



Living By Faith

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

June 13, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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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.

Reading Your Bible Out Loud

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Although many people read from the Bible on a regular basis, reading the Bible out loud has typically been limited to an assembly-oriented activity. The preacher reads from scripture (hopefully!) as part of his sermon, and perhaps some designated person rises to read through a selected reading at some point while everyone is gathered together. Unfortunately, this practice often does not receive the attention it should. The text becomes only a jumping off point for the sermon, the scripture reading becomes an afterthought of the assembly, and the reading itself tends to leave something to be desired due to a lack of preparation and a regular stumbling over unfamiliar words. However, just because something has been done poorly does not mean that it is not worth doing well. Indeed, taking the time to read scripture out loud has many benefits, not only in the assembly but in your daily life as well.

Read it deliberately. When you take the time to read your Bible, actually *take time* to read your Bible! Do not attempt to rush through it because you already know what you will do afterwards. Instead, slow down the reading process by reading it out loud. The tendency when reading is to unconsciously follow the advice of speed reading experts, skipping smaller words and just seeing enough to capture the basic meaning. This is fine for a novel, but definitely NOT for God's Word. Reading out loud will force you to read every word and therefore draw attention to the whole of God's Word rather than just snippets. "The sum of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth for ever" (Ps. 119:160 ASV).

Read and listen. When you read the Bible out loud, you have the advantage of employing more than one of the five senses. Thus, by involving more of the brain in the process, this assists in helping you remember better what you read. As a result, you can then contemplate the words and meaning of scripture long after you have read them, considering how they apply as you go throughout life. "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97).

Read it carefully. When you read the Bible out loud, you will see and hear things you have not seen and heard before. Reading the Bible orally forces your attention on ALL the words and phrases contained therein, encouraging you to give attention to thoughts that tend to be neglected. While it may seem a bit of a burden to work at proper pronunciation and attention to such detail, this process helps you incorporate biblical wording and biblical thoughts so that they become your wording and your thoughts. "And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments" (Ps. 119:43).

Read it with feeling. Sometimes I wonder just how people can read the Bi-

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*The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth;
by understanding hath he established the heavens.
By his knowledge the depths are broken up,
and the clouds drop down the dew.*

Proverbs 3:17-18

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ble with such a sense of detachment. How can they read the history contained within the Old Testament and not identify with the longings of humanity? How can they read about the crucifixion and not feel guilt and sorrow? How can they read the Psalms and not enjoy a sense of calm in knowing God better? How can they read the epistles and not be stirred to action? Most of all, how can we claim to feel these things when we do not even express it when we read about it? Reading the Bible with true feeling helps us appreciate that these were real events and written by real people in real situations. When we can read out loud the words of God's servants, identify with them, and mean what they said, we will have come a long way. "Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me" (Ps. 119:175).

Conclusion. Reading the Bible out loud in our personal reading will add to our appreciation, will increase our understanding, and will stir our hearts. Let us therefore say along with the psalmist, "With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth" (Ps. 119:13).

ABHOR THAT WHICH IS EVIL

by Jason Hilburn

While stopped at a railroad crossing a few years ago, I noticed a young man on a bicycle approaching the tracks. It was obvious that the train was coming – the cars were backed up at the tracks, the lights were flashing, and the train's horn was blaring loudly. Without slowing down, the young man zoomed in front of the speeding train with its horn blasting, and he crossed the tracks with what appeared to be only a few feet between him and the oncoming train.

I sometimes wonder if many Christians have the same attitude toward sin that this young man had toward the train. Rather than having a desire to be cautious and stay far away from the dangers of sin, they seem to have a desire to get as close as they possibly can! "*Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?*" (Proverbs 6:27). Here are some questions to ponder:

- 1. Do we realize how deadly sin is?** There is nothing more deadly than sin. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and sins we will not truly repent of will cause us to be lost in Hell forever! What could be worse than eternal torment?
- 2. Do we rejoice in iniquity?** The world loves things that are sinful. The world thinks sin is funny, entertaining, and worthwhile. They do not see how serious sin really is. One who thinks in a biblical way will see sin as the reason our Lord Jesus Christ had to die on the cross! There is nothing more serious than that!

Those with true love and understanding do not rejoice in iniquity (1 Corinthians 13:6). We should be like John, who wrote, "*I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father*" (2 John 4). It made John happy to see people walking in truth – not walking in sin! Can you imagine God laughing at a sinful joke? Can you imagine God thinking something sinful is funny? God HATES things that are evil, and He commands us to do the same! (Romans 12:9).

- 3. Do we realize that it causes God grief when we sin? (Ephesians 4:30).** We should shudder at the thought of causing God grief by our actions.
- 4. Do we envy sinners?** "*For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked...Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches...Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end*" (Psalm 73:3, 12, 17). The tall grass will be cut down: "*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb*" (Psalm 37:1, 2). The proud, impenitent sinner may think in his heart: "Look at me – I am so tall; I spread these seeds of evil so there will be others like me; I am out here enjoying the sunshine..." However, the lawnmower is coming.

"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).

