



Living By Faith

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

February 14, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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.

What Prevents Me From Being Baptized?

By Neil Pollard

Philip encountered an Ethiopian eunuch returning from worshipping God in Jerusalem. The man, likely a Jewish proselyte still observing the Old Law, was reading from the scroll of Isaiah. Philip engaged him in conversation, asking the man if he understood what he was reading. This very important man was humble enough to ask for help, and Philip climbed into the chariot, delved into the text (Isaiah 53), and taught him about Jesus. This led the Ethiopian to ask, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36, NASB). He understood who Jesus was, understood his need, and saw a place where there was sufficient water for him to be baptized in order to have his sins forgiven. Perhaps Philip pointed out the fact that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, and through baptism we reenact those very aspects (cf. Romans 6:1-6). Perhaps Philip discussed the fact that baptism "washes away sins" for believers in Christ who act in obedient faith (cf. Acts 22:16). Whatever Philip preached about Jesus, the eunuch correctly deduced his need to be baptized.

Many people are currently or were formerly in a Bible study with someone, learned their need to be baptized into Christ (cf. Galatians 3:27), but have yet to obey. An untold number of young people are of accountable age and have not been baptized. How many spouses of Christians know they need to do it but have not been baptized? Each individual in the groups above, as well as all others, are of infinite value to God (cf. Matthew 16:26). No doubt, God desires anyone who has yet to come to the knowledge of the truth to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Would He not want those to ask, "What prevents me from being baptized?"

"I'm Not Ready."

Some individuals are not ready. Some are too young to truly know right from wrong; some have not yet been sufficiently taught. However, some are not ready for the commitment, sacrifice, and submission needed to make Jesus Lord. There is no better sacrifice than Jesus. One will never have more time to give to the Lord than right now. God cannot possibly extend more love or grace. If one is not ready, he or she should ask, "What will ready me?"

"I'm Afraid."

Fear is understandable. Jesus apparently experienced it (cf. Hebrews 5:7; Luke 22:42). Paul experienced fear (Colossians 4:4); Peter certainly grappled with it (cf. Matthew 26:69-74; 1 Peter 3:14-15). One might fear the change that follows becoming a Christian, failure in his Christian walk, or the reaction and even the rejection of others. Jesus once taught, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). People must evaluate those fears and

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*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

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ask if they are worth risking the more fearful prospect of standing before the Lord without His blood covering their sins.

“I’m Not Sure.”

Peter unquestionably says, "Make your calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10, ASV). However, he is not giving people an excuse to put off obeying Christ. Remember, he is speaking to those already purified from their former sins (1:9)—those already baptized. One needs to reason through Scripture (cf. Isaiah 1:18). Paul reasoned with individuals about Christ on many occasions (Acts 17:2, 17; 18:4, 19; 24:25). The fact is the Biblical claims about who Jesus is and how one receives the benefits of His grace are most reasonable. Rationalization, hard-heartedness, and self-will may be seeds that grow into weeds of doubt, but one must not allow doubt to prevent him from submitting to Christ.

“I Don’t Believe.”

One may or may not say those specific words. Yet, when one sees the truth of Scripture, knows the personal accountability demanded, and does nothing about it, that person essentially does not believe. At least, his faith is insufficient to properly respond to God's amazing grace. This is a hard truth to confront in ourselves. I see it; I know it; but I will not act upon it. The Hebrews writer says the Israelites could not enter the Promised Land because of unbelief (Hebrews 3:19), and he warns us against imitating them (Hebrews 3:12ff). Even the demons believe and tremble, though it does them no good (cf. James 2:19). We must believe and be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16).

Perhaps you are one who could ask yourself, "What prevents me from being baptized?" Cast a long mental gaze at the cross of Calvary and comprehend the love and sacrifice evidenced there. It was for you (cf. Galatians 2:20). God's love for you is personal. He wants nothing more than for you to live with Him eternally, and He has told you how to do that (cf. Acts 2:38). What prevents you from being baptized?

