



Living By Faith

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

June 06, 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.

What can we do?

A few weeks ago we concluded a sermon series on Sunday nights that was loosely based on some research presented in the book *Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it* by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer. They surveyed 1,000 people between the ages of 20-30 that had been active in church (from a denominational standpoint) as a youth but no longer were in order to try to find out why and if anything could be done. We simply used their statistical finding to remind us of some Biblical facts that we as families and congregations need to be reminded of and some things that we need to be doing (if we are not already) to help ground our children in the faith before they become part of this statistical trend of those who no longer care about the church. Here are some of the main points we need to continually remind ourselves:

Be aware—We simply cannot afford to ignore the problem; when looking at Christianity from a worldly/denominational view, statistics say that around 2/3 of the young people that go to church will cease by the time they are in their 20’s. We cannot afford to be ignorant concerning our enemy but rather stand against him; see what is going on around us and how our faith and our children’s faith is being attacked (2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Pet. 5:8).

Examine ourselves—Are we willing to look and see if there is a problem and willing to see if we can do anything about it? Will we honestly take inventory and see how we are doing as parents and as congregations — are we helping our children and the members of this congregation grow into spiritual maturity, or is what we are doing simply not working? Sadly, even in the Lord’s church there are those that are leaving and giving up on their faith; can we do better (at home and in sermons and Bible classes) equipping them for the challenges they face, are we teaching them what they need to know, can we help them with their struggles? If we see that what we are doing is working, continue in it; if it is not what can be done to improve? (cf. Ps. 26:2; Hag. 1:5, 7; 2 Cor. 13:5—we have to make sure we are doing what is right before God and this certainly includes the challenge to teach future generations—Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 2:2; Mark 16:15-16).

Teach our children early—The study’s statistics found that 40% were really already gone, that is “spiritually disconnected,” maybe attending with their parents but serious doubts had already begun chipping away at their faith, by the time they were in high school. In fact college may not be the time when we are really losing our youth, it may just be the time when it is first really seen. We have to recognize that the influence of the world begins very early in a child’s life and is around them every day. We cannot afford to put off teaching our children about God until they are older because the world is not putting off teaching them humanism and worldly traits. TV, movies, internet, cartoons, books, magazines, textbooks, friends, etc. are all sources of such worldly influence. We have to start early, even from the time they are born, and use that time we have to influence our children in a godly fashion and begin teaching them about God; that is what Moses instructed Israel (Deut. 6:6-9) — start early and make it a part of our everyday life to learn and be reminded about God and His Will. Be an example to fol-

(Continued on page 2)



Her [wisdom’s, RTS] ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Proverbs 3:17-18

(Continued from page 1)

low (1 Cor. 11:1) and teach them that even as young people they can do great things (1 Tim. 4:11-12; Dan. 1:8).

Teach the Bible as it is in truth—factual, inspired, inerrant, immutable, and intelligible. We have to be careful that we do not just teach the Bible as cute little stories that do not really affect the lives of our children. Otherwise as they grow, they have no problem separating the word of science as truth and the word of God as fictional. Make sure we teach the Bible as historical accounts that really happened and that show God's dealing with man. Show and remind them that this is God's revealed word that we can, should, and must know, trust, and follow (John 8:31-32, 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Remember there is no one solution—Remember that there is no one magical fix that is all of a sudden going to solve the problem of people leaving the church. There are different reasons that require different approaches to helping them; therefore deal with people not statistics – try to find the real problem and help them. Take them from where they are to where they need to be (Neh. 8:8; Acts 8:35).

Truth is what makes the church relevant—Social appeal, large numbers, beautiful music, stunning buildings, etc. will not make a church relevant. What really matters is proclaiming the truth of God's word that actually helps and changes peoples lives (Rom. 1:16). We need to understand that we have the greatest message of the world that contains the solution to man's greatest problem (Rom. 6:23). Many things can draw a crowd but that does not help them grow spiritually (John 6:44-45); the knowledge of God and His Word is what has changed the lives of untold

numbers of people and that will never change. Interestingly, only 7% of those surveyed said they missed the music when no longer attending; the authors even said, "Our statistics certainly show that music isn't the reason our young adults are leaving, and it's not the reason that they will come back" (pg. 127). Sadly though many even of the Lord's church are looking to alter the worship of God to appeal to whatever will please the people; but this does not make you relevant. Indeed, in view of eternity, what more needed message can the church proclaim but the truth of God's Word; don't be ashamed of it but preach it (2 Tim. 4:2).

