



Living By Faith

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

April 18, 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.

That's Close Enough To Perfect For Me

By Joey Davis

On one occasion a young man came to Jesus and asked “Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Jesus instructed him to “Keep the commandments.” The young man, in an effort to narrow down his obligation asked on which of the commandments he needed to concentrate his efforts. Jesus again responded, “Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, honor thy father and thy mother, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man informed the Lord that he had done all of those things from his youth. He then asked the Lord, “What lack I yet?” Jesus staggered the young man with His response: “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.” The Bible says “the young man went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions” (Matthew 19:22).

To his credit, this particular man wanted something strongly enough to inquire about it. In particular, he wanted eternal life and was prepared to do some “good thing” in order to receive it. However, when he learned the cost of being perfect (complete), he admitted by his actions that his present state was close enough to perfect for him. This young man’s material wealth stood in his way and prevented him from moving forward. Admittedly, we will never reach a state of “sinless perfection.” However, we are to grow toward perfection, spiritual maturity, and completeness in Christ (Luke 8:14; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Pet. 3:18; Colossians 2:10, 4:12).

Interestingly, this young man well represents many of us, in that we certainly desire eternal life, yet because of the cost, many of us are unwilling to move forward in order to obtain it. Dear reader, have you reached a point in your spiritual development to where the cost of moving forward is more than you are willing to give? Have you determined that your present spiritual state is close enough to perfect for you? If so, please acknowledge what Jesus said in response to this young man’s actions: “a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.” For some people, their love for money will keep them from reaching perfection, completeness and eternal life. Still for others, their love for this world, their ungodly associations, and their lack of spiritual priorities will keep them from ever seeing Heaven.

(Continued on page 2)



*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Fear of Failure

By Wade Webster

Sometimes we reach dead end streets in our spiritual growth. At that point we begin to rationalize our failure to meet the Lord's expectations by saying (at least mentally), "That's close enough to perfect for me." Such lack of resolve is truly sad and is certainly a disappointment to Christ Jesus, who, with unwavering determination, gave His life to pave the way to Heaven for us. Yet, many have grown weary and no longer desire to move forward. Just like that young man who came to Jesus, the cost just seems too great. Yes, at present "close enough to perfect" might be easier, but have you considered the eternal consequences of coming short of the Lord's expectations? Friend, do not grow comfortable with where you are spiritually. Do not ever say "That's close enough to perfect for me." Instead, develop within yourself a desire to grow spiritually and to truly seek that heavenly home. You can begin by asking yourself, "what lack I yet?" and then move forward to fill that spiritual void (Matthew 6:33).

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

He struck out 1330 times. But that isn't what we remember about Babe Ruth. His 714 home runs completely obliterated the strike outs. Pitcher Cy Young accumulated 511 victories, a mark that never has been threatened. But what is generally forgotten is that Young lost almost as many games as he won.

Many people let fear of failure keep them from doing great things for God. No doubt, you remember the man in the parable of the talents who was given one talent. Although he had the ability to do something with the talent that he was given, he let fear keep him from doing so. When examined by his lord, he confessed, "I was afraid" (Matthew 25:25). Although the Lord is known for His patience, He has no patience for those who do not try. Please note that his lord called the man "wicked," lazy, and unprofitable (Matthew 25:26,30). Please consider the contrast in the context between the one-talent man and the other two:

- ◆ They were called good (Matthew 25:21, 23), he was called wicked (25:26).
- ◆ They were faithful (25:21, 23), he was fearful (25:25).
- ◆ They heard, "Well done" (25:21, 23), while he heard what he should have done (25:27).
- ◆ They were invited to enter into the presence of the Lord (25:21, 23), while he was to be cast out (25:30; cf. Revelation 21:8).
- ◆ They were to experience joy (25:21, 23), while he was to experience weeping and gnashing of teeth (25:30).
- ◆ They were to be rulers over many things (Matthew 25:21,23), while the one thing that had been committed to his care was to be taken from him (Matthew 25:28).

Each man in the parable faced the same possibility of failure. The difference between the men was not what they faced, but how they faced it. The five-talent man and the two-talent man faced the future with faith and gained the victory (1 John 5:4). In contrast, the one-talent man faced the future with fear and lost everything.

Today, we need to be reminded that God has not given us the "spirit of fear" (2 Timothy 1:7). He wants us to attempt great things for Him.

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 2 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: **Canned fruit and fruit juices (plastic bottles), assorted fruit, cereals, pop tarts, jelly.**

See flyers on bulletin board for details.

For Your Calendar

See bulletin board for flyers with more information.

- ◆ **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 2 weeks away**. 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!

Again this year we are moving the ladies class that week to 11 AM and inviting everyone to join us for class and lunch following. The **Baked Potato and Salad lunch** seemed to go over well last year and so we will plan on the same thing. Once again there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to indicate what you can bring to ensure everything gets covered.

