



Living By Faith

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

February 7, 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 9:30 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.

Cotton Candy Preachers

by Tom Moore

If I were to ask you what would be worse, to give your children cotton candy or poison, what would you say? In answer to this question most people would very quickly say that poison would be the worse thing to give our children. But consider this, what if all we gave our children to eat was cotton candy? What if cotton candy was their favorite food and that was all they wanted, and any time they received anything else they would throw a fit? Would we only give them cotton candy? Would we be loving and concerned parents if we only fed our children this cottony pile of sugar? Most assuredly not! We understand that our children could not survive only on sugar, for they would soon grow weak and sick, and would soon die. So, what is worse for us to give our children, only cotton candy or poison? The truth is that both will eventually kill our children.

Now let us make a spiritual application. Is it worse to teach in the Lord's church false doctrine or to teach simple pleasant truths from God's word? In answer to this question most people would quickly say that false doctrine would be the worst thing of all to teach. But consider this, what if we only taught concerning the loving story of Ruth, or about benevolence, or about the need for loving families, or about the need to feel good about ourselves? Now these are topics that we should be concerned about and are issues of interest, and should be taught. But, can a Christian survive spiritually solely on this kind of diet? Can a child of God mature and be grounded in the faith solely on these kinds of meals? The answer is no!

There are many preachers and teachers in the Lord's church who are not teaching error, but neither are they being distinct in their preaching and teaching. Many are given more to proclaim what the brethren want to hear than what they need to hear. Concerning the people of Isaiah's day, the Lord declared, "For it is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of Jehovah; that say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits" (Isa. 30:9-10). Many today are clamoring for the same things as the Israel of old – smooth things, and sweet and pleasant words. And what is even more disturbing are the preachers and teachers who are giving into their cry with sermons and lessons filled with nothing but "lovey-dovey mush."

Many preach to please men and tickle their ears with what they like to hear. Paul said, "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). Paul warned Timothy about people who have "itching ears" and warned that such people will gather around those who will scratch their ears by teaching lies (2

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*Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

Psalm 29:2

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Tim. 4:3-4). The whole counsel of God must be preached, regardless of how it is received (Acts 20:26-27)! The truth is truth and must be preached! I didn't write the book (Bible) and have no right to "water it down" to please men.

The apostle Paul declared, "I shrank not from declaring unto you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly, and from house to house... Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:20, 26-27). If we really care for our families and brethren the actions of Paul will be true of us! Furthermore, Paul also said, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2). You will notice that good gospel preaching demands positive and negative proclamation of truth. But as already mentioned, some "will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). But we must not allow this attitude to influence us away from preaching the whole counsel of God.

We have too many "cotton candy preachers and teachers" in the brotherhood who are "sugar coating" the brethren into spiritual decay! Tell me, which are worse, false teachers or cotton candy preachers? The truth is they both will cause the spiritual demise of their listeners. Beloved, our preaching and teaching must be true to the Book, straight forward without apologies, address the spiritual needs of the people, encourage the faint hearted, rebuke sin, and loving set forth the whole counsel of God.

Will you help me in this effort? Will you be as Jeremiah who said that the word of God "was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay [or, I could not hold it back]" (Jer. 20:9). May we all feed the brethren a well balanced diet from the word of God!

Becoming a Better Bible Student

By Kevin W. Rhodes

In the religious world today, many people carry their Bibles, read their Bibles, and study their Bibles on a regular basis. However, an attitude remains just below the surface that still gives more weight to "what I think," "what I believe," "the preacher said," and "that's what I was taught growing up" than to the context of the Bible. Oh, most will talk about context, but that does not really mean they understand it. It is just treated as one of those words that people throw out to try to convince people to accept their opinion. However, that is not what a Christian should do. God's word does indeed have context, and every Christian should want to learn how to interpret the Bible in keeping with that context.

The apostle Paul told Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2: 15). Despite the fact that the word "study" appears here, the verse has a deeper meaning than we often consider. As the New King James Version puts it, we are to "give diligence," and this diligence concerns doing what is necessary to have God's approval. It will take work, but learning to properly discern God's will is essential if we are to know how to please God in life. In other words, the apostle is saying that pleasing God in life requires us to interpret His word in its context, to understand it as He intended so that we can apply it in life in faithful obedience (Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 2:10). Therefore, Bible study is *not* subjective and should not be treated as if it were, whether in a Bible class on Sunday or in a conversation with friends during the week. Bible study is how we feed our souls to grow and mature as children of God (1 Pet. 2:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 5:12).

A Christian *should* be a student of the Bible. The apostle Paul reminds us, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17), and James tells us, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jas. 1:22). Therefore, in order to grow as a Christian, you must know what God wants you to do, and in order for you to know what God wants you to do, you must know the Bible. These truths are undeniable. However, there is a tendency to accept lessons passively without truly

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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. 30-31; Matt. 24:1-28</p> <p>Monday...Exod. 32-33; Matt. 24:29-51</p> <p>Tuesday...Exod. 34-35; Matt. 25:1-13</p> <p>Wednesday...Exod. 36-37; Matt. 25:14-46</p> <p>Thursday...Exod. 38-39; Matt. 26:1-13</p> <p>Friday...Exodus 40; Matt. 26:14-35</p> <p>Saturday...Leviticus 1-4; Matt. 26:36-56</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

We hope you can join us following our morning worship for our monthly potluck meal in the fellowship hall.