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... 1 Chronicles 6; John 116
Monday... 1 Chronicles 7-8; John 17
Tuesday... 1 Chron. 9-10; John 18:1-24
Wednesday... 1 Chron. 11-12; Jn. 18:25-40
Thursday... 1 Chron. 13-15; John 19:1-16
Friday... 1 Chron. 16-17; Jn. 19:17-42
Saturday... 1 Chron. 18-19; John 20:1-18
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

*Remember
In Prayer*

Bernice Perkins

(1921-2010)



This congregation has certainly been reminded of the reality of death (James 4:14) this year as we have said goodbye to a number of dear friends. We were again saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Bernice Perkins this past Wednesday. While

Bernice had been having health problems for some time now, it nevertheless was a shock to learn of her death.

Bernice was a quiet Christian lady who was faithful in her service. We of course saw her as a regular every time the church doors were open for Bible study and worship for as long as her health permitted. But beyond that she conducted her self as a Christian example beyond these walls. She surprised me when she was in CARE recently for rehab as I saw her get out and visit others that were there, but I have since come to find out that is who she was — one that loved to visit with others, especially her Christian friends.

Bernice has now passed from this life and we can no longer enjoy our visits here together; but as she was a faithful child of God, she enjoys the prospects of that eternal life with God in heaven where she enjoys the fellowship of the faithful throughout the ages. What a wonderful reward for well-lived life! And what an encouragement and example to us to live the same type of faithful life and thus have the same prospect.

*But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast?
can I bring him back again? I shall go to him,
but he shall not return to me.*

2 Samuel 12:23

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services.** Last week **30 contacts** were made.

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast,
unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain
in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **June 15—Summer Youth Series** at Bangs @ 7 PM; Wayne Jones from San Marcos will be the speaker.
- ◆ **June 22—Summer Youth Series** at Park Heights in Hamilton @ &7 PM..

*In God is my salvation and my glory:
the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.
Trust in him at all times;
ye people, pour out your heart before him:
God is a refuge for us.*

Psalm 62:7-8

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 30, 2010	June 6, 2010
Bible Class	60	55
AM Worship	81	72
PM Worship	43	60
Wednesday PM	52	50
Contribution	\$1747	\$1688

Privileged to Serve	06/13/10 - AM	06/13/10 - PM	06/20/10 - AM	06/20/10 - PM
Greeters	Jim & Peg Moore		Cindy & James Fuller	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler 1 Peter 1:3-5		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	June 16 Michael Bickford	June 23 Jim Moore	June 23 Don Smith	June 30 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of June 13th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 9)

Wednesday Class Amos (Chap. 4-5)

Unified Faith (Eph. 4)

1. The Goal: Unified Faith (v1-6)

- a. God would have us to live as Christians, a way of life we have been called to and have chosen (v1; 2 Thess. 2:14; Phil. 1:27).
- b. Requires the right attitude: humility (v2-3; Rom. 12:18; 1 Cor. 1:10).
- c. Requires the right knowledge; the foundation of unified faith (v4-6).

2. The Means: God's Edifying Revelation (v7-16)

- a. That unified faith is possible because God, by means of spiritual gifts has revealed and confirmed His Word in the first century (v7-11).
- b. The purpose was to fully equip the church in its work (v12).
- c. The timeframe and result was to bring about God's completed revelation (v13-16; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3) so that we as Christians can grow to maturity (v14-16).

3. The Evidence: Your Changed Lives (v17-32)

- a. When the gospel is revealed and faithfully followed, it will reflect in our lives.
- b. No longer walk as we did or as those still given to sin and without hope; spiritually empty and blind (v17-19).
- c. Rather transforming our lives (v20-24; cf. Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:1-2) by the knowledge of the gospel which will be evidenced by great transformations in our conduct (v25-32); because we serve a different master (Rom. 6:17-18).

For a Faith Like Thomas

We often think of Thomas as doubting Thomas and certainly his faith was not always what it should have been, yet even in those times I think we can learn from his faith:

1. A Faith that Would Follow (John 11:6)

- a. Jesus disciples are fearful that if he returns to Judea, He will be killed; but Jesus is going (v6-7, 14-15); Thomas then almost sarcastically says lets go be killed too(v16)!
- b. But notice he was willing to follow even risking his life.
- c. It was the type of faith Peter thought he had but didn't (Matt. 26:34-75); and the type that we should have today (Rev. 2:10).

2. A Faith that Sought Knowledge (John 14:5)

- a. Thomas asks Jesus how they can know the way to go in response to Jesus' statement that He must go (John 14:1-5).
- b. Jesus does not rebuke Him but answers the question (v6-7).
- c. Should we too not desire to grow in knowledge and be willing to ask questions (Heb. 5:12; 2 Tim. 3:7, 2:15; Rom. 10:17)?

3. A Faith that Sought Evidence (John 20:24-29)

- a. The others had seen Jesus resurrected but Thomas had not and refused to believe unless he saw evidence (v20, 24, 25).
- b. But when that that evidence was presented (v28) he accepted it joyfully; he had firsthand knowledge that others would not (v29), but their faith would not be blind.
- c. We too need a faith based on evidence and conviction. (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 11:1; Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4)

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