Realize we don't live in a Jewish society but an Athenian one – one that does not know God. There were different approaches on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and on Mars Hill in Athens (Acts 17). One knew God but rejected Christ, the other simply did not even know God. We don't live in a Jerusalem-like environment that encourages faith in God. It is not simply enough just to teach about Christ and faithfulness to Gods' Word. We live in an Athens-like environment that is often not indifferent, but rather opposed to the Christian faith. Our children and those we teach must be shown evidence for faith in God and His Word before they will follow what it says.

Indeed we face a great challenge and responsibility as the church always has—take the gospel into all the world (Mark 16:15) which includes our community and our homes. Let us take that responsibility seriously and do all that we can to equip ourselves, our children, our congregations, and others with a solid, mature, lasting faith in God.

~Ryan Smithey

Six Keys to Contentment

By Mike Vestal

Psalm 119:57-64 is an excellent explanation of Philippians 4:11-12 and what it means to be "content in whatever state" we find ourselves. What are the keys to contentment seen in this passage?

1. Being Satisfied with the Lord (v. 57). "The Lord is my portion." Stop and think about this - we've got the Lord! And that's what counts the most. Because his lovingkindness is better than life (Psalm 63:3), we can be satisfied that he will always do what is best.
2. Seeking God's Favor (vv. 58-60). "I sought Your favor with all my heart." To seek God's favor involves "considering" our ways, "turning" to God's will, and "hastening" to do what is right. This does not mean that we earn God's grace or favor, but it does mean we respond to it with humility, action and love.
3. Not Panicking under Pressure (v. 61). "The cords of the wicked have encircled me, but I have not forgotten Your law." Sometimes we feel overwhelmed, that we are engulfed by problems and by problem people. How we need to not panic, and to look to the Lord! (cf. Ephesians 6:10-13).
4. Always Giving Thanks (v. 62). "At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You." Grateful people naturally tend to be more contented. Grumbling and complaining is not only a sign of lack of contentment, but of lack of faith.
5. Enjoying the Fellowship of Other Believers (v. 63). "I am a companion of all those who fear You." We ought to enjoy being in the company of people who will help strengthen us in the Lord.
6. Seeing God's Love Everywhere (v. 64). "The earth is full of Your lovingkindness." This thinking is "Philippians 4:8" in action!

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 Kings 17; John 12:1-26
Monday... 2 Kings 18-19; John 12:27-50
Tuesday... 2 Kings 20-21; John 13:1-20
Wednesday... 2 Kings 22-23; John 13:21-38
Thursday... 2 Kings 24-25; John 14:1-14
Friday... 1 Chron. 1-2; John 14:15-31
Saturday... 1 Chronicles 3-5; John 15

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

1st Sunday Lunch

Today is the first Sunday of June and time for our monthly potluck dinner; we hope that you can stay and enjoy good food and time together following the morning worship.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **June 7-10** — **VBS** at Bangs and Ranger; see flyers on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **June 8**—**Summer Youth Series** begins at the Patrick Street congregation in Dublin @ 7 PM; next week at Bangs.

Kathleen Hodge (1916-2010)

Once again this year we said goodbye to a dear Christian sister with the passing of Kathleen Hodge. Kathleen died on Wednesday, May 26 and her funeral was this past Wednesday, June 2. As always, I considered it a great honor to be able to conduct that service.



Kathleen had been home-bound for four or five years and had been at Care Nursing Center for about a year now, confined to her bed or wheelchair. While she could not join us here, she always seemed to enjoy and greatly appreciate every visit that was made to her. I will remember her as a quiet and content lady. She did not have the luxuries of life and was not surrounded by a large family, in fact she had no immediate family; and yet she always seemed content and even beyond that, she was a happy woman. Unless something was really wrong, Kathleen had a smile on her face that would brighten your day. While we are saddened by our loss we nevertheless rejoice in the knowledge of her faithful life; that now she may rest from her labors and her works do follow her in her great example that she leaves behind (Rev. 14:13).

