



# Living By Faith

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

March 14, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801  
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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.

## Faith and Love Manifested

by David Harris

No one can be saved without faith (Heb. 1:6), nor can anyone be saved without love (John 14:15). But these two essentials to salvation are merely words unless manifested by our actions. Our faith must be tested and our love tried or we will never know where we stand in our relationship with the Lord or our relationship with one another.

The Holy Spirit cautions us not to stop with the mere spoken word. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18). Our human nature sometimes leads us to say things and not back them up with actions. We say we love one another in the church, but do not seem to have the time to check on one another to see if we could actually be of some help. We often want to help those who really do not need help (Ones who are "fun" to be around, healthy, or rich in possessions). Those who do need help because of illness, frailty, or poverty, we want to dismiss as expendable because we see no return of a favor.

We read of the "Rich Man" and his treatment of Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) and wonder how could a man of his means dismiss the horrible conditions of Lazarus' life. This "Rich Man" would not even think of touching Lazarus who "was laid at his gate full of sores" until after his death when he desired Lazarus to "dip the tip of his finger in water" and cool his tongue; for he was tormented. Now that the "Rich Man" could be recompensed, he was ready to allow Lazarus to be his friend and show him some love. Do we find ourselves in this picture? If so, we need to reevaluate our definition of love to fit that of Christ. Hear the Holy Spirit describe this sacrificial love for us. *"For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps...Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed"* (1 Peter 2:21,24).

The Holy Spirit through James warns us: *"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory with respect of persons "* (James 2:1). The faith that we have must be tested and tried just as our love. *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this that the trying of your faith works patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire wanting nothing"* (James 1:2-3). The great question then is asked of and about our faith. *"What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? Can faith save him: If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit? Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. Yea a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works"* (James 2:14-18). It is imperative that we express the faith we have, that comes through God's Word, not merely by words, but by our actions. If

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*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

*Psalm 90:10, 12*

## From the Preacher

It was great feeling somewhat “back to normal” after being sick last week; I look forward to my whole family being back with you. I again want to thank Allen and Jim for what I am sure was a fine job in teaching and preaching last Sunday. There was no recording made last week so there were not any CDs made—if you requested one or typically get one, then that is why you won’t find it!

It was also great to enjoy the beautiful spring weather this week. It is a reminder of the glorious and perfect creation of God when upon the fourth day of creation, “*God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so*” (Genesis 1:14-15). As the seasons change, and especially as we head into Spring, remember to notice the beauty of creation all around you and remember the One who created it all: “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork*” (Psalm 19:1). The magnificent wonders of this world and the precision of it should ever serve as a reminder that God always has been and always will be in control of this great universe so that we might still say, “*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God*” (Psalm 90:1-2).

This was of course a sad week as we said goodbye to two dear friends. Both Addie Long and Ben Whitsett passed from this life this past week — both had lived long lives and unfortunately had been homebound for quite some time but we loved them nonetheless. **Addie Long** (1920-2010) passed away about 8:30 PM Tuesday night. She had been a member of this congregation from before the time it was even here at its present location. But for at least the past three years she had been homebound and had spent the last few months in and out of Brownwood Regional Medical Center. But even



during that time she was a joy to know and visit with and she continued to show a love and concern for all that were here, often asking about how the various members of the congregation were doing. I was honored to conduct her funeral yesterday and we trust that she now can rest from her labors and enjoy her reward (Revelation 14:13).

We also received news of the passing of **Ben Whitsett** (1917-2010) this week. Ben and Lu were precious to us as well. They had been members of the congregation for around 20 years but again health problems made attending very difficult over the last few years. During 2009 Ben fell at home and had to have surgery to repair his hip; it was at this time that it was evident that he and Lu could no longer continue living by themselves and so they moved to Abilene to be near their son, Dwight. We got to visit a number of times with Ben and Lu over the last year, even after they moved to Abilene, and it was always such a joy. They always appreciated the company and always wanted updates about how you all were doing. Ben had really struggled with health problems in the last few months of his life and passed away in Abilene very early in the morning Monday. Dwight conducted his father’s funeral service Thursday and I had the honor of being able to say a few words about this great couple who, from what I saw, worked together and supported one another in a beautiful display of love. Ben was a craftsman with a great attention to detail but we trust now he can enjoy something greater than he could ever imagine, that “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1).



Finally I would like to update you about some events coming up. My family is preparing to travel at the end of this month — we will miss you, but nevertheless we are looking forward to a change of pace! Lord willing, we will be with you next Sunday and then we will depart to visit some friends and family on our way to Memphis, TN. We have plans to be in Memphis from the 28th to April 1 for the annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectures. I am sure this will be a great time of renewing friendships but also of

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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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday...Numbers 29-30; Mk 13:1-23</p> <p>Monday...Numbers 31; Mark 13:24-37</p> <p>Tuesday...Numbers 32-33; Mk 14:1-21</p> <p>Wednesday...Numbers 34-35; Mk 14:22-52</p> <p>Thursday...Numbers 36; Mark 14:53-72</p> <p>Friday...Deut.1-2; Mark 15:1-20</p> <p>Saturday...Deut. 3-4; Mark 15:21-47</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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

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not, we will never be able to justify ourselves. "You see then how that by works, a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).