Summer Camp Applications

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.

New Spiritual Sword

The next issue of the Spiritual Sword publication is now available at the back of the auditorium. It is sure to be another great issue as it deals with **Marriage For Life**. That is a study we can all benefit from whether you have been married 70 years or are just starting to think about dating. Pick one up, study it, and share with others.

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall**. Last week **33 contacts** were made. Keep up the good work!

Also, I failed to remind you last week but tonight is the 3rd Sunday and so we hope you can join us after the meeting for a time of fellowship and finger-foods.

Thank You

Dorothy Graves wanted to thank everyone for your concern, prayers, and cards during her recent hospital stay and move to Songbird Lodge. She is still having a number of problems but we are thankful she is doing some better and able to be back with us occasionally.

Ladies Class

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

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 | April 4, 2010 | April 11, 2010 |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bible Class | | 60 | 54 |
| AM Worship | | 83 | 68 |
| PM Worship | | 44 | 41 |
| Wednesday PM | | 48 | 50 |
| Contribution | | \$1636 | \$1402 |

| Privileged to Serve | 04/18/10 - AM | 04/18/10 - PM | 04/25/10 - AM | 04/25/10 - PM |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Greeters | Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler | | Michael & Diana Bickford | |
| Scripture Reader Scripture Reading | | John Barnum Psalm 78:4-8 | | Hank Wheeler |
| Opening Prayer | James Thomas | Matthew Churchwell | James Fuller | Jim Moore |
| Wait on Table | Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox | Hank Wheeler | Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta | Ken Maninger |
| Closing Prayer | Michael Bickford | Don Smith | Gene Bannister | Tom Wilcox |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey | | Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey | |
| Wednesday Devotionals | April 21 Allen Griffith | April 28 Jim Moore | May 5 Gospel Meeting | May 12 Don Smith |

Studies For The Week of April 18th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 7)

Wednesday Class Jonah

| A Charge to Keep | A Summary Challenge |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Ezekiel's charge is similar to ours today; He was sent forth as:</i></p> <p>1) A Messenger</p> <p>a) To A People That Would Not Listen (2:4-5); yet he was to do it anyway; our charge is to preach to not respond for people (Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:2).</p> <p>b) Full of God's Word (2:7-3:4; 3:10-11); take in God's word and spread it forth to the people; we have to study and make it a part of us to proclaim it (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph 5:18àCol. 3:16; James 1:21; 1 tim. 4:16).</p> <p>c) Strong and Brave (2:6-7; 3:5-9); they are stubborn, but I have made you harder; don't be discouraged (Acts 5:29; Matt. 10:28; 2 Tim. 1:7, 13).</p> <p>2) A Watchman</p> <p>a) Among the People (3:11, 14-15); not to participate in their sin but to preach (John 17:15-17; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; 1 John 2:15-16); their sin astonished him but still he must preach (Matt. 23:37; Matt. 9:36-38).</p> <p>b) For the Wicked (3:18-19); warn them of their condition (Acts 20:26-27).</p> <p>c) For the Righteous (3:20-21); warn against falling away (Acts 20:31; 1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Pet. 1:12-13).</p> <p>3) A Servant (v22-27); to speak and do as God says (Gal. 1:9; 2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 6:16; Matt. 12:30).</p> | <p>1. We are waging a battle that is almost as old as the earth.</p> <p>a. Satan began in Genesis 3:1-6 with questioning and doubt that still continues today (2 Cor. 11:3).</p> <p>b. We must be built up in God's word for stability (Eph. 4:14-16); watch and resist (1 Pet. 5:8-9); and teach Bible facts and the Bible as a fact (2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 11:1).</p> <p>2. We are not in Jerusalem any more.</p> <p>a. Just as the approach (not the message) had to change between Jerusalem (Acts 2) and Athens (Acts 17) our must as well.</p> <p>b. We must take people from where they are at to where they need to be and we can't expect faith to be encouraged, but attacked.</p> <p>c. So learn/teach to think/reason for ourselves (Acts 24:25, 17:11) and give solid Biblical answers for why and what we do (1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 3:17; Jude 3).</p> <p>3. We have an awesome responsibility.</p> <p>a. Indeed this is a great task in teach our children but one we must tackle (Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 78:4-8; Eph 6:5).</p> <p>b. Fast summary: Be aware of what is going on; examine ourselves to see if we are doing all we can; equip ourselves with tools/knowledge necessary; teach our children early, the world is; teach the Bible as it is: inspired, inerrant, immutable, intelligible; remember there is no one solution, treat people as individuals; remember that the gospel is the most relevant message man needs, so preach and teach it.</p> |

Living by Faith is published weekly by the
4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 4th St.
Brownwood, TX 76801

Return Service Requested