



# Living By Faith

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

May 23, 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..... On Break  
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 Power Of Faith

by Marvin Weir

The Bible describes faith as being the “assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). The child of God is to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith is that “which stands under (*hupostasis*) the things hoped for (as, heaven). It is the proof, the sure persuasion (*elenchos*), of things not visible (as, God – Heb. 11:1). By it human beings are able to go beyond empirical knowledge to faith-knowledge, and have an assurance that is as certain and reliable as sense perception” (Hugo McCord, *Studies In Hebrews*, 2nd Annual Denton Lectures). God assures us that Bible faith is **more** certain and reliable than sense perception! God keeps His promises, and His Word is sure.

Regarding Hebrews 11:1, Milligan writes that this is not a formal definition of faith but “rather a plain statement with regard to its nature and province.” Macknight wrote, “The word for 'evidence' (or 'assurance') denotes a strict proof or demonstration; a proof which thoroughly convinces the understanding and determines the will.” Adam Clarke reasons in much the same manner in saying, “It is such a conviction as is produced in the mind by the demonstration (as to a proposition in geometry) of a problem, after which demonstration no doubt can remain, because we see from it that the thing is; that it cannot but be; and that it cannot be otherwise than as it is, as it is proved to be.”

“**Assurance of things hoped for.**” Coffman says that “things hoped for are all of those blessings, temporal and eternal, that make up the inheritance of the faithful. Resurrection from the dead and the triumphal entry into the everlasting habitations are surely included.”

“**A conviction of things not seen.**” Coffman again comments: “Things not seen include everything in the whole area of faith, the creation of the universe, the incarnation of Christ, the judgment of the world by the deluge, the second advent of Christ, the final judgment, the ultimate reception by every man of the destiny, good or bad, that shall be assigned to him by God's enforcement of universal judgment, founded on justice and mercy. Unseen things are very strongly emphasized in this chapter, and repeated reference to them is made.”

Let us now observe three powerful points in regard to Bible faith.

**Bible faith is precious!** Nothing is impossible that God would have us to do if we possess adequate faith. One has said that faith “is the hand that takes with firm, unfailing grip the faithful promises of the God of salvation.” There is nothing that can be compared to the “fruits” of faith.

1. Faith saves – Eph. 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:15.
2. Faith justifies – Gal. 3:24.
3. Faith guards – 1 Pet. 1:5.
4. Faith comforts – 1 Thess. 3:7.
5. Faith sanctifies – Acts 26:18.

(Continued on page 2)



Happy is the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

*Proverbs 3:13-14*

(Continued from page 1)

6. Faith is what we are to live by – Gal. 3:11.

7. Faith is what we are to walk by – 2 Cor. 5:7.

If one possesses soul-saving faith he will surrender his will to the transforming Word of God. One does not have Bible faith who refuses to do what God says must be done!

**Bible faith is to be progressive!** Not all progress is good. Progress in the wrong direction will result in the loss of one’s soul. The Bible warns, “*Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son*” (2 John 9). Let us always make sure we are traveling the “straitened” and “narrow” way that leads to eternal life (Matt. 7:14).

The apostle Paul commended the Thessalonians because their faith **grew** exceedingly (2 Thess. 1:3). One’s faith will grow when he avails himself to knowledge of the Word of God, and then becomes a “*doer*” and not just a “*hearer*” of that Word (James 1:22). The apostles desired to have their faith increased (Luke 17:5). Christians today should desire to grow and mature in faith.

**Bible faith will be triumphant!** The greatest weapon in the Christian’s arsenal is **not** a nuclear missile. The most potent weapon the child of God can lay hold of is the Word of God, “*the sword of the Spirit*” (Eph. 6:17). The victories recorded in Hebrews chapter 11 were all achieved by faith. It is true that “*this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith*” (1 John 5:4).

