



Living By Faith

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

July 4, 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
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.

Elohim by Bill Burk

The majestic opening words of the Hebrew Scriptures remind us of the One who made all things. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). The Hebrew word translated "God" in Genesis 1:1 is "Elohim". The word itself comes from the root "El" which was used by the Canannites to describe any god as a "Strong One." The Israelites are the only ones who used the form "Elohim." This phrase was not used to describe any god but the One true God of heaven. The term itself is masculine and plural in form. While not allowing for more than one God (cf. Deut. 6:4-5), it does provide room for the concept of three persons composing one Divine Nature of Godhead (cf. Rom. 1:20). One source states that Elohim is found more 2,500 times in the Old Testament and some 32 times in Genesis chapter one alone.

The meaning of Elohim contains such concepts as sovereignty, authority and powerful creativity. Therefore, Elohim, the God of heaven and earth, with supreme strength and ability fashioned all that we see and know. He does with it as He wishes and He rules forever (Psa. 66:7). The same Strong One who made the worlds also fashioned a plan for the salvation of mankind (Acts 2:22-24, 37-38, 41). He can create, form and fashion whatever as He wills. Nothing is impossible with Him (Luke 1:35).

One of the interesting thoughts concerning Elohim is Jesus' use of it in the Aramaic. Shortly before the Lord would be arrested, put through a mockery of a trial, beaten and crucified, He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Mat. 26:39). He would repeat the same idea later as He continued to pray (Mat. 26:42). In His humanity the Lord seemed to hope that perhaps Elohim, the powerful Creator, could fashion some other plan. However, the plan that was in place before the beginning of time was the only design. As Jesus hung upon the cross He cried out, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mat. 27:46). "Eli" is tied to "El" or the root for Elohim in the Hebrew. Jesus seems to be asking how the God who can do all things, create anything, rules over everything and possesses all power and authority would not provide Him some other way and forsake Him at His most distressful hour. Thankfully, we know the rest of the story and the same Father that allowed His Son to bear the sins of us all rescued Him from the grave and exalted Him at His right hand.

What should the name "Elohim" mean to us as it relates to our personal lives?

1. Elohim, as the Sovereign King should rule over our lives (Mat. 6:24).
2. Elohim, the creative, powerful God still works in the lives of His people so rejoice (Mat. 6:33).
3. Elohim powerfully created us for His glory that we might one day be glorified with Him (Isa. 43:7; Col. 3:4). Therefore let us glorify God in all that we do (1 Cor. 10:31).
4. Elohim, being who He is, can be trusted. Even when things look dark and hopeless, nothing is impossible with Him; so trust Him (Pro. 3:5-6).



*"Be not afraid of sudden fear,
neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.
For the LORD shall be thy confidence,
and shall keep thy foot from being taken."*

Proverbs 3:25-26

Ask cancer patients what they dislike most about their cancer treatments and you will receive a variety of strong responses. Many hate the physical sickness that results. Others wish for more energy and stamina, while the loss of hair is paramount to some. But each of these individuals knows that he must endure this rough period in order to get well. These patients are in essence waging war on the cancer cells growing within their bodies. The time has come for modern-day Christians to take our medicine. We may not like it—in fact, we may downright hate it at first—but if we truly want to rip our children away from Satan’s hands and build up the spiritual health of our family and our church family, then we must wage war.

Almost 2000 years ago as the apostle Paul was encouraging Titus, he admonished, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13). His words are still very valid today. There is not a switch you can flip. There is no drink or potion you can buy. There isn’t even a CliffsNotes version. If you want your children to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age then we must do the hard work of getting rid of the ungodly and worldly lusts. Culture is religion externalized—who is really being worshipped in the culture of your home?

People oftentimes want to do “good” but they just aren’t sure what to do. Well again, allow me to land the plane. Take the next seven days and rid

Spiritual Chemotherapy: Waging War

By Brad Harrub

your house of ungodly material. Throw out the DVDs that Christians should not watch—selling them would just put the ungodly material into the hands of someone else. Toss the books that contain bad language or inappropriate relationships. Block out television stations that promote ungodly programming, or turn off the television permanently. (If you need help deciding which shows or networks should be cut, try placing Paul’s words to the church at Philippi on a card above your television set: “Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy think on these things” [Philippians 4:8]). Erase internet bookmarks from sites that are not spiritually healthy. The point here being Christians need to shed the lethargy and apathy that have shackled us for dec-

ades and actually do something—for Him.

Next go through your closet and the closet of your children and get rid of immodest, tight-fitting, or inappropriate clothing. Inspect the video games your children or grandchildren are playing and destroy those that are for mature audiences or have ungodly material on them. Spend a few hours reviewing what music you listen to or your children have downloaded; get rid of any that use bad words or inappropriate material. Satan has waged war on our children through media—now it’s our turn to wage war on him! After seven days of thoroughly ridding your house of ungodly material I encourage you to post a sign letting Satan and visitors know, “But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Once you have removed ungodly material I would strongly recommend you purchasing a few items to a barricade a fortress around your house—a hedge of protection—to keep Satan away. Home computers should have a great Internet filter on them (such as Bsecure—formerly Bsafe), and these are available for about \$50. Televisions should be equipped with a language filter such as TVGuardian. These are available for \$120-150 depending on whether you purchase a high-definition model. I would also recommend a DVD player that has a filter built in (e.g., Clearplay) that will catch language and adult themes that the TVGuardian does not filter. While many may be seeing nothing but dollar signs, I would contend that this is a small price to pay when considering eternity. As I mentioned, this first step may be hard and may cause you pains and frustration—but isn’t eternity worth it?!



