



# Living By Faith

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

June 20, 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  
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 Smitley .....

### 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.

## Your Beliefs: For God...or the Diversity of the Masses

*By Vendall W. Dollarhide*

There was once a great pianist who was giving a concert in a large concert hall. When he finished the concert, everyone in the place stood up and gave him a standing ovation. Well, almost everyone. There was one old man in the front row that didn't stand, but everyone else was on their feet cheering wildly.

When the pianist walked off the stage, he was crying. His manager asked him what was wrong and he said, "Didn't you see the man in the first row who wasn't standing and wasn't applauding?"

The manager said, "Sure, I saw him. But that was the only person who was not standing and cheering. Why worry about one old man?"

Then the pianist said, "But you don't understand. That man was the composer of the music that I played tonight. He is the only one who counts. He is the only one who knows what the piece is supposed to sound like."

Who do you worship? Who do you follow? Who do you believe in? Who died for you?

Maybe these are some of the questions that we should be asking ourselves before choosing our path and the path for our congregations. It is becoming very apparent that many congregations in the brotherhood are seeking the approval of the masses instead of the one that designed the pattern. Diversity is great until it dictates what truth we should follow and how we should worship our God.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23-24). Our congregations should proclaim the truth that comes from knowing God and His word, not the word or whim of the multitude.

Many hunger for the cheers of the crowd when they actually need to be listening for only the applause of God. If God says, "Well done," it doesn't matter what the rest of the world says about you.

Stand firm in the faith! That is what Paul writes to the Christians at Colosse. Paul states in Col. 1:21-22, "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight" There is a condition to being presented in this holy manner which is found in the next verse: "if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard."

Is Christ's body important to you? Or are you more concerned about the world's "church?" I hope and pray that you answered YES to the first question and NO to the second! Satan is attacking the church for which Jesus died. He isn't attacking us with the weapons that he used on the first century church. He's simply using our egos and our own designated self worth. Our worth doesn't come from building great buildings or becoming "mega" churches. The Christians worth comes from

*(Continued on page 2)*



*My son, let not them depart from thine eyes:  
keep sound wisdom and discretion:  
So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. .*

*Proverbs 3:21-22*

(Continued from page 1)

staying true to God and our only Savior, Jesus Christ We do not need and must not change the body of Christ to make ourselves look more appealing. When we teach the truth and follow the truth, there is no makeover that will improve our appearance. In fact, all that the makeovers are accomplishing is gathering condemnation from the Creator.

**A challenge to consider...** Those of you who were able to make it to Rising Star a few weeks ago to hear Brad Harrub, may have heard him mention that they were challenging Christians to decide to turn off their TVs in the month of July and, instead of polluting our homes with much of what the TV has to offer, use that time to spend reading the Bible, spending time with family, or doing personal work and visits. I have begun receiving more information concerning this challenge which I will share with you over the coming month. This of course is completely optional and voluntary, but I hope you will at least consider it.



Find out how you can participate and make a difference.

[www.Turncampaign.com](http://www.Turncampaign.com)

"If My people who are called by My name will humbly themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."  
- 2 Chronicles 7:14

**Tired of immorality being pushed as entertainment?**

**Join the growing list of faithful Christians who are uniting as one voice to stand up and say "Enough is Enough".**

### 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)

## Helps in Handling Bereavement

by Hardeman Nichols

Since the pale of death pierces every mortal, it is necessary for all of us to learn how to handle bereavement. I have watched with great admiration and respect the courage that has borne many a saint through hours of sorrow. Here is some of the practical advice I have seen others use in dealing with grief:

**Express your emotions.** Since Jesus wept, it should not be considered a Christian virtue to be unmoved by the loss of a loved one. There is a difference between suppressing one's emotion and losing one's self-control. The Bible does not say, "Sorrow not," but it says, "Sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4: 13).