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 the ladies are **planning to go out to eat following class this Wednesday and then going to make visits after.** — we hope you can take part in this as well.

Food Pantry Needs

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

- ◆ Our **regular food pantry** needs to be restocked. Particularly we need: Canned fruit, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Soup and Chili, Tuna/Canned Meat, and Spaghetti Sauce.
- ◆ 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

Thank You

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, calls, and special thoughts for me and Laverne during my surgery and as I am recovering and a special thanks to an anonymous donor. Everything is going well and the doctors think they removed all of the cancer.

James Thomas

Thinking of You

We received a phone call Friday from Lu Whitsett. She and Ben are doing about the same, each have their own health problems; but she wanted to pass along this note:

We remember all of you with love, respect, and thankfulness for your faith. God Bless You, Ben & Lu Whitsett

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 **38 contacts** were made.

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considering God's Word. This should not be (Acts 17:11). Others sit and reject anything they do not like or that they have not heard before and so learn nothing, relying on personal opinion more than inspired truth (Acts 17:32).

It very well may be that you wish to grow very much but you do not know how to study the Bible in a way that will truly help you. That desire is a wonderful beginning point, but it must have a fire to it that will become an eternal flame. Bible study cannot simply be a hobby or a fad; it must become a passion.

Becoming a better Bible student takes will, determination, and perseverance, because it will not happen overnight. There are principles to consider and techniques to learn that will require attention, consideration, and meditation, all in order to ensure consistency of any interpretation of the text and consistency of yourself. However, most of all, it requires integrity—the diligence to seek out truth, the will to obey it, and the heart to stand up for it (Ezra 7:10). With the right approach, the right focus and the right attitude, you can become a better student of the Bible, and a better Christian as a result.

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 24, 2010	January 31, 2010
Bible Class		69	56
AM Worship		97	68
PM Worship		52	43
Wednesday PM		48	44
Contribution		\$1568	\$1446

Privileged to Serve	02/07/10 - AM	02/07/10 - PM	02/14/10 - AM	02/14/10 - PM
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum 1 Corinthians 1:22-25		Garrett Barnum 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Matthew Churchwell	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	February 10 Allen Griffith	February 17 Jim Moore	February 24 Don Smith	March 3 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of February 7th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 5)

Wednesday Class Minor Prophets: Joel

Consider Your Ways (Haggai 1:5,7)

Temple work had not progressed in 16 years and God's people were:

1) Dominated by Defeat

- They started with zeal (Ezra 3-4) but were quickly defeated.
- If we say we cannot do something we are already defeated.
- Time and again the epistles encourage Christians on to steadfastness, patience, and courage (1 Cor. 15:58, Phil. 4:13; Eph. 6:10-13; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 10:36; etc.).
- We must count the cost (Lk. 14:26) and continue faithfully.

2) Plagued by Procrastination

- They said it was not yet time to build God's house but they found time for their own (Hag. 1:2, 4).
- May have been looking for a convenient season like Feliz (Acts 4:25). As we put things off, it becomes easier to do so.
- There is folly and death in such acts for we squander our time that is not guaranteed (Eph. 5:15-16; James 4:13-15).

3) Moved to Materialism

- God was not blessing them because they were focused on their own luxury with what He had given them (1:4; 6, 9-11).
- Remember this life is not eternal, we are but pilgrims here (1 Pet. 2:11; Phil. 3:20), and our focus should be on those things which last (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:2; 2 Pet. 3:10-12).

We too need to consider our ways (Lam. 3:40; 2 Cor. 13:5) and like them, God will bless us (Hag. 1:8, 12-14; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 1:7).

Imagine: An Attack on God/Religion

We continue to look at the song Imagine, which could well be the theme song for humanists, and see its attack on godly principles.

1) Humanists suggest the idea of God and religion is unnecessary, outdated, and harmful and so should just be given up.

- They would suggest that the universe is self-existing.
- That we and even our ideas of religion are just products of gradual development.

2) History shows us that when people reject the knowledge of the God that created them, they digress into immorality (Rom. 1:18-32 – a snapshot of the Gentile world who rejected God).

3) What does the Bible tell us about these matters:

- God does exist; such does not have to be proven, it is evident (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:20).
- God is interested in His creation (Gen. 1:27; John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 1 John 3:1; Acts 17:24-25, 27-28).
- God gives us the choice to follow Him or reject Him (Rom. 1:25, 28; Matt. 11:28-30).
- Man is lost without the guidance of God (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12; 1 Cor. 2:6).
- Serving God is our purpose (Eccl. 12:13).

Yes, we live by faith, but faith based on evidence (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1); instead of casting out God as an outdated idea, we should turn to Him in repentance and worship Him in love and thankfulness.

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