Hospitality by Tom Moore

Most tend to offer hospitality to only a limited number of people - persons whom they already know, mostly relatives and a few close friends. But, in Abraham's day, hospitality was extended to whomever needed it - strangers and acquaintances alike. In fact, in its original form, "hospitality" combines two separate words - one meaning friend and the other meaning stranger. So, from the beginning of its usage, hospitality has carried with it the idea of making friends out of strangers.

Paul said, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

Think About It!

Visitation Program

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

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

Thank You...

Thank you all for the beautiful cards and all of the calls that I received wishing me a happy birthday; I love every one of you.

~Peggy Luker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

June Birthdays: Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04); Paul McClung (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Dorothy Graves (12), Freda Womack (14), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich (19), Lisa & David Greer (28).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	May 23, 2010	May 30, 2010
Bible Class	59	60
AM Worship	81	81
PM Worship	55	43
Wednesday PM	60	52
Contribution	\$1582	\$1747

Privileged to Serve	06/06/10 - AM	06/06/10 - PM	06/13/10 - AM	06/13/10 - PM
Greeters	Ken Makuta, Hank Wheeler, & Peggy Luker		Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller Acts 5:27-32		Hank Wheeler
Opening Prayer	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Gene Bannister, Michael Bickford	Allen Griffith	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister	James Thomas
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	June 9 Allen Griffith	June 16 Michael Bickford	June 23 Jim Moore	June 23 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of June 6th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 8)

Wednesday Class Amos (Chap. 2-3)

Unified Place of Knowledge (Eph. 3)

1) A Mystery Revealed (v2-7)

- a) It was not known in ages past (v5a; 1 Pet. 10-12); but was now revealed for their understanding (v2-5; Gal. 1:11-12; 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Cor. 2:9-13).
- c) It was God's great message of redemption in Christ for all people (v6-7; cf. Gal. 3:28; 1 Tim. 1:11-13).

2) Results of this Mystery (v8-13)

- a) God's Glory (v8-10); the unveiling of this plan shows God's love, power, and wisdom in providing for man's salvation. (Rom 1:16; Mk 16:15; Acts 15:14-18; Ps. 8:9)
- b) Man's Salvation (v11-12); allows us to come before Him
- c) Strength (v13); don't worry over Paul's state, being a prisoner is well worth performing his task as a preacher; so continue faithful always (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Tim. 4:2, 8)

3) Prayer Concerning the Mystery (v14-21)

- a) That they would be built up in the knowledge of God's Word; strengthened (v16; 2 Cor. 4:16; Col. 1:9-11), built up (v17; Rom. 10:17), and grounded in love (v17-19), come to know better the encompassing love of God who is able to do all these things.
- b) When this is accomplished it will result in God's glorification, which is due Him (v20-21).

Sinful Silence (2 Kings 7:3-10)

1) Despair (v3-5)

- a) Israel was in a low point; Syrian had besieged Samaria (6:24) and food supplies were cut-off (v25), they were even to the point of cannibalism (v26-30).
- b) The condition was likely worse outside of the city with the lepers – without hope and could not provide for themselves.
- c) Aptly describes the condition of one outside of Christ (Eph. 2:12; Rom. 6:23a; Matt. 9:36).

2) Deliverance (v5-7)

- a) The lepers saw their only hope was the mercy of the Syrians, but found an empty camp; God provided for their deliverance.
- b) God has provided for the deliverance from sin to those who come to Him for mercy (Rom. 6:23; James 4:10; Matt. 5:3-6).

3) Abundance (v8) - not just what was suitable to their needs was found, but great abundance and cause for rejoicing. The same will be found in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:13, 19; 3:20; Acts 8:39).

4) Ashamed (v9)

- a) They realized they could not keep this news to themselves while the city was dying, unaware of this treasure.
- b) Likewise we need to realize the message of salvation we trust in is needed by the world and must be proclaimed (Rom. 1:16; Eze. 33:1-9; Acts 20:26-27; Matt. 28:19).

5) Action (10) - they went and proclaimed the message, but what will we do?

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