A triumphant faith is **always** an obedient faith. In Hebrews chapter eleven we note:

“By faith Abel **offered**...” (4). “By faith Noah... **moved** with godly fear, prepared an ark...” (7). “By faith Abraham...**obeyed** to go out...he **went** out...” (8). “By faith Abraham...**offered** up Isaac...” (17). “By faith [Moses] **forsook** Egypt...” (27). “By faith [Moses] **kept** the pass-over...” (28). “By faith they [the Israelites] **passed through** the Red Sea...” (29, all emphasis, MLW).

May we never underestimate the power of Bible faith!

## Christian Morality Versus Atheist Morality

By Donald R. Fox

One of the most interesting formal discussions between an atheist and a Christian was the Oliphant-Smith Debate, conducted in Shawnee, Oklahoma, August 15–16, 1929. W. L. Oliphant was a preacher from the Oak Cliff Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas. Charles Smith was the President of the American Association of the Advancement of Atheism, New York City. Since I purchased the debate book in 1972, I have read and browsed through its pages with great interest.

On the afternoon, August 16, 1929, Mr. Smith affirmed the proposition: “Atheism is Beneficial to the Race, and is Most Conducive to Morality of any Theory Known to Man.” I am amazed that Mr. Smith signed an agreement to defend this proposition. Following is an extraction that is modified to assist in reading clarity, from the end of Mr. Oliphant’s first negative speech on the proposition.

I want you people to remember that, though Mr. Smith is supposed to be affirming that atheism is conducive to good morals, he has not said one word in defense of the morality of atheism. He has done nothing but attack Christianity. This method of debating is in harmony with the whole program of atheism; it is entirely destructive. In the few minutes I have left, I shall introduce a few of the principles of morality taught in the New Testament.

The Religion of Jesus Christ teaches:

- Avoiding hatred (Matthew 5:21–22)
- No lustful thinking (Matthew 5:28)
- No unfair judgments (Matthew 7:1–2)
- Love of enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- Reconciliation (Matthew 5:24)
- Non-resistance (Matthew 5:38–39)
- Avoiding Anxiety (Matthew 6:25, 29)
- Self-examination (Matthew 7:3–5)
- Respect for government. (Romans 13:1–7)
- Equality of man (James 2:1–4)
- A universal brotherhood (Matthew 23:9)
- Forgiveness (Mark 11:25)
- Thrift and industry (Ephesians 4:28)
- Progress (Hebrews 6:1)

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 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... 1 Kings 10-11; John 6:25-51</p> <p>Monday... 1 Kings 12-13; John 6:52-71</p> <p>Tuesday... 1 Kings 14-15; John 7:1-24</p> <p>Wednesday... 1 Kings 16-17; John 7:25-39</p> <p>Thursday... 1 Kings 18-19; John 7:40-53</p> <p>Friday... 1 Kings 20-21; John 8:1-20</p> <p>Saturday... 1 Kings 22; John 8:21-47</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

## Summer Youth Series

Remember 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

(Continued from page 2)

- The value of truth (2 Corinthians 13:8)
- Truth as the basis for freedom (John 8:32)
- Humility (Luke 14:11)
- Benevolence (Acts 20:35)
- Honesty (Romans 12:17)
- Single standard of morals (Ephesians 4:4)
- Unselfishness (Romans 12:10).

With this list of positive moral teaching, Oliphant challenged Smith to find fault with the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Oliphant stated in conclusion of his first negative speech, "I am willing to risk the whole proposition on this challenge: I challenge Mr. Smith to name any principle of morality that I cannot read in the Bible. Let him mention any virtue he may think of, and I will read it in this Book—the Christian's standard of life." In his following speech, Smith said, "Perhaps I cannot; you can prove most anything by the Bible." A feeble answer to Oliphant's challenge.

(All quotations can be found on pages 80–83, Oliphant-Smith Debate, Copyright 1929 By F. L. Rowe, Gospel Advocate Company, Owner, Nashville, Tennessee).

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services in the fellowship hall.** Last week **38 contacts** were made.