Think, February 2010; Focus Press, Inc. Brentwood, TN

Faithful Love

by Todd Clippard

What comes to mind when you hear the word “love?” In the English language, we have numerous uses for and nuances of this wonderful word. We may speak of loving God, family, food, pets, sports, or country. All of these types of “love” differ in some way from all the others. This article will address three types of love: **Fickle** love, **False** love, and **Faithful** love.

Fickle love comes in many forms. Fickle means to be flighty, lack steadfastness, constancy, or stability. My favorite dessert is banana pudding (and I like the whipped cream style better than that with pie filling). You might say I love banana pudding. But it hasn’t always been my favorite. I can remember a time in my youth when chocolate pudding was my favorite dessert. Later, my favorite was chocolate ice cream (which is still my favorite ice cream). Then apple pie with ice cream was my favorite. Who knows? Maybe one day my tastes will change to something else or back to an old favorite. Some people have a fickle love for others. Their “love” is based upon what someone else can do for them. Therefore, if the benefits cease to exist, or greater benefits may be found elsewhere, then their “love” is abandoned and directed to someone or something else. One might think of the friends of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Where were they when the money ran out?...I would say “puppy love” or the love between youth is a fickle love. It is rarely, if ever, marked by stability or constancy. I’m not saying puppy love is bad, but simply make the observation to help us keep it in proper perspective. Unfortunately, a lot of people “love” God with a fickle love. If things are going well, or if God is perceived to be blessing folks materially, or so long as they can serve God on their terms, then love for God is shown. However, if things turn south, or if “something better” comes along (other activities, etc), then God is jettisoned and left behind.

False love is based upon false premises. It has no basis in reality or truth. For example, some love oth-

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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>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday...Leviticus. 5-6; Matt. 26:57-75</p> <p>Monday...Leviticus. 7-8; Matt. 27:1-26</p> <p>Tuesday...Lev.. 9-10; Matt. 27:27-56</p> <p>Wednesday..Leviticus 11-12; Matthew 28</p> <p>Thursday...Leviticus 13; Mark 1:1-28</p> <p>Friday...Lev. 14-15; Mark 1:29-45</p> <p>Saturday...Leviticus 16-17; Mark 2</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>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		

News & Notes

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ers based upon a false idea of who they really are. (This happens to both men and women, particularly those who have been in abusive relationships and those who have lost their mate.) How many women fall in love with a man based upon a false perception of who the man is? Perhaps in their desire to love and be loved, they are blind to the realities of the man's character and intent. Disappointment and disaster await at the end of such relationships. As with fickle love, some people are in love with a Jesus who does not exist. They have a false perception of God, of Christ, and of religion in general. All they want is the positive. They want the God of love and the God of grace, but forget about the God of judgment and the Jesus who demands we bear our cross daily. Think about the three identifications given to Jesus in Acts 2:36. He is called Jesus, Lord, and Christ. Jesus means "savior" (Matt 1:21). Lord means "master." And "Christ" means "anointed one," and has reference to His kingship. Everyone wants to have Jesus as savior, but how many are willing to truly accept Him as their master and king? Jesus spoke to this very point in Luke 6:46. As Master and King, we must be willing to submit our will to His in everything.

Faithful love is just that . . . it is founded in **FAITH**. It is based in **FACT**. It is **FIRM** in its resolve, reflecting maturity and unwavering trust. It can withstand the storms and setbacks of life. And best of all, it is love with a **FUTURE**. It looks forward to what can be instead of to the past and what was. This is the kind of love that is typified in marriage. It is not so blind as to see (or expect) perfection, but strives for it in every way. It recognizes the potential for growth and greatness in the days ahead. It is also the kind of love Christians must have toward God. It is based on the reality of God's Truth (John 17:17). It is grounded in the promises of a faithful God (1 Cor 10:13; Titus 1:2; Heb 11:8-11). It looks to a great and glorious future. As children of God, we need to love this world and the things herein less and be committed to loving God more everyday. The more we know God, the more we will love and appreciate Him (Psalm 116).

