



Living By Faith

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

May 16, 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..... On Break
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister Billy Chism
325-646-4345 325-643-3164

Deacons:

Mike Bannister Jim Moore
325-643-5187 325-998-6585
Don Smith..... James Thomas
325-998-1120 325-643-2782

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey 325-600-4143

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.

Back To The Word By Bill Burk

A little over four hundred years before the birth of Jesus, God's people were back in the homeland after being exiled for seventy years (cf. Jer. 25:11). The temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians before captivity was rebuilt (Ezra 6:13-18; Hab.; Zech.), and the walls surrounding the city of Jerusalem were repaired and standing (Neh. 6:15-19). In many ways, things were well for God's people in Jerusalem but not everything.

... At this time there was a spiritual vacuum in the city. The wall reconstruction project had been completed and the people had moved into their own dwellings... The people were now well ordered, well defined, and well governed. But in this community, even though its residents had nice homes and good jobs and were well protected, there was still something missing. (Charles R. Swindoll, Hand Me Another Brick, p. 127).

In Nehemiah the 8th chapter we read of a great spiritual revival that broke out in the midst of God's own. The spiritual jump start was the result of a great assembly where the law was read by Ezra, God's great scribe. Back to the word was the theme of the day and should be the theme among God's people today. Let us go back to the word with...

- 1. A Place For It in Public Worship:** "And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law" (Neh. 8:3). We too should "give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine" (1 Tim. 4: 15) that spiritual vibrancy might consistently be enjoyed.
- 2. A Sense of Awe:** "And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground" (Neh. 8:5-6). When was the last time you trembled at God's word (Isa. 66:12; Psa. 119:61)?
- 3. A Desire to Understand:** So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading (Neh. 8:8). Hearing God's word isn't helpful if there's no understanding of what is meant. Understanding begins with a hunger for God's word (Job 23:12) which brings about a habitual searching of the Scriptures (cf. Acts 17: 11). May those who preach and teach set forth the facts while consistently explaining and applying.
- 4. A Heart of Repentance:** "And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law" (Neh. 8:9). God's word

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*My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;
neither be weary of his correction:
For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;
even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

Proverbs 3:11-12

The "Fingers of Prayer"

will help us remember who to pray for:

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, ministers, and our elders. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our secular leaders. Pray for our President, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself.



By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

[author unknown]

from the PreachersPC by Tom Moore

Are You Ready To Graduate?

By Barry Gilreath, Jr.

From the title of this article some might assume that I am referencing only a certain target audience, but the question I raise is applicable to every accountable human being. God cares about our graduation rate. No, I am not talking about whether people graduate from high school or college. Though these attainments are very useful in this life, they do not have any effect upon the eternal life to come. The Lord is interested in our spiritual graduation. He wants everyone to leave this life and enter into the blessings above (2 Peter 3:9). So are you ready for that graduation ceremony?



Most are not ready. Just as in secular education, there are those who will not make the spiritual "grade" when they stand before the judgment seat of God. They will not have met their obligations for this graduation. They will be full of sorrow and remorse (Luke 13:28), but on that day there will be nothing that they can do to alter their candidacy for graduation (Matthew 7:21-23).

The Lord has set forth his requirements for graduation unto the heavenly habitation and those prerequisites are attainable by all. We must be washed clean from sin in the blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11). This process is generally described as faith (Hebrews 10:38), and when one examines faith under the microscope of scripture, one will find that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). In other words, if you don't hear it from God's word it can not be of faith, no matter how much one wants to believe something. God has spoken clearly through the written page. One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (John 3:16). One must repent of their sin (Luke 13:3). One must confess Christ (Matthew 10:32). One must be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38). One must continue to walk faithfully towards the eternal graduation from the mortal unto the immortal (Revelation 2:10).

Have you meet God's graduation requirements? You only have one life in which to make these preparations. Will you be seated with the heaven bound class of the faithful or will be seated with the class of those who spiritual failed?