## Thank You

- ◆ I want to thank everyone who came out for the work day yesterday. A lot of good work was accomplished in fixing up things in and around the building. Among other things, I know a lot of special cleaning was done inside, rotting wood was replaced outside, and the flower beds were cleaned out and redone. Thanks for all of your hard work!
- ◆ Pam Teague thanks everyone for all of the birthday cards that were sent to her.

## Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **June 4-6** — **Brad Harrub** at Rising Star for a Creation/Evolution Seminar.
- ◆ **June 6** — 1st Sunday **Fellowship Meal**; also Daniel Haynes and his family plan on being with us that day.
- ◆ **June 7-10** — **VBS** at Bangs and Ranger; see flyers on the bulletin board.

## 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...*



Recent Records	May 9, 2010	May 16, 2010
Bible Class	62	64
AM Worship	83	78
PM Worship	58	
Wednesday PM	50	48
Contribution	\$1719	\$1516

Privileged to Serve	05/23/10 - AM	05/23/10 - PM	05/30/10 - AM	05/30/10 - PM
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum Matthew 13:44-46		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	May 26 James Fuller	June 2 Ken Makuta	June 9 Michael Bickford	June 16 Allen Griffith

**Studies For The Week of May 23rd:**

Sunday Class.....1 Corinthians (Chap. 7-8)

Wednesday Class .....Jonah & Amos

**Unified Place of Blessings (Eph. 1)**

- 1) **Predestinated Purpose:** Why – “according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of his grace” (v5-6).
- 2) **Predestinated Time:** When – “before foundation of the world (v4).
- 3) **Predestinated Blessings:** What – “every spiritual blessing” (v3); some are discussed: adoption (v5); acceptance (v6); redemption/forgiveness (v7); fellowship (v10); inheritance/heritage (v11); salvation (v13); sealed/earnest (v13, 14); enlightened (v18).
- 4) **Predestinated Place:** Where – “in Christ” (v3).
  - a) This relationship of being in Christ is stressed throughout the chapter: in Christ (v3); in Him (v4); by Jesus Christ (v5); in the beloved (v6); in whom [Christ] (v7); wherein [Christ] (v8); gathered in Christ (v10); in whom [Christ] (v11); trusted in Christ (v12-14); in whom [Christ] (v13); in Christ (v20).
  - b) Specifies a location where all blessings are found and one must go to/be in to benefit from or enjoy them: Christ – His body/church (Acts 2:38, 41,47; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3).
- 5) **Predestinated People:** Who – “us” (v3).
  - a) Refers not to God choosing specific individuals but all those in Christ; called saints/faithful in Christ (v1); us in him (v4); those having redemption (v7), those gathered in Christ (v10).
  - b) Open invitation to all (Matt. 11:28-30; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Mark 16:15); continue in that state by faithfulness (1 John 1:7-9).

**Treasure Hunters (Proverbs)**

*There are many that seek after earthly treasures but far more important and rewarding is a search for wisdom.*

- 1) Like earthly treasure, wisdom must be diligently sought after.
  - a) Search begins with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7, 9:10).
  - b) Wisdom set forth (1:2-6) and crying in the street (1:20) but it has to be diligently sought and applied (2:1-4).
  - c) It is worth whatever effort it takes (Matt. 13:44-46).
- 2) Earthly riches are elusive, while wisdom WILL be found by a proper searcher.
  - a) There is a reward promised to those that put for this diligent effort to acquire wisdom (2:5, 9; 1:32, 33; 3:13).
  - b) The search must be made of God’s Word (2:6; John 8:31-32; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).
- 3) Unlike earthly treasure, wisdom is plentiful.
  - a) Plenty for the individual: it is never exhausted and one is never too full (3:14-18; 4:5-13).
  - b) Plenty for all: we don’t have to worry about others finding it first or exhausting the supply; this treasure is to be shared (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:4).

*May we be like Solomon and like Job (Job 28:12, 13, 23, 28) that we would seek wisdom as treasure from God’s Word.*

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

Return Service Requested