



# Living By Faith

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

April 11, 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.

I wanted to share the following article that dealt with the stewardship of the mind. Indeed we do often concentrate on stewardship of other things—time, money, abilities—but not so much on our minds. However, our minds are a valuable gift that we have been given and they deserve to be cared for, protected, and used properly.

We are constantly inundated with all sorts of material for our minds to process. But as Jesus said “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man” (Matthew 15:11); “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Matthew 7:21-23). Therefore it is important that we control what we allow our minds to take in and dwell on for these things have a way of defining who we are or will become.

But may we also remember that worship and service to God is a mental process, not something to be done mindlessly or out of habit. Therefore let us consider how we use our minds.

*~Ryan Smithey*

### **STEWARDSHIP: OF THE MIND!**

*By Keith A. Mosher, Sr.*

A “steward” has the charge of another’s goods (Matt. 25:14-30). And, usually when stewardship is discussed, the thoughts that arise deal with money, property, talent, or time. However, few think of their needs as belonging to God and that God requires the “stewardship of the mental processes.”

Have you said, or have you ever heard a Christian say, “I’ll think what I want to think and read what I want to read?” That Christian was wrong. The mind was created by God and, therefore, owned by Him for “ye are not your own; ye were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). God gave men (all men, but the focus here is on Christian minds) the power to receive information, enter from the data (perceive the message); and even to imagine things that say or do from the data. The mind of man is the single most powerful tool on the planet and God wants Christians, especially, to use their thought processes to His glory (Matt. 22:37).

One’s mind can travel through imagination; invent a new thing; plan, execute the plan; destroy; dominate; and serve. The mind (Bible-heart, e.g. Prov. 23:6) can and will make decisions; but the mind must *decide* to obey God as a free-will act incorporating another mental faculty—love—as the impelling force in the decision-making process (John 14:15). Without the ability to choose, man would be equivalent to a robot and lacking the power to love.

The human mind is able to make life equal to the mind’s thoughts (Matt. 12:34—“for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”). The mind is the center of one’s personality for out of the heart “come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, revelings” (Matt. 15:19). It is in the

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*

*Proverbs 3:3-4*

(Continued from page 1)

mind that the battle to live the Christian life and to serve God begins.

True spirituality begins in the mind, “for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness” (Rom. 10:10). The Ethiopian eunuch, after hearing the gospel, said, “Behold, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized” (Acts 8:36)? The evangelist, Philip’s answer to the eunuch indicated that one’s mind had to be involved for the eunuch was informed that “If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest” (Acts 8:37).

Repentance, which follows belief, takes place in the mind (Matt. 21:28). Godly sorrow and/or God’s goodness produces repentance; but the act occurs in the mind (2 Cor. 7:10; Rom. 2:4). Obedience, in fact, must occur first in one’s thoughts. Paul spoke of those who “obeyed from the heart” (Rom. 6:16-18) and Peter spoke of one’s conscience (centered in the mind) as the “answer” in obedience (1 Pet. 3:21).

True worship also involved the stewardship of the mind. “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also” (1 Cor. 14:15). To pray and sing in an effective and “pleasing to God” way, one *must* use the mind. In fact, the Lord’s Supper is an act of *memory* for “This do in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:24). Getting involved in the *sermon requires* the use of the mind. “Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica for they received the word with all readiness of mind” (Acts 17:11). And even giving has to start in one’s thoughts since each is to give as “he hath purposed in his heart” (2 Cor. 9:7). Jesus was so concerned about the mind’s attitude in worship that He reminded those of His era of Isaiah’s complaint that “this people honoreth me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Matt. 15:8). Conversion, and worship depend on the stewardship of the mind.

Satan knows, all too well, that the mind is the center of man’s being and, thus, he seeks to destroy man’s thinking. Satan’s major attack is to lure one into intellectual laziness, so that one’s mind is not exercised to discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14). The first-century Hebrew-Christians should have been teachers but were actually in need of being taught again what they had forgotten through neglect (Heb. 5:12-13). Studies indicate that as many as seventy percent of New Testament Christians *cannot* recite the plan of salvation if they are required to include a Bible verse for each step! What is the cause of such indifference toward the Word of God? Folks do not love the One who wrote Holy Writ with all of their souls, hearts, and minds (Matt. 22:37). (*This writer is indebted to a sermon from the late C.W. Bradley for the inspiration for the above thoughts.*)

From “The Gospel Journal”; The Gospel Journal, Inc.; TX; February, 2007

## Facing Monumental Decisions

By Dan Jenkins

His master, Abraham, had given him total authority in the finding of a bride for Isaac. He swore to the patriarch that he would not seek a wife from among the Canaanites, but would find one among Abraham’s relatives in Mesopotamia. He promised that under no condition would he take Isaac back to Chaldea, for Isaac was to inherit the land God had promised to Abraham and his descendants.