**Seek the aid of your friends.** The very presence of friends is an encouragement. When Paul neared Rome, the brethren came to meet him and he "thanked God, and took courage" (Acts 28:15).

**Compel yourself to be with people.** Your inclination may be to retreat into the refuge of privacy, but there is a greater need than one realizes to associate with others. David did (2 Samuel 12: 19-23).

**Express your feelings in words.** Talking about it will help you to accept it. If this is done at the outset of bereavement, one will sooner be able to stabilize his life.

**Avail yourself of spiritual resources.** Even though you may not have realized the importance of the Scriptures and their comfort, they can help in building your faith (Romans 15:4). The power of prayer and the peace of God are very precious possessions.

**Don't brood over what might have been.** Both Mary and Martha said, "If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (John 11:21,32).

**Actively pursue worthwhile tasks.** Once the initial shock has been dealt with, get busy at other things. Resolve like Paul to reach "forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3: 13).

**Make careful, thoughtful decisions.** Many an individual jumps hastily into deciding the full scope of the future rather than waiting until he has regained a proper perspective of life. Don't get in a hurry (Proverbs 14:15). Make prayerful decisions.

**Increase your trust in God.** Those who have come through their sorrows with a deeper faith can verify that God, who rules over all, truly does make all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).

After the crisis of grief, you can serve more fully and sympathize more completely with men of like passions. With Paul, you too can thank God for the comfort received in knowing that it has now given you the ability to comfort others who are in any trouble.

### Bible Reading Schedule

Sunday... 1 Chron. 20-21; Jn. 20:19-31

Monday... 1 Chronicles 22-23; John 21

Tuesday... 1 Chron. 24-25; Acts 1

Wednesday... 1 Chron. 26-27; Acts 2:1-21

Thursday... 1 Chron. 28-29; Acts 2:22-47

Friday... 2 Chron. 1-3; Acts 3

Saturday... 2 Chron. 4-6; Acts 4:1-22

*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

## Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **TODAY: Vicksburg Devotional** at 3:30; Visitation Program meeting and finger food supper after PM Worship.
- ◆ **June 22—Summer Youth Series** at Park Heights in Hamilton @ 7 PM.
- ◆ **June 29—Summer Youth Series** at Hillcrest in Stephenville at 7PM.
- ◆ **June 30—Normal classes; the 5th Wednesday Singing** will be moved to July 7th while I am away at camp.
- ◆ **July 4—First Sunday Potluck** following AM Worship.
- ◆ **July 4-8: Junior Camp** at Lake Cisco.

### Jack Stultz (1943-2010)

Jack Stultz died Wednesday night after a year of fairly constant surgeries, hospital stays, chemo/radiation treatments, and rehab. But having already had one leg amputated and having suffered from many injuries over the years, Jack was no stranger to difficulties and that is possibly one of the things that impressed most of us. When many others might have given up or felt sorry for themselves, that was not Jack's way—he just kept going. He saw each of the things he faced in life not as burdens pressing down on him, but merely challenges to conquer. I never once heard him ask why these things happened to him, he just made the most of each day.



Jack was a hard worker whether driving trucks or working as a manager on golf courses and in fact continued to work until last fall when he was no longer physically able to do so. Among his loves in life were playing golf, reading, visiting with friends, and spending time with his family.

Of course the greatest memory that I keep of Jack is of our Bible studies together. I began studying with him last August I believe and what immediately impressed me was his desire to learn more about God and His Word, not just allowing the studies to continue but eagerly anticipating them like no one I have seen before. He studied on his own in addition to our studies and made the greatest decision of his life this past September when he was baptized for the remission of sins and added to the church; it was truly a day of joy for him and his family. Because of his faithful obedience to the gospel, we can have the comfort in knowing that Jack is at rest:

*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain... (Revelation 21:4)*

### Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **31 contacts** were made. Also remember that this is the **3rd Sunday** and so we plan on having a **finger food supper** following the meeting. Hope you can join us.