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... 2 Sam. 23-24; John 3:1-21
Monday... 1 Kings 1; John 3:22-36
Tuesday... 1 Kings 2-3; John 4:1-26
Wednesday... 1 Kings 4-5; John 4:27-54
Thursday... 1 Kings 6-7; John 5:1-18
Friday... 1 Kings 8; John 5:19-47
Saturday... 1 Kings 9; John 6:1-24
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



Prayer Requests

Peggy Chism had her knee replacement surgery Tuesday; recovery started slow but she has started making good progress. • **JD Tedford** continues to have a difficult time with his health problems. • **Tom Wilcox** had a heart cath Friday following some chest pain but thankfully it showed no blockage. • **Jack Stultz** was able to move to CARE (Room 6) this week to continue rehab. • **Lu Whitsett** is doing well but is to have cataract surgery on Wednesday. • **Dorothy Graves** is back at Songbird but is not doing well. • **Bernice Perkins** continues to have problem with regulating her blood pressure. • **Lowell Long** remains in BRMC, room 512; he is very weak and having some problems taking his chemo-treatments, but seems to be making some improvements. • **Megan Delgross** thanks us for our prayers concerning her family; custody hearings continue but things seem to be going better. Please continue to pray for them. • **Steven Martinez's mother** remains at Scott & White in Temple for rehab after being treated for bleeding in the brain; she hopes to return home this week. • **Mary Cullins and family** in the death of her son-in-law, Buddy Caddell (Mary is one of the residents at CARE that meets with us there for worship every Sunday). • **Bob Stapleton** has been removed from our cancer list as we received notice this week that he was released by his doctor in April; continue to keep him and his health in your prayers.

Calls and visits are appreciated by the following:

Rest Homes: Beth Chambers, Kathleen Hodge, Freda Womack.

Loved Ones With Cancer: Dorothy Graves, Abby Hubbard, Chuck Fritcher, Lowell Long, Jack Stultz, Sharon Washburn.

Others Needing Our Prayers: Sister Amaya, Ethel Adams, Ryley Barnett, Theresa Bickford, Kathy Burcham, Jimmie Claborn, Peggy Luker, Stephen & James Nolen, Freda Womack, Lloyd and Zelma Leslie, Veneta Nolen.

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall**. Last week **33 contacts** were made. Remember too that this is the 3rd Sunday and time for our **finger-food supper** once again; we hope you can join us following the evening worship.

Congratulations...

To Ben Griffith and Meredith Hooper who are engaged to be married on August 9th.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

May Birthdays: Barbara Bannister (10); Nita Boyd (14); Kami Hardy (14); Pam Teague (14); Caitlin Barnum (15); Billy Chism (15); Zelma Leslie (16); Peg Moore (17); Randy Brubaker (23); Ryan Smithey (23); Peggy Luker (28); Grace Hardy (30).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **May 22—Work Day** @ the building.
- ◆ **June 4-6 — Brad Harrub** at Rising Star for a Creation/Evolution Seminar.
- ◆ **June 7-10 — VBS** at Bangs and Ranger; see flyers on the bulletin board.

Summer Youth Series

Just a reminder that the Summer Youth Series is just around the corner. We encourage all of our young people to make as many of these events as you can as I believe they will be greatly encouraging. The sessions are held every Tuesday night at 7 PM for a time of worship and then food and fellowship starting around 8. Anyone needing rides to any of the sessions, please let Ryan know as early as possible and we will do our best to make sure you can get there.

Also everyone mark your calendars for August 10 as we will host the last session of the series and will need help in providing food and assistance (details to come).

- June 8 @ Patrick Street in Dublin
- June 15 @ Bangs
- June 22 @ Hillcrest in Stephenville
- June 29 @ Park Heights in Hamilton
- July 6 — No session; Jr. Camp
- July 13 @ DeLeon
- July 20 — No session; Sr. Camp
- July 27 @ Rising Star
- August 3 @ 5th & Grape in Abilene
- August 10 @ 4th & Stewart in Brownwood

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should be heard with a desire to be transformed. Without genuine repentance change is impossible.