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 Chron. 26-28; Acts 8:1-25
 - Monday... 2 Chron. 29-30; Acts 8:26-40
 - Tuesday... 2 Chron. 31-32; Acts 9:1-22
 - Wednesday... 2 Chron. 33-34; Acts 9:23-43
 - Thursday... 2 Chron. 35-36; Acts 10:1-23
 - Friday... Ezra 1-3; Acts 10:24-48
 - Saturday... Ezra 4-6; Acts 11
- 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

Where Do Mistakes Go When You Rub Them Out?

The title of this article was the caption under a picture in a comic strip. The scene depicts a young girl sitting at her desk with a pencil in hand. She had made a mistake in the spelling of a word and had erased it. At this point she asked her teacher, "Where do mistakes go when you rub them out?"

(That is a very good question to be considered.)

As I read the cartoon, my thoughts turned to the mistakes we all make in life. Some mistakes are not sinful, but all our sins are mistakes. Sin is a transgression of God's law; sin is unrighteousness; sin is a failure to comply with the commands of God, (I John 3:4; 5: 17; James 4: 17). Sin is universal in scope: *"There is none righteous, no, not one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:10, 23). When a person complies with the terms of pardon presented by Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins can be obtained. *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Ephesians 1:1).

When sin appears as a debt, an unfilled obligation, then pardon is described as a cancellation. *"I, even, I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins (Isaiah 43:25). "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).* Jesus cancelled our debt of sin on Calvary when he shed His atoning blood for us. The first stanza and chorus of the hymn, *"He Paid a Debt He Did Not Owe"* greatly emphasizes this truth:

*He paid a debt He did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay.
I needed someone to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song: Amazing Grace.
Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.*

*By Raymond Eniott (edited)
Church of Christ, Poplar Bluff, MO*

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **19 contacts** were made.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **Today: First Sunday Potluck** following AM Worship.
- ◆ **July 4-8: Junior Camp** at Lake Cisco.
- ◆ **July 7:** Rescheduled 5th Wednesday Singing.
- ◆ **July 13: Summer Youth Series** at DeLeon at 7 PM.



Have a wonderful and safe 4th of July weekend and remember to thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in this nation and pray that those freedoms might continue.

...yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

Psalm 144:15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

July Birthdays: Jason Warman (06), Mariah Martinez (08), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Steven Martinez (15), Diana Bickford (16), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: Diana & Michael Bickford (26), Priscilla & Ryan Smithey (26).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	June 20, 2010	June 27, 2010
Bible Class	48	63
AM Worship	69	80
PM Worship	41	51
Wednesday PM	52	41
Contribution	\$1722	\$1485

Privileged to Serve	07/04/10 - AM	07/04/10 - PM	07/11/10 - AM	07/11/10 - PM
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kalich	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum 1 Peter 1:22-25		Michael Fuller
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	July 7 James Fuller	July 14 Ken Makuta	July 21 Michael Bickford	July 28 Allen Griffith

Studies For The Week of July 4th:

Sunday Class.....1 Corinthians (Chap. 10-11)

Wednesday Class Singing

<p align="center">Liberty In Christ (Romans 6)</p> <p><i>Our nation celebrates our independence today from an oppressive government that was thrown off to submit to a new government for the people—this is similar to the liberty we enjoy as Christians, but our liberty is much more valuable (John 8:31-36).</i></p> <p>1. Dead to Sin; Alive unto God (v1-11).</p> <p>a. We are to cease from lives of sin (v1-2; 1Cor. 6:11).</p> <p>b. Baptism represents a death to sin even as Christ died we are to crucify the old man of sin (v3-7).</p> <p>c. But as Christ was resurrected, so are we to walk in newness of life (v8-10; 1 Cor. 15:55-57).</p> <p>2. Servant of God, Not Sin (v12-19).</p> <p>a. We have to make a decision that I will no longer serve sin (v12).</p> <p>b. But we don't just put off service to sin, we put on service to God, we are followers of a new law, the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25).</p> <p>c. You will serve one or the other, who will it be?</p> <p>3. Reaper of Life, Not Death (v20-23).</p> <p>a. The decision you make will be what you reap (Gal. 6:7).</p> <p>b. You can serve sin which only produces death (v20-21).</p> <p>c. Or you can serve the easy yoke (Matt. 11:28-30) God which produces a life of holiness and reaps eternal life (v22-23; 1 Pet. 1:14-16).</p>	<p align="center">Sunday PM: Tom Wilcox Preaching</p> <p>I again want to thank the congregation for their support of the Bangs sessions of the Lake Cisco Christian Camp each summer; I truly do not believe that the rewards of this effort will ever be known on this side of eternity. Thank you for your financial support that you provide each year as the elders have once again approved contributions towards this effort. Thank you for your prayerful support throughout the year and I ask that those prayers especially continue this coming week for the safety, fun, and certainly the spiritual growth of all involved. And thank you for your physical support, those who are able to work at the camp and for allowing my family the time to go and work at each of the two sessions. While it is tiring work, we greatly enjoy it and can only hope that it is beneficial to the kids that get to go.</p> <p>This year I am again serving as a counselor as well as a Bible class instructor at this week's session, as such I will not be here tonight or Wednesday night. I thank Tom for being willing to preach for me tonight and Mike for conducting the singing session Wednesday night. We look forward to being with you all once again next week.</p> <p align="center"><i>Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: 2 Thessalonians 3:1</i></p>
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Return Service Requested