



# Living By Faith

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

July 11, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
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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  
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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.

## Taking a Vacation from God

By Jason Hilburn

It seems that most people go on some sort of vacation at least once per year. Many feel the need to “get away from it all.” This writer wonders if there are some who go on vacation to try to “get away from God” or their brothers and sisters in Christ. They may have the idea that if they are in a place where nobody knows who they are, they can “get away” with committing sin. Jonah thought he could run away from God and his responsibilities to Him, but he had to learn the hard way that he could not escape from God or his responsibilities to be faithful! (Jonah 1:1-4). This writer asks, “Are we Christians when we go on vacation, or is Christianity just something we do when we are ‘in town’?”

**Do we skip services of the Lord’s church when we are on vacation?** Are we thankful enough for God’s Sacrifice that we will assemble with the saints when they assemble to glorify Him? (Hebrews 10:25). Do we love and appreciate the Christian fellowship we can have with people from all over the world who “...have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”? (2 Peter 1:1; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:2). Is it too “grievous” for us to take a few hours out of our vacation week and give those hours to God? “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). When the Ethiopian eunuch was on a long trip, he read his “Bible”! (Acts 8:27ff). Perhaps no Christian in the first century traveled more than the apostle Paul (Romans 15:19, 24-26). Can you imagine the Lord’s Day coming around and Paul thinking, “Well, I don’t really feel like going to services today; I think I’ll go to the beach”? Unless he was in prison, we know what Paul was doing on the first day of every week—he was gathering with the saints:

*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight (Acts 20:7).*

Later on, as Paul was nearing the end of his life, he expressed total confidence in his salvation (2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8). The reason he had such confidence was because he knew he had been faithful to God, no matter what his geographic location had been! (1 John 2:3-5). Let us follow Paul’s example of faithfulness, as he followed Christ, and we can have that same confidence (1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 10:23).

**Do we dress immodestly when we are on vacation?** Why do many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have the idea that it is appropriate to commit this sin in certain settings? If one goes to the beach, does that make it acceptable to violate 1 Timothy 2:9? “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety...” (1 Timothy 2:9). What happens to that shamefacedness (bashfulness) that should be possessed at all times? Would you wear that bikini to the grocery store, or to Bible class? If not, why not? Where have we gotten this idea that it is OK to “show off our bodies” if we are in a certain setting, such as by the poolside or at the beach? The answer is this: That idea came from the world—

*(Continued on page 3)*



*“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.”*

*Proverbs 3:27-28*

The modern prescription that many follow in order to “fulfill” their religious duties is to meet once or twice a week at a church building. Satan has successfully erected these mental road signs that attending worship and a Bible class is sufficient for the spiritual health of the next generation. Friends, that is not getting the job done! Parents continue to blindly march down the same road believing they have done enough. All the while, our young people continue marching out the back door of the church to embrace the world as Satan chalks up another win for his war. Our Christian religion has been sterilized down to three hours per week rather than a life of servanthood for Him.

Why would I say that Satan has our children in his hands? Consider the following study we recently conducted at Focus Press. The first was an anonymous study conducted on Facebook with 300 young people (the vast majority of whom identify themselves as New Testament Christians). In this research, 39% of the teens admitted to having viewed pornography online in recent months. That’s more than 1 out of every 3! Understand this question did not ask how many had ever viewed Internet pornography, as that number would likely be double. We were simply asking how many had viewed this sinful material recently. If 39% of our children admitted that they had viewed pornography recently, one can only wonder what the real num-

## The Facts: Numbers Don’t Lie!

By Brad Harrub

ber must be—and how many adults are viewing explicit material!

Also, 38% admitted to having cheated in school in the past few weeks. Parents may at first glance not consider this a big deal, but one wonders what type of ethical standard are we establishing for our young people? Are we rearing a generation of individuals who have bought into the lie of situational ethics—that right is not always right and wrong is not always wrong?

The curtain was pulled back on teens’ ethical standard in the next question. We asked how many believed that euthanasia—intentionally putting someone to death—was acceptable. For this question, 52% responded that they believed it would be acceptable to end someone’s life. This should send chills up the spines of parents who realize these are the

same children who will one day make surrogate decisions for their parents’ medical care.

Again let me remind you these are our children—young people who have been baptized in the church. And yet, 36% of them believe that homosexuality is just an alternative lifestyle. Have we totally missed instilling in our children what Almighty God views as an abomination? Even more surprising was that 43% indicated homosexuals should have the right to marry! The homosexual agenda has done a far better job at teaching our children tolerance than we have done at teaching them the Truth. You think the battle over same-sex marriage is over? If this is the view of Christian young people, consider where our society will be in 10-15 years when this generation begins voting and taking public office. Now, consider the direction the church is moving toward as these same individuals become deacons and elders in just a few short years.

The question that shocked us to the core was on the topic of abortion. We had assumed that within the church (and at home) Christian parents had done a fairly decent job on teaching about the sanctity of life and the fact that we were made in the image and likeness of God. And yet, 35% of our children believe abortion should be legal. Friends, society has waged a war on our children! It’s time parents and leaders recognize that our children’s souls are at stake—and act on 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...Ezra 7-8; Acts 12

Monday...Ezra 9-10; Acts 13:1-31

Tuesday...Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 13:32-52

Wednesday...Nehemiah 4-5; Acts 14

Thursday...Nehemiah 6-7; Acts 15:1-21

Friday...Nehemiah 8-9; Acts 15:22-41

Saturday...Nehemiah 10-11; Acts 16:1-15

*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

## *New Spiritual Sword*

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received in this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. The theme is “**A Handy Guide To Biblical Morality.**” Make sure you pick one up and study it with an open Bible. Then keep it for reference or pass it along for someone else to study!



