



Living By Faith

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

January 31, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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.

Am I Good Enough?

By Howell Feruson

An old story is told of three men who meet at the end of a dock on a Florida beach. One of the men is an alcoholic and homeless. The second man is just an average guy. The third man is a fine, honorable man, well respected in the community. Suddenly, the alcoholic runs and jumps off the edge of the dock, landing five feet out into the water. The other two men standing on the dock yell, “What are you trying to do?”

The man in the water yells back, “I’m trying to jump across the Atlantic Ocean!”

The second man, the average Joe, says, “Watch me, I can do better than that!” He quickly runs across the dock, jumps and lands ten feet out into the water, twice as far as the alcoholic.

The third man, the outstanding man laughs and says, “That’s nothing, Watch this!” He backs up about fifty feet and makes a mad dash across the dock out into the water and lands twenty feet out, twice as far as average Joe, and four times as far as the homeless alcoholic.

If we were to actually see such an attempt we would think these three men were crazy for attempting to do the impossible—jump across the Atlantic Ocean! But people trying to earn their own salvation are even more foolish. God can’t be approached by man on the basis of man’s own moral goodness. Sometimes people are heard to say, “I’m a good person. Won’t God accept me and bring me to heaven?” This question shows a woeful lack of understanding of the grave nature of an individual’s sin and the absolute holiness of God. If we were so good that we deserved heaven, salvation would be owed as a debt rather than something to be received as a gift of grace (cf. Romans 11:6).

A truth made absolutely clear in the Bible is this: “No, God will not accept me because I am not a good person.” Isaiah wrote, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isaiah 64:6).

A person may look moral when compared with other people, but when compared with Christ, all people fall perilously short. This is why Paul states, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). No matter how moral any person might be, he or she has fallen short of the perfect mark of God’s righteousness. This is why in the next verse Paul declares that we have been “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24).

There are a lot of people who do good things for others and demonstrate a

(Continued on page 2)



*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast,
unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
1 Corinthians 15:58*

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level of morality. However, there is a big difference between morality and righteousness. Righteousness is defined and revealed by our “righteous Father” in heaven, or seen in His Son “Jesus Christ the righteous” (John 17:25; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:15). To become righteous before God means that you are innocent or faultless in His sight. Such a person doesn’t exist (cf. Romans 3:10). The only way anyone can stand in the presence of a righteous God is to be forgiven and declared righteous by faith in God’s work in Christ (Philippians 3:9). We are only accepted “in the beloved” because we believe and trust in the righteous work that He did (Ephesians 1:6). When a person finally realizes this, he is on his way to realizing and receiving the free gift of God through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23).

The High Price of Vice

By Wade Webster

Benjamin Franklin once observed, “What maintains one vice would bring up two children.”

As expensive as children are, vices cost more. Sadly, many children go without the food and clothing they need, because they have a father or mother who spends the money needed for these things on alcohol, gambling, drugs, and other vices.

The wise man Solomon declared, “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21). He further declared, “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich” (Proverbs 21:17).

Let’s realize the evils of these things and avoid them for the good of our families. Furthermore, let’s try to help those who are caught in these problems.

The articles on pages 1 and 2 this week are from the website of House to House. This is the publication we send out every other month in the community but they also have a lot of material online — if you have access to the internet, visit their site at www.housetohouse.com.

If Paul Had a Twitter Account

by James Hayes

We are living in the Information Age—should it be called The Useless Information Age? The three giant social networking Web sites—Facebook (with its 350 million users), MySpace, and Twitter—allow users to share their thoughts with friends and strangers. If you want to let people half way around the world know that you just saved \$8 at Kroger, you can. You can share your deepest thoughts and your shallowest feelings. You can air your political views or cheer your favorite team. Whether or not people actually care about your opinions is beside the point. It is all about sharing what is on your mind.

Twitter’s concept is the simplest of all the social sites. Users can give 140-character opinions on any and every issue. These updates are called “tweets.” The author’s subscribers are known as “followers.”

I wonder what the apostle Paul would have tweeted to his followers when he was writing his thirteen preserved epistles. He might have tweeted this:

- ◆ **Romans:** “All have sinned. All deserve death. But there is no condemnation in Christ.”
- ◆ **1 Corinthians:** “A divided church is a poor representative of Christ.”
- ◆ **2 Corinthians:** “My apostleship and your benevolence are genuine.”
- ◆ **Galatians:** “Moses’ law served its purpose. We are now live by faith and walk by the Spirit.”
- ◆ **Ephesians:** “We are saved by grace and unified by one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.”
- ◆ **Philippians:** “Don’t let circumstances dictate your faith. Live with joy. Be content.”
- ◆ **Colossians:** “Human philosophy distorts the gospel. Live for Jesus.”
- ◆ **1 and 2 Thessalonians:** “Jesus will return and many people will not be ready. Be prepared for that day.”
- ◆ **1 and 2 Timothy:** “Ministry should protect the gospel and serve the needy. There is no better work.”
- ◆ **Titus:** “The grace of God teaches us to live godly lives.”
- ◆ **Philemon:** “People from all backgrounds can be useful in the church.”