Faith and love are mere words until they are manifested in our actions. The greatest manifestation of love ever is seen in the Father when He gave His only begotten Son, that we, through our faith might have everlasting life (John 3:16). Our response to that love is found in 1 John 3: 16: "*Hereby perceive we the Love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso has this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwells the love of God in him?*"

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great study; the theme this year is "**Shadows of Good Things**" — a study of types from the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament age, surely one of my favorite type of studies. We will be gone two Wednesdays and one Sunday; on Wednesday, the 24th, I have a DVD that I plan on showing to the auditorium class. Then on Sunday, the 28th, Vendall Dollarhide from Mission Printing is coming to speak concerning that work and preach for us both times that day. And then I hope that you will look forward to the 31st as it is once again at 5th Wednesday and we will be having a period of singing that night in which I hope all of the men of the congregation (young and old) will take the opportunity to lead if you wish. We plan on being back with you on Sunday, April 4th, recharged and ready to go again.

Also there are a lot of opportunities to hear the gospel proclaimed in the coming months. April is full of gospel meetings in the area and I hope that you will be watching for those announcements and try to attend as many of them as you can both to encourage local congregations and be edified by the messages presented. Following that busy month, our **own gospel meeting is just around the corner with John Moore speaking on "Evidence that Demands a Verdict". It will be held May 2-5** and should be a great meeting and I am really looking forward to the lessons presented. The flyer is just about ready and I will have those out in early April so you can start inviting others; but please start keeping this effort in your prayers along with the on-going work of the congregation.

~Ryan Smithey

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall**. Last week **32 contacts** were made. Also remember than **next Sunday is our 3rd Sunday fellowship meal following the meeting**.

## Ladies Class

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

## Take Note

- ◆ The Wedding for Amy Barnum and Kevin Wilcox scheduled for March 20 has been postponed.
- ◆ Sunday, March 28: Guest Speaker: Vendall Dollarhide from Mission Printing will be speaking.
- ◆ Wednesday, March 31: 5th Wednesday Singing.
- ◆ April 4-7: Gospel Meeting at Avenue T in Temple with Michael Light.
- ◆ April 11-14: Gospel Meeting at Park Heights in Hamilton with Terry Jackson.
- ◆ April 18-21: Gospel Meeting at Bangs with David Harris.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**March Birthdays:** Ken Manninger (04); John Greer (07); Maidee Wheeler (07); Allen Griffith (20); Mileen Kahlich (21); Michael Bickford (23); Zach Middleton (23); James Thomas (23); Jessica Stultz (28); Ethel Adams (29).

**March Anniversaries:** Cindy & James Fuller (02); Billie & Clarence Ford (20); Carol & Tom Wilcox (23).

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

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



	Recent Records	February 28, 2010	March 7, 2010
Bible Class		66	58
AM Worship		81	70
PM Worship		61	41
Wednesday PM		47	43
Contribution		\$1540	\$1514

Privileged to Serve	03/14/10 - AM	03/14/10 - PM	03/21/10 - AM	03/21/10 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael & Gayle Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		Michael Bickford Proverbs 4:20-27		James Fuller
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Lloyd Leslie	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Don Smith
<b>Wait on Table</b>	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore	Ken Makuta*, Gene Bannister Allen Griffith, Matthew Churchwell	Ken Makuta
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	James Thomas	Jim Moore
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	March 17 Allen Griffith	March 24 Jim Moore	March 31 Don Smith	April 7 James Fuller

### Studies For The Week of March 14th:

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians (Chapter 6)

Wednesday Class ..... Minor Prophets: Joel 3

#### The Only One He Refused To Save... Was Himself (Matt. 27:42)

The mocking of Jesus reminds us of the love He had for us:

- 1) **He Saved Others**
  - a) In life, He saved many (Matt. 9:35-36, 11:2; Acts 10:38).
  - b) Even in death, He died to save others (Lk. 9:56; John 10:10, 3:14-17; Mark 10:33-34; Matt. 26:26-28).
- 2) **Himself He Cannot Save**
  - a) It was not that He could not but would not – they mistook meekness for weakness (Jn 10:11, 18; 15:13; Matt. 26:53; John 18:36)
  - b) He was committed to doing His Father's Will (John 4:34; Matt. 26:42)
  - c) And He was committed to saving man (Rom. 5:6-8; Heb. 9:12).
- 3) **He Was the Only One He Refused to Save**
  - a) He died for others and that all might be saved (Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 5:8-9).
  - b) His only request is that we do His will (Mark 3:35; Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46).
  - c) But many will not (John 5:40).
  - d) This gives us great confidence even today that God is willing to save all who will heed the gospel invitation (1 Tim. 1:12-15; Luke 15:20-24).

#### A Solution That is Part of the Problem

*Survey: children who attended Sunday school regularly as a child were less grounded in Biblical faith and morals than those who did not attend Sunday school. Warnings we can learn:*

- 1) **For the Class Teacher (and Elders)**
  - a) **Understand your importance and value your time.**
    - i) Class time is not time to waste, it is a precious opportunity to train that is part of the feeding of the flock (Acts 20:28).
    - ii) Understand your responsibility (James 3:1; 2 Tim. 4:2, 2:2)
  - b) **Watch what you teach** – study (2 Tim. 2:15); check your material for accuracy (1 John 4:1); and ensure we instill regard for the Bible – its not just good stories (2 Tim. 3:15).
  - c) **Equip Your Students** — help them develop and strengthen faith and knowledge of God's Word (2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Pet. 3:15)
- 2) **For the Parent**
  - a) **Don't Delegate Your Responsibility** — church programs must NEVER be seen as a replacement for home instruction. (Deut. 27; Josh. 4:4-7 —> Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:1, 4).
  - b) **Watch what our children are being taught.**
    - i) In the world – tv, books, media, songs, internet, school, etc.
    - ii) In church – be careful who is teaching and what they are teaching your children (1 John 4:1).
  - c) **Equip Your Children** — help develop and strengthen faith (1 Pet 3:15); Be like Noah (1 Pet 3:20) and Abraham (Gen 18:19)

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Return Service Requested