It likely took several days, even weeks, before the unnamed servant reached his destination. One can only imagine what thoughts he had as he traveled. But when he arrived in Mesopotamia, he prayed fervently that God would give him success and thereby show kindness to Abraham.

God answered his prayer in a most remarkable way. Even before he had finished praying, the future bride was standing beside him. As it became apparent that God had heard him and he learned that indeed Rebekah was from Abraham’s family, “the man bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord” (Genesis 24:26). He was so thankful that God’s mercy had been shown to him. There is more to the story (read Genesis 24), but think of the following lessons we can learn:

1. Prayer should be a vital part of the selection of the person anyone is dating or contemplating marrying.
2. Prayer should precede every major decision we make. When faced with crisis, pray!
3. Prayer is heard in heaven and God answers.
4. Prayer that is answered should be followed by a prayer of thanksgiving that God has heard us.
5. Prayer should not be hidden. Don’t be afraid to pray publicly because of what others might think.
6. Prayer shaped the destiny of Abraham’s family, and it affects the destiny of yours.

### Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)  
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB  
In Search of the Lord’s Way (Mack Lyon)  
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org  
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am  
on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)  
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

### Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday... Joshua 21-22; Luke 9:46-62  
Monday... Joshua 23-24; Luke 10:1-20  
Tuesday... Judges 1-2; Luke 10:21-42  
Wednesday... Judges 3-4; Luke 11:1-28  
Thursday... Judges 5-6; Luke 11:29-54  
Friday... Judges 7-8; Luke 12:1-21  
Saturday... Judges 9-10; Luke 12:22-40

*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)*

# News & Notes

## Cherokee Day...

At Cherokee Home for Children is now only 3 weeks away. Here are some suggested pantry items for this week which can be dropped off in the entry way to be given to the home: **Coffee, Tea bags, kool-aid, trash bags, Ziploc bags, paper goods (toilet paper, towels, plates), liquid laundry soap, fabric softener.**

See flyers on bulletin board for details.

## For Your Calendar

See bulletin board for flyers with more information.



- ◆ **April 10-14:** Southwest Bible Lectures.
- ◆ **April 11-14:** Gospel Meeting at Park Heights in Hamilton with Terry Jackson.
- ◆ **April 17:** Ladies Day at De Leon with Dee Dee White.
- ◆ **April 18-21:** Gospel Meeting at Bangs with David Harris.
- ◆ **April 18-21:** Gospel Meeting at 9th & Main in San Angelo with Wayne Jones.
- ◆ **May 1:** Cherokee Day at Cherokee Home for Children.
- ◆ **May 2-5:** Our Gospel Meeting with John Moore — *Evidence That Demands a Verdict.*

## Gospel Meeting

We are in the final countdown to our gospel meeting. It is now just 3 weeks away. John Moore is ready and looking forward to being with us; let us make sure we put forth the effort needed for this event to be successful. Flyers are now available at the back of the auditorium for you to pass out to others, leave in public places, give to neighbors, etc. Also make sure you keep this effort and John in your prayers. And of course make sure you mark your calendar and plan to attend — show others how much it means to you!

## Summer Camp Applications

It is that time of year again; Kristi told me there are only 7 weeks of school left (can't imagine why she is counting!) and summer will be here. We hope that all of the kids who can will plan on attending the Bangs sessions of Lake Cisco Christian Camp and also adults who would like to volunteer. **Applications for campers and staff are now at the back of auditorium and they need to be completed and returned as soon as possible since these sessions fill up quickly.** Remember it is free to attend and greatly rewarding. This year the junior camp for grades 4-7 will be **July 4-8** and the senior camp for grade 8-12 will be **July 18-23**. See the forms for more information.

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall.** Last week **37 contacts** were made. Keep up the good work!

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided food and helped serve the Herridge family yesterday following Lavenuia's funeral. I know they greatly appreciated the time to visit with one another and not have to worry about food. They were very thankful and complementary.

## 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 remember that this week those who wish to are planning to go out to eat following class.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**April Birthdays:** Julie Baker (01); Dorothy Reynolds (06); Lu Whitsett (06); Ashley Arnold (08); Ginger King (08); Kristi Maninger (09); Darlene Smith (10); Kenneth Makuta (13); Birdie Reynolds (17); Earlene Birge (17).

