



# Living By Faith

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

March 21, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

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

## *The Trail of Tears*

By Wayne Jackson

Human beings are the only biological creatures on earth to shed tears in times of emotional distress. And what is even more interesting is the fact that tears of emotion are chemically different than those caused by physical forces, e.g., wind, fumes, etc.

Those who subscribe to the theory of evolution cannot explain the presence of tears in man. Some suggest they evolved as an adaptive trait in species whose young continued to “cry” for unusually long periods of time. Allegedly, then, tears developed to prevent dehydration, and thus eye damage (William Beck, **Human Design**, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1971, p. 477).

This theory is nonsense. How bold it is to suggest that “blind” nature could concoct accidentally this complex solution (salts, mucus, antiseptic enzymes, etc.) for such a functional purpose. But then Darwinism never lacks for “miracles” whenever necessity dictates! As they sometimes say, “Time itself performs the miracles.”

The Scriptures have much to say about tears. One scholar observes that “[t]he Bible has no fewer than 510 references to crying and uses at least 11 words in New Testament Greek to describe crying” (R.B. Johnson, **Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology & Counseling**, David Benner & Peter Hill, Eds., Grand Rapids: Baker, 2nd Ed., 1985, p. 301).

The divine record indicates that the Lord takes note of human tears. In a time of great distress, the Psalmist petitioned the Lord: “. . . put my tears into your bottle” (Psa. 56:8). The lament suggests that the tears of God’s children are so precious that, in a manner of speaking, he would wish to preserve and treasure them as a costly liquid.

When the good king Hezekiah was immersed in political turmoil, he sought relief from the Lord. Through the prophet Isaiah came this divine response: “I have heard your prayers, I have seen your tears” (2 Kgs. 20:5).

A study of the various passions that elicit “tears,” is illuminating indeed. Consider the following points as an abbreviated commentary on this theme.

### **Tears of Grief**

When Abraham buried his beloved Sarah, with whom he had sojourned in Canaan for more than three-score years, he wept bitterly as he bade farewell to her mortal remains. The death of a cherished one cannot but call forth tears of deprivation (cf. Gen. 37:35).

### **Tears of Joy**

Frequently tears rush forth from hearts immersed in joy. After years of painful separation, when Joseph revealed himself to his estranged brothers, he could not refrain from loud weeping, which was so dramatic that it aroused the curiosity of his Egyptian household (Gen. 45:1-2,14-15). It is an interesting observation that, apparently, only adults cry tears of joy.

### **Tears of Gratitude**

A woman with a sordid past “crashed” a dinner party in the home of Simon, the Pharisee. Directly approaching the Savior, who was present on the occasion, she drenched his feet with her tears. Jesus’ subsequent instruction revealed that her actions

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*For we are his workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,  
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*Ephesians 2:10*

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were those of a grateful heart – one that had been relieved of the crushing “debt” of guilt on account of sin (Lk. 7:40ff). See also the case in Acts 9:39, where widows wept out of gratitude for the generous deeds of Dorcus.

**Tears of Compassion**

Sometimes the grief of others initiates tears from the souls of those who genuinely care for them. The poignant text, “Jesus wept” (Jn. 11:35), has been the subject of much discussion. Why did the Savior weep (burst forth in tears — so the emphasis of the Greek tense) on this occasion? Surely it was not on account of the mere fact of Lazarus’ death, for the Lord had delayed his coming so that his friend might die. No, a greater, spiritual goal was in view (cf. 11:4,15). The most reasonable suggestion may be that the Master’s tears were a commentary upon his tender compassion, as he witnessed the brutal effect of sin upon humankind, as manifest in suffering, sadness, and death. He *is* “touched” by our plight (Heb. 4:15). See also Luke 19:41.

**Tears of Concern**

Paul once noted that he had “anxiety for all the churches” (2 Cor. 11:28). There is perhaps no better illustration of that than his warning to the elders of Ephesus when he met with them at Miletus. On that occasion he reminded these brothers that for three years he had admonished them, day and night with tears (Acts 20:31). These were tears of concern for the Lord’s people (cf. Phil. 3:18; 2 Cor. 2:4). With conditions being what they are in today’s church, it would appear to be a time for oceans of anxious tears.

**Tears of Parting**

When the dearest of friends are forced to separate, and sometimes with the suspicion that they might never see one another again in Earth’s environment, burning tears may flow freely. Paul’s farewell to the Ephesian elders is one of the sweetest scenes of the New Testament (Acts 20:36-38; cf. also 2 Tim. 1:4). Additionally, the Old Testament student cannot but think of the parting of David and Jonathan (1 Sam. 20:41-42).