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>Sunday...Exod. 15-16; Matt. 20:17-34</p> <p>Monday...Exodus 17-19; Matt. 21:1-27</p> <p>Tuesday...Exod. 20-21; Matt. 21:28-46</p> <p>Wednesday..Exodus 22-23; Matt. 22:1-22</p> <p>Thursday...Exod. 24-25; Matt. 22:23-46</p> <p>Friday...Exodus 26-27; Matt. 23:1-22</p> <p>Saturday...Exod. 28-29; Matt. 23:23-39</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</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><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 Potluck

One month of 2010 is almost gone! Next Sunday will be the 1st Sunday of February and time for our monthly potluck meal. We hope that you can make plans to join us.

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

Haiti Relief

We want to thank everyone who submitted funds to the Haiti Relief efforts. A total of \$2,000 was sent from this congregation to the Estes church of Christ in Henderson, TN. That congregation oversees the work of Roberta Edwards and the Sonlight Children's Home in Port-au-Prince. Through this work they are helping to provide for the needs of the children there, Christians in the area, as well as their neighbors. Updates concerning this work are posted on the bulletin board in the back. Thanks again for your generosity.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your sympathy, comfort, support and prayers during the past weeks of our mother and wife's illness and death. The love and concern shown us was very touching and much appreciated. Thank you for the food supplied us when Mom/Lucille came home from the hospital and at the funeral. Mom was so thankful for everything as she showed us with her smiles, nods, and grasp of hand. We are so grateful for having the sincere love of this church family. Nothing could honor and please Mom more than to continue with the mission works that she gave herself to so wholeheartedly until the very end.

Gratefully, Paul McClung and the children and grandchildren of Lucille McClung

P.S. — for those who brought food to their house or last Sunday, **please check for your dishes in the kitchen** and thank your for your good work. ~Ryan Smithey

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 **29 contacts** were made.

Ladies Class

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

*Wherefore comfort yourselves together,
and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

February Birthdays: Peggy Chism (03); Carol Wilcox (05); Lunday Maninger (08); James Nolen (10); Patti Banister (14); Jonathan Fuller (28).

February Anniversaries: Mariah & Steven Martinez (04); Zelma & Lloyd Leslie (09); Debbie & Charlie Perkins (11); Peggy & Billy Chism (26).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



	Recent Records	January 17, 2010	January 24, 2010
Bible Class		62	69
AM Worship		80	97
PM Worship		47	52
Wednesday PM		50	48
Contribution		\$1505	\$1568

Privileged to Serve	01/31/10 - AM	01/31/10 - PM	02/07/10 - AM	02/07/10 - PM
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford 1 Corinthians 1:18-21		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism	Jim Moore	Don Smith
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	February 3 Michael Bickford	February 10 Allen Griffith	February 17 Jim Moore	February 24 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of January 31st:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 5)

Wednesday Class Minor Prophets: Joel

Serene Life (Philippians 4)

- 1) Review: Live a faithful, self-emptied, doctrinally sound life in Christ which will allow us to rejoice (v1-5).
- 2) Prayer (v6-7)
 - a) Don't be anxious over things of this life; take your cares to God (1 Pet. 5:7).
 - b) Anxiety will kill the joy and peace of a Christian oftentimes because we try to be in control.
 - c) Prayer reminds us of our dependency upon God and that He is in control.
- 3) Mindset (v8-9)
 - a) Thinking on all that is wrong or worldly things will only disrupt peace and lead us away from God.
 - b) So not only remove anxiety from your mind, fill it with positive things that are worthwhile.
- 4) Contentment (v10-20)
 - a) Paul teaches them to be happy in whatever situation they are in instead of worrying about what we don't have or what is going wrong.
 - b) This contentment is centered in Christ which gives us strength to face the problems of life.

Paul teaches us that we cannot change or prevent the difficulties of life, but we can change how we react to them.

Imagine: An Attack on Heaven

John Lennon's *Imagine* (1971) could be the theme song for Humanism; it warns us to be careful what we think on (Phil. 4:8; Matt. 15:17-20) and about what many want for our nation & children.

1. Suggests that we could reach a utopia by giving up the idea of heaven and hell.
 - a. Promotes the idea that we are not responsible for our actions.
 - b. Many humanists claim there is no reason to believe there is anything after death – and in fact present the idea of eternal salvation or damnation as illusory and harmful.
2. This idea is not one of utopia but rather a world of chaos with no hope, no reward, no future – just nothing (1 Cor. 15:18-19).
3. The Bible teaches:
 - a. There is more to man than just matter (Matt. 10:28; James 2:26; Eccl. 12:7).
 - b. There is a heaven and hell, one of which will be our eternal home (Matt. 7:13-14; John 5:28-29).
 - c. Heaven is the home for all the faithful while hell is the home for those who reject God and His Word (2 Cor. 5:10; John 12:48; Matt. 7:21; Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 25:46).
 - d. Those in Christ have something more than just today to live for (Col. 3:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:8; 2 Cor. 5:1).

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Return Service Requested