**April Anniversaries:** Tina & John Barnum (08).

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

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



| Recent Records | March 28, 2010 | April 4, 2010 |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bible Class    | 56             | 60            |
| AM Worship     | 70             | 83            |
| PM Worship     | 47             | 44            |
| Wednesday PM   | 46             | 48            |
| Contribution   | \$1420         | \$1636        |

| Privileged to Serve                   | 04/11/10 - AM                                       | 04/11/10 - PM                      | 04/18/10 - AM   | 04/18/10 - PM           |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Greeters                              | Tom & Carol Wilcox                                  |                                    | Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler                                   |                         |
| Scripture Reader<br>Scripture Reading |   | Michael Bickford<br>Romans 1:15-17 |   | John Barnum             |
| Opening Prayer                        | Paul McClung  | Allen Griffith                     | James Thomas  | Matthew Churchwell      |
| Wait on Table                         | Don Smith*, Ken Makuta<br>James Fuller, John Barnum | Don Smith                          | Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller<br>Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox | Hank Wheeler            |
| Closing Prayer                        | Gene Bannister                                      | Jim Moore                          | Michael Bickford  | Don Smith               |
| Attendance Cards                      | Chase Churchwell<br>Seth Smithey                    |                                    | Chase Churchwell<br>Seth Smithey                            |                         |
| Wednesday<br>Devotionals              | April 14<br>Ken Makuta                              | April 21<br>Allen Griffith         | April 28<br>Jim Moore                                       | May 5<br>Gospel Meeting |

**Studies For The Week of April 11th:**

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

Wednesday Class ..... Jonah

**What Will Help Me Hold Fast? (Hebrews 10:19-39)**

*The Hebrews writer knows the Jewish Christians are struggling in their faithfulness to God and so encourages them to draw near to God (19-22) and not waver in their faith (v23) by these reminders:*

1. **Remember God's faithfulness** (v23) - He is not as a man, you can trust His promises (Heb. 13:5; 2 Pet. 3:8-10).
2. **Remember to encourage one another** (v24-25) – Our worship to God should strengthen us (Col. 3:16; Acts 2:42, 46-47).
3. **Remember the sacrifice of Christ** (v26-27) – This was a superior sacrifice that gives us great hope and expectation (Heb. 9:22, 10:3-4, 9:12; Acts 4:12; John 5:29; 2 Thess. 1:8) as well as value (Acts 20:28)
4. **Remember the judgment** (v28-31) - One day we will all stand before God what judgment do they expect if they turn back (2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 2:1-3; John 12:48)?
5. **Remember all you have endured** (v32-35) – was it all for vain? These things should be expected yet endured (1 Pet. 4:4; 1 Cor. 1:23; 2 Tim. 3:12) yet endured (Matt. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Tim. 4:8).
6. **Remember the need for patience** (v36-39) – It will not last forever; endure to the end (John 14:2-3; James 5:7-8).

*Let us "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).*

**Is the Church Relevant?**

*53% of those in the survey we have been looking at either does not think the church is relevant or does not know.*

1. **What it Means to Be Relevant** – does it have a bearing or significance to our lives and our society? YES!
2. **Why The Church Is Relevant:**
  - a. **It Teaches The Truth** – Relevant Message (John 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10; John 17:17; John 8:31-32; Rom. 10:15)
  - b. **It Teaches How To Live** – Relevant Instruction (John 10:10; Phil. 4:9; these things are for our good always – Deut. 6:24).
  - c. **In It Is Salvation** – Relevant Appeal (Answers man's greatest problem – Rom. 3:23, 6:23; in Jesus only – Acts 4:12; by being baptized into Him, His body, the church – Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22-23).
3. **Our Responsibility To Show It Is Relevant:**
  - a. **Preach the Truth** (Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:27) as the inspired, authoritative word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).
  - b. **Relate the Truth** – it applies to all times, people, and places, (Matt. 24:36; John 12:48; Gal. 1:6-9; Heb. 1:1-2, 4:12); make it understandable and applicable to lives right now (Ezra 8:8).
  - c. **Live the Truth** – Be not word-only, hypocritical Christians (James 1:22); be an active example (Deut. 6:4-9; Phil. 2:15-16); consistently show our actions are based on the God's word (Col. 3:17) so that others can learn by us (1 Cor. 11:1).

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Return Service Requested