**Tears of Fear**

The writer of Hebrews states that “in the days of his flesh” the Lord “offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears?” Further, the record declares that he was “heard for his godly fear” (5:7). This reference almost certainly fits into the narrative of Luke 22:40-44, where the agonizing ordeal of Gethsemane is described. But why the

tears in this time of fear?

It is not likely that they were tears that merely anticipated the dread of physical death. Rather, possibly it was a “godly fear” associated with the *shame* of bearing the penalty for the world’s *sin* (Heb. 12:2; cf. Gal. 3:13). The Lord’s holy soul recoiled from this prospect; nonetheless, he would drink the cup of woe because of his love of man (Gal. 1:4). Another view suggests that the expression “godly fear” is merely the equivalent of total submission to Heaven’s will (F.F. Bruce, **The Epistle to the Hebrews**, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990, p. 130).

**Tears of Futility**

In a moment of weakness, when his spiritual interests were subordinated to the passion of the flesh, Esau traded his birthright and blessing for “one mess of meat” (Heb. 12:16; cf. Gen. 25:33ff). Later, Jacob’s impetuous brother was haunted by his mistake and he implored his father, Isaac, to reverse the bargain (Gen. 27:30ff). But, as the writer of Hebrews notes, not even Esau’s tears could erase the consequence of his rash decision. A lesson to be learned is this: While we may obtain forgiveness for foolish choices, nonetheless we may have to suffer the consequences that come in their wake – in spite of our tears of regret.

**Tears of Contrition**

Contemplate for a moment the breathtaking love of God for sinful man (Rom. 5:8), as reflected in the unspeakable gift of his Son (2 Cor. 9:15). Put this against the backdrop of the horror of human sin (Rom. 6:23). Then meditate upon the fact that the Lord has granted us the opportunity to be rid of the guilt of every transgression we have ever committed (Acts 2:38). Surely this should generate tears of sorrow on account of our rebellion (cf. Psa. 6:6).

Thankfully, however, a contrite weeping can be turned into laughter when one obeys the Savior (Heb. 5:8-9), and refreshing pardon is embraced. This is precisely what the Savior envisioned when he promised: “Blessed are you that weep now: for you shall laugh” (Lk. 6:21b).

**Tears of Punishment**

The horrors of hell, that everlasting separation of rebellious men from their holy and blessed Creator (Mt. 25:41; 2 Thes. 1:9), will be a tragedy that is beyond present human comprehension. This ultimate and everlasting state of the wicked is depicted as a place where shall be “the weeping and the gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 25:30). Here “weeping” denotes a “loud expression of grief.” But such tears are much too late to

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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><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...Deuteronomy 5-6; Mark 16</p> <p>Monday...Deut. 7-9; Luke 1:1-25</p> <p>Tuesday...Deut. 10-11; Luke 1:26-56</p> <p>Wednesday...Deut. 12-14; Luke 1:57-80</p> <p>Thursday...Deut. 15-17; Luke 2:1-24</p> <p>Friday...Deut.18-20; Luke 2:25-52</p> <p>Saturday...Deut. 21-22; Luke 3:1-18</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><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		

# News & Notes

## Ladies Class

Remember our **ladies class every Wednesday at 10 AM** in the fellowship hall— Join us as we study the life of Christ. Please Note: the ladies **will not be having lunch** at the building following class as had been planned — however we will have class as normal, hope you can be there.

## CD Requests

I had a little more material for my sermons last week than I realized and as a result the CDs last week did not contain it all! The evening sermon was cut off on the CDs made but if you desire a CD recording of the full sermon, please let Ryan know or indicate such on your attendance card and we can make you a CD of just the PM sermon in its entirety.

## Take Note

- ◆ **Today: Vicksburg** devotional @ 3:30 PM in addition to our regular services at **Redstone** and **Care** at 2:30 PM.
- ◆ **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.

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avail. “Rivers of tears run down the face, but none of the pain can they erase.”

Doubtless there are numerous other examples that one could employ to illustrate the varying emotions that precipitate human tears. Perhaps, though, there is no more fitting way to conclude this study than to remind ourselves that when the eternal prize of the obedient is grasped, tears will be no more (Rev. 7:17; 21:4).

Wayne Jackson has written for and edited the Christian Courier since its inception in 1965. He has also written several books on a variety of biblical topics including *The Bible and Science, Creation, Evolution, and the Age of the Earth, The Bible on Trial*, and a number of commentaries. He lives in Stockton, California with his dear wife and life-long partner, Betty.