### Thank You

- ◆ **Dorothy Graves** wanted everyone to know how much she appreciated all of the cards, notes, and everything else that made her birthday special.
- ◆ **Peggy Chism** wanted to thank everyone for their concern, visits, cards, calls, and prayers following her surgery and during rehab.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**June Birthdays:** Hannah Smitley (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	June 6, 2010	June 13, 2010
Bible Class		55	49
AM Worship		72	70
PM Worship		60	41
Wednesday PM		50	46
Contribution		\$1688	\$1292

Privileged to Serve	06/20/10 - AM	06/20/10 - PM	06/27/10 - AM	06/27/10 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Cindy & James Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		Michael Bickford Ephesians 6:1-4		James Fuller
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Don Smith
<b>Wait on Table</b>	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore	Ken Makuta*, Gene Bannister Allen Griffith, Matthew Churchwell	Ken Makuta
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	James Thomas	Jim Moore
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	June 23 Jim Moore	June 23 Don Smith	June 30 James Fuller	July 7 Ken Makuta

**Studies For The Week of June 20th:**

Sunday Class .....1 Corinthians (Chap. 9-10)

Wednesday Class .....Amos (Chap. 5-6)

**Unified Walk (Eph. 5-6:9)**

**1. Walk in Love, as Imitators of God (v5:1-7)**

- a. As God's children (Eph. 1:5) we are to imitate Him; and His Son which is our example (Phil. 2:5-7) by walking in love, a part of God's nature (1 John 4:8).
- b. This stands in contrast to the ways of the world which must not characterize the Christian (v3-7).

**2. Walk in Light (5:8-14)**

- a. You were in darkness and death but are now in light and such is to be reflected in your lives (cf. 1 John 1:5,7; John 8:12).
- b. Doing so produces the fruit of the Spirit and proves to us that God's way is best.

**3. Walk Circumspectly (5:15-6:9)**

- a. Walk carefully, with diligent attention as to what we are doing and where we are going.
- b. Requires making good use of our time and opportunities, understanding the will of God by learning and applying it to our lives, and filling ourselves with the Spirit, or His instructions. (cf. Matt. 7:24-25; Col. 3:16-17)
- c. When we do this, we encourage one another as we sing praises to God (v19), we will give thanks to God for all things (v20), and we will be careful in our relationships one to another (v21).
- d. Specifically we will guard our relationships as husband and wife (5:22-33), as parent and child (6:1-4), and as master and servant (6:5-9).

**Job as a Father**

Job is a great example of faithfulness and patience (James 5:11); but those characteristics also make him stand out as a father.

**1. Job Loved His Children.**

- a. They are listed before his possessions (1:2) and are the last to be harmed (1:18-20); indicates his great love for them.
- b. We too should love our children (Ps. 127:3-5) that includes an appreciation for them but also an understanding of the responsibility that we have towards them.
- c. To love them we are going to correct them and try to guide them in ways that are right and beneficial – such takes time and concern (Prov. 29:15, 13:24; Heb. 12:7-13; Prov. 22:6).

**2. Job Cared For The Spiritual Interests Of His Children.**

- a. Offers sacrifices as the patriarch of the family (1:4-5).
- b. We must still have our children's spiritual interests foremost in our actions/decisions so that we can teach them to be faithful to God as they grow to maturity (Ps. 127:1; Gen. 18:19; Eph. 6:4).

**3. Job Gave His Children A Good Example To Follow.**

- a. Job is well thought of, even by God Himself (1:1, 8).
- b. This gift was greater than any other physical thing Job could ever pass on to his descendants.
- c. See many examples for good and bad both in Bible, history, and life (Jesus – 1 Pet. 2:22, Phil 2:5; Paul and other faithful – Phil. 3:17; and David as well as Jezebel, Ahab, and Judas); question is what type of example will we be? (Phil. 2:15-16)

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

Return Service Requested