5. **A Feeling of Joy:** Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." (Neh. 8:10-11). The hearing of God's word should be one of the greatest joys of our lives (Jer. 15:16).

Recent Records	May 2, 2010	May 9, 2010
Bible Class	69	62
AM Worship	95	83
PM Worship	65	58
Monday PM	73	NA
Tuesday PM	78	NA
Wednesday AM	29	NA
Wednesday PM	64	50
Contribution	\$1930	\$1719



Privileged to Serve	05/16/10 - AM	05/16/10 - PM	05/23/10 - AM	05/23/10 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum 2 Timothy 4:6-8	Garrett Barnum	
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Ken Maktua*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	May 19 Don Smith	May 26 James Fuller	June 2 Ken Makuta	June 9 Michael Bickford

Studies For The Week of May 16th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 7)

Wednesday Class Jonah

	Are You Fit To Wear The Crown?
<p>David & The New Cart (2 Sam. 6 & 1 Chron. 13, 15) <i>The ark had been long time in Kirjathjearim since the capture and return of it by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4-7). Now David was ready to bring it up to Jerusalem but would learn to do so by the due order of God's revealed word.</i></p> <p>1) Time Did Not Change God's Word a) Some 400 years have passed from God's instructions concerning the ark till now (Ex. 25:12-14; Num. 4, 7:9) but they were still the same. b) One must remember that even today under the New Testament God's word is just as true and authoritative today as it was when it was given (Lk. 21:22; Gal. 1:8-9; John. 12:48).</p> <p>2) Actions and Opinions of Others Do Not Change God's Word a) Neither the actions of the Philistines (1 Sam. 6:7-8) nor the approval of the nation and its leaders (1 Chron. 13:1,4) changed what was right according to God's Word. b) Look to God's Word, not men for our authority (Josh. 9:14; 1 Sam. 8:20; Ex. 23:3; Matt. 7:13-14; Matt. 15:9; Acts 17:11; Col. 3:17).</p> <p>3) Sincerity Nor Zeal Change God's Word a) No doubt all were zealous and sincere but they were wrong. b) Such zeal is never a substitute for obedience; it must be guided by knowledge of God's Will (1 Sam. 15:22-23; Gal. 4:18; Rom. 10:1-3; Acts 23:1, 26:9; Prov. 14:12; Matt. 7:21).</p>	<p>1) Stephanos — the victor's crown; awarded to the winner. a) Indicates victory, supremacy, honor, or glory: victors, even temporary ones (Rev. 6:2, 9:7, 12:1, 14:14); mockingly of Jesus (Matt. 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2, 5) who is now crowned with glory & honor (Heb. 2:7,9); given to winner of a sport (1 Cor. 9:25); joy or glory brought by seeing faithful christians (Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19). b) Eternal crown of victory to the faithful (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8, 2:5; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10, 3:11, 4:4, 10).</p> <p>2) Diadema—rulers crown; indicates authority/headship. a) Not awarded by a judge; no human is fit to wear this crown; rightfully belongs to God alone. b) Yet in Revelation 12:3 on the red dragon and in 13:1 on the sea beast because satan and his forces have challenged the authority of God. c) By Revelation 19:12 it is securely on the Lord of Lords and King of Kings (v16) because the challenger will be cast down (Satan's forces, Rev. 19 and satan himself, Rev. 20).</p> <p>3) The ones fit for the stephanos are those that recognize the right one with the diadema — those in the lambs book of life (Rev. 21:7); who have humbled themselves to God's Will (1 Pet. 5:6); recognizing Him as the ultimate authority and the one to bestow eternal life (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:16; Rev. 22:14; 2 Tim. 4:8).</p>

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Return Service Requested