9:36), also one aptly described by the words of Paul as a woman adorned “*in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works*” (1 Timothy 2:9-10), and one who knew how to “*teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed*” (Titus 2:4-5) — which she did in both word and active example. Indeed she is a wonderful lady and Christian example and we know that in as much as she continued faithfully in Christ, she may now rest from her labors and her works do follow her (Revelation 14:13).

Lucille's funeral will be today at 2 PM at the Davis-Morris Funeral Home with internment to follow in Ebony.

Ladies Class

Remember our ladies class every Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall— Join us as we study the life of Christ. Also this Wednesday following class, the ladies who can will be staying for **lunch at the building**. If you are coming and want to bring anything, see Linda Griffith.

Haiti Relief

Donations are still being accepted for those who wish to contribute to the relief effort of those affected by the earthquake in Haiti. If you would like to help in this effort, you may give that to Don or put it in the collection plate earmarked for “Haiti Relief” and that money will be distributed accordingly. If you have any questions, please see Don Smith or the elders.

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 10, 2010	January 17, 2010
Bible Class	56	62
AM Worship	73	80
PM Worship	45	47
Wednesday PM	48	50
Contribution	\$1424	\$1505



Privileged to Serve	01/24/10 - AM	01/24/10 - PM	01/31/10 - AM	01/31/10 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Prov. 31:10, 26-31		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Paul McClung	Michal Bickford	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	James Thomas*, John Barnum Gene Bannister, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith
Closing Prayer	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	January 27 Tom Wilcox	February 3 Michael Bickford	February 10 Allen Griffith	February 17 Jim Moore

Studies For The Week of January 24th:

Sunday Class..... 1 Corinthians (Chap. 4)

Wednesday Class Minor Prophets: Obadiah/Joel

Doctrinally Sound Mind (Philippians 3)

3rd key to rejoicing at all times: knowing and doing the will of God.

1) Warning: Don't Be Led Away (v1-3)

- a) You cannot be plucked from God's hand (John 10:27-29), but you can be led away from Him by false teaching.
- b) They were not to be led away (Gal. 5:4), but instead by grounded in the truth (Col. 2:11; Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 5:6).

2) Christ is Worth Great Cost (v4-12)

- a) Paul uses his own life to show that faithfulness to Christ is worth whatever we have to give up in this life – physical things no longer mattered (v4-8); he gave them all up to be in Christ.
- b) The only way to continue in Christ was through obedience to the gospel (v9-10) which has a great reward (eternal life - v11), something we must continue to strive for (v12).

3) Be Careful of Your Examples (v13-19)

- a) That is be careful who you imitate; some are good examples such as Paul and others who walked according to God's Word.
- b) But others are to be noted for their bad example – they made themselves enemies of the cross and their end was destruction along with all who followed them.

If we will walk in this manner — knowing and doing God's Will which is the mark of wisdom that can stand the trials of life (Matt. 7:24) — we have the expectation of a great reward (v20-21).

Dorcas – Full of Good Works (Acts 9:36-42)

1) Dorcas was full of good works and almsdeeds.

- a) Dorcas adorned herself with good works (1 Tim. 2:9-10) and so was a beautiful person regardless of physical appearance.
- b) One may be attractive but known as ugly for their selfishness and complaining while another is plain but beautiful for their unselfish concern for others. (Prov. 21:9, 31:10).

2) Dorcas died.

- a) Even though she was good, she still died — Death is a part of life, not an indication of faithfulness (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- b) Think of great people that suffered and died: Job (Job 1:6-2:10); Stephen (Acts 7:54-60); Paul (2 Cor. 11:23-28); men and women of faith (Heb. 11:33-40); Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21-24).
- d) While she was mourned it was not as for the lost (1 Thess. 4:13) but for the loss of one loved and one that loved them.

3) Dorcas left something to show for her life.

- a) Peter was shown her good works (v39); what would be said or shown of our lives if we died today? (Matt. 25:35-36)
- c) Such service will cost us even as it did her, but what will we love most? (John 12:24-25)

4) Dorcas let her light shine before others.

- a) She lived a life Jesus spoke of in Matt. 5:16.
- b) The church is pictured by parable as a vineyard (Matt. 20) into which we have been hired – what work are we doing?

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Return Service Requested