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 **36 contacts** were made. Also remember that next Sunday night will be the 3rd Sunday; we will be having finger-foods following the meeting that night; hope you can come and join us.

Ladies Class

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

Food Pantry Needs

Thank you to everyone that has been bringing food items for the pantry, we are just about restocked; however we could still use Spaghetti Sauce and dry beans. Also remember Cherokee Day on May 1st; their requests are on the bulletin board and we will have collection bins out soon for those things.

Vicksburg/Redstone/Care

Remember our worship services at Redstone and Care every Sunday at 2:30. Also next week is the monthly devotional at Vicksburg at 3:30. We would love to have you help/join us.

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 31, 2010	February 7, 2010
Bible Class		56	53
AM Worship		68	71
PM Worship		43	45
Wednesday PM		44	36
Contribution		\$1446	\$1608

Privileged to Serve	02/14/10 - AM	02/14/10 - PM	02/21/10 - AM	02/21/10 - PM
Greeters	Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler		Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum 1 Corinthians 1:26-29		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Matthew Churchwell	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	February 17 Jim Moore	February 24 Don Smith	March 3 James Fuller	March 10 Ken Makuta

Studies For The Week of February 14th:

Sunday Class1 Corinthians (Chap. 5-6)

Wednesday ClassMinor Prophets: Joel 2-3

Continue in the Right (Haggai 2)

When the people considered their ways (Hag. 1) they quickly got to work on the temple but now Haggai has three more messages to:

1) Strengthen (v1-9)

- a) Be strong and work (v4; cf. Eph. 6:10; 1 Cor. 16:13)
- b) Fear Not; God will be with His people (v5; cf. Heb. 8:10, 13:5)
- c) God's House will bring glory to Him (v6-9; Zech. 4:10; cf. Isa. 2:2-4; Acts 1:8; Heb.12:28; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

2) Sanctify (v10-19)

- a) Touching holy things will not make one holy; but an unclean thing can make a holy thing unclean (v12-13).
- b) They have not been blessed these many years because they have not been sanctified to God (v14-17); but now that they are doing His will, He will bless them (v18-19).
- c) Simply being "religious" will not make us right (Matt. 7:21-23); we have to be faithful (1 Pet. 1:14-16, 22-23; 2:13); and separate ourselves to His service (2 Cor. 6:16-18; Heb. 8:10).

3) Sustain (v20-23)

- a) God will keep His promises for their physical and spiritual blessings as well seen in Zerubbabel being in the lineage of Christ (Matt. 1:12).
- b) God's faithfulness should encourage us to keep serving Him (Tit. 1:2; 2 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 13:5-6; 2 Tim. 1:12, 4:7-8).

Imagine: An Attack on Unity

Finally consider that John Lennon's song and the goals of humanism are an attack on true, Biblical ideas of unity.

- 1) The song and humanism suggest that unity can only be achieved by the rejection of the ideas of heaven, countries, religion, and possessions – but such is only a life without hope and aspiration.
- 2) The Bible, more specifically true obedience to the gospel, is the only answer to unity and peace – it has the power to unite bitter enemies into one body (Eph. 2:14-18).
- 3) Instead of dividing, true Christianity unites (Acts 4:32, John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10).
- 4) Christians are to put others best interests first, even our enemies (Matt. 7:12; John 15:12; Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:18; 1 Cor. 13).
- 5) This gospel is to be preached to the whole world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19) and those who follow it will strive for unity (Eph. 4:3-6); but its rejection will cause division (Matt. 10:34).
- 6) Thus the rejection of the gospel and its principles causes division – not its teaching and application.
- 7) Also understand that the Bible does promote care for one another but not socialism/communism (Acts 4:32, 44-45); instead it promotes the helping of one another (Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:18) but also the need for work and ambition (Luke 10:7; 2 Thess. 3:10).

The ideals of humanism are dangerous and are opposed to the truth that makes one free (John 8:32) and brings salvation (Rom. 1:16).

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Brownwood, TX 76801

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