Brother Jackson was honored at the *Polishing the Pulpit* seminar in 2009 for his work in the Lord’s Kingdom where he presented a series of lessons over three nights titled, *The Greatest Thoughts That Have Challenged My Mind*. We will be watching the first part of that Wednesday night in the auditorium as he discusses *Psalm 8:3-4: What Is Man That Thou Art Mindful of Him?*

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall**. Last week **48 contacts** were made. Also remember **tonight is our 3rd Sunday fellowship meal following the meeting**.

## Thank You

- ◆ We received a note from the Tommy, Kari, and Luke Rejcek thanking everyone for all of the prayers, cards, and phone calls during Thomas’ hospital visit. They ask that you continue to keep him in your prayers as he still has some ways to go. The note stated, God definitely heard your prayers because we still have him with us. Thank you so much for your faith and for your kindness through out this.
- ◆ Lu Whitsett called this week and expressed her appreciation to you all. She said, “What a demonstration of Christian love! Your loving care helped our grief at Ben’s passing we love and appreciate you very much.” ~*The Whitsett Family*

## 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	March 7, 2010	March 14, 2010
Bible Class		58	56
AM Worship		70	73
PM Worship		41	51
Wednesday PM		43	51
Contribution		\$1514	\$1738

Privileged to Serve	03/21/10 - AM	03/21/10 - PM	03/28/10 - AM	03/28/10 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kalich	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		James Fuller Hebrews 10:35-39		Garrett Barnum
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Paul McClung	Don Smith	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta
<b>Wait on Table</b>	Ken Makuta*, Gene Bannister Allen Griffith, Matthew Churchwell	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	James Fuller
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	March 24 Jim Moore	March 31 Don Smith	April 7 James Fuller	April 14 Ken Makuta

**Studies For The Week of March 21th:**

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians (Chapter 6-7)

Wednesday Class ..... Wayne Jackson (DVD)

**Jesus: Asleep in the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)**

*Jesus slept while His disciples were troubled; considered some Biblical characteristics of Jesus that helped Him sleep:*

1. He Was **Physically Spent** – He Kept Busy (Eccl. 5:12)
  - a. Jesus certainly is a great example of one that kept busy (Mark 1:33, 1:39, 3:11, 3:20, 6:31) and knew the importance of using time (John 9:4).
  - b. Paul also provided such an example for us (Acts 20:18-20, 31; 1 Thess. 5:15-16).
  - c. These are examples we should follow (Eph. 5:15-16; James 4:14).
2. He Was **Mentally Serene** – At Peace (Jer. 31:25-26)
  - a. Stress/anxiety/worry can keep an exhausted person awake.
  - b. How to have a peaceful conscience:
    - i. **Ignore** it and it hardens (Acts 28:24-28; 1 Tim. 4:1-2); Eph. 4:17-19)
    - ii. **Receive Forgiveness** from God (Acts 2:36-38; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36,39, 21-22; 1 John 1:9).
    - iii. **Avoid** Actions and Activities that Incite a Guilty Conscience (1 Thess .5:21-22, Titus 2:11-12).
3. He Was **Spiritually Secure** – Confidence (Prov. 3:21-24)
  - a. What did He have to fear?
  - b. We can have the same confidence (Ps. 20:7; John 10:27-29; Heb. 13:6).

**Differences: No Single Answer**

*As we look at why young people leave, there is no one answer:*

1. **Biblical Belief**
  - a. 62% are not convinced of the Bible's accuracy; yet a full 12% trust the Bible's accuracy and answer Biblical questions right.
  - b. Need to teach accuracy of the Bible (John 8:24; Heb. 11:6).
  - c. Individual accountability: one can know the truth and still choose not to follow it (Eze. 18:20).
2. **Occasionally Attend**
  - a. 51% still attend on Easter and/or Christmas; 30% never even think about it – follows closely with a person's Biblical belief.
  - b. Teach about necessity/benefit of assembling (Heb. 10:25; Col. 3:16); teach inseparable link between Christ and the church (Eph. 1:22-23); and show by example the relevance of being a Christian in our own lives (Phil. 2:15-16).
3. **Coming Back?**
  - a. 38% of those that left are planning on coming back when they have children (32% said no and 30% do not know).
  - b. Shows a need for teaching/warning about procrastination and the brevity of life (Eccl. 12:1; James 4:14; Matt. 16:26).
  - c. Teach about faithfulness (Matt. 6:33; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)
  - d. See it as an opportunity – we wish they never left but only 20.7% never attend and don't plan on returning, keep encouraging, teaching, providing an example, and praying.

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Return Service Requested