*(Continued from page 1)*

it is worldliness affecting the Lord’s church (James 1:27; 4:4). Our bodies should be living sacrifices, not living spectacles!

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2).*

**Do we drink alcohol and “party” like worldly people when we are on vacation?** Perhaps brethren think they can get away with such actions if they are out of town, but they are still sinning against God:

*...he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead (1 Peter 4:2-5 NKJV; cf. Galatians 5:19-21; Proverbs 23:31-32; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:7-9, etc.).*

It has been said that “character is who you are when nobody is looking.” However, God is always looking! “*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do*” (Hebrews 4:13; cf. Ecc. 12:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10). When we are on vacation, do we think we are on vacation from God? We may be tempted to do many kinds of sinful things when on vacation, but let us be faithful to our Heavenly Father, whether we are on vacation or not!

### **Visitation Program**

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services.** Last week **26 contacts** were made. Remember too that next Sunday will be the 3rd Sunday and time for our finger-food fellowship meal once again following the evening worship.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- ◆ **July 13: Summer Youth Series** at DeLeon at 7 PM.
- ◆ **July 18: Vicksburg Devotional** at 3:30 PM; Evening fellowship meal following the visitation meeting.
- ◆ **July 18-23: Sr. Camp at Lake Cisco.**
- ◆ **July 20: No Summer Youth Series.**

### **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 27, 2010	July 04, 2010
Bible Class		63	53
AM Worship		80	86
PM Worship		51	43
Wednesday PM		41	41
Contribution		\$1485	\$1535

Privileged to Serve	07/11/10 - AM	07/11/10 - PM	07/18/10 - AM	07/18/10 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kalich		John & Tina Barnum	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Fuller Matthew 6:19-21		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism	Paul McClung	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Ken Maninger
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	July 14 Michael Bickford	July 21 Ken Makuta	July 28 Allen Griffith	August 4 Jim Moore

**Studies For The Week of July 11th:**

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

Wednesday Class .....Amos (Chap. 7-8)

<b>Things That Must Be Open For Conversion (Acts 8:26-40)</b>	<b>Things that Are Precious</b>
<p><b>1. Open Bible (v28).</b></p> <p>a. We must allow God's Word to tell us what to do (2 Tim. 3:14-15; Jer. 10:23).</p> <p>b. It is able to save and build us up (Romans 1:16; James 1:21; Acts 20:32).</p> <p><b>2. Open Mind (v31-34).</b></p> <p>a. Willing to ask questions and study; admit he needs help (Acts 2:37, 16:30; 2 Tim. 2:15).</p> <p>b. He also was willing to allow the Word of God to answer (Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:11).</p> <p><b>3. Open Mouth (v35).</b></p> <p>a. Philip was ready to teach him and explain the scriptures (1 Pet. 3:15; Acts 8:4; Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 4:16).</p> <p>b. Not ashamed of the message (Rom. 1:16; Matt. 10:32; Acts 20:27).</p> <p><b>4. Open Ears/Eyes (v36-40).</b></p> <p>a. Unlike many that refused to hear; the Ethiopian heard and applied the scriptures to himself (Matt. 13:14-16).</p> <p>b. We must be willing to apply God's Word to our own lives (James 1:22-27).</p> <p>c. He saw what was needed to obey the gospel and did not hesitate!</p>	<p><b>1. Tested Faith (1 Peter 1:7)</b></p> <p>a. Yes even the trials we endure are precious for they strengthen our faith (Job 23:10; James 1:2-3)</p> <p>b. Such should be expected in the life of the Christian (Mark 10:21-22; Luke 9:23; 2 Tim. 3:12).</p> <p>c. One that will endure (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; Rev. 2:10).</p> <p><b>2. Blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19)</b></p> <p>a. Perfect even as the sacrificial lamb was to be (Ex. 12:5-7; John 1:29; 1 Pet. 2:22, 24).</p> <p>b. We must contact that blood that washes our sins away (Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; John 19:34; 1 John 1:7).</p> <p><b>3. Foundation (1 Peter 2:6-8/Isa. 28:16)</b></p> <p>a. Cornerstone of our faith, Jesus Christ (Acts 4:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:9-11)</p> <p>b. The wise will set Him as their foundation (Matt. 7:24-27)</p> <p><b>4. Christian Faith (2 Peter 1:1)</b></p> <p>a. The One Faith (Eph. 4:4; Jude 3) that comes from listening to the Word of God (John 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17) and promises great rewards (Col. 1:21-23; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).</p> <p>b. Must be an active faith (Heb. 11; James 2:17).</p> <p><b>5. God's Promises (2 Peter 1:2-4)</b></p> <p>a. One that will <b>do</b> God's Word <b>will</b> be blessed (James 1:25).</p> <p>b. His promises never fail, He is faithful (Josh. 23:14; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:9, 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:20).</p>

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Return Service Requested