



Living By Faith

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

July 18, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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.

CONFEDERATE MONEY

By Westley Hazel

During the Civil War, the Confederacy printed its own money. As the war raged on, this currency became less and less valuable. At one point a single bar of soap cost as much as \$50. By the end of the war, this money became worthless and good for little more than starting fires. Imagine for a moment that you are living during the Civil War. Although you are from the North, you are living in the South and have been able to accumulate a sizeable amount of Confederate money. Upon the end of the war, you intend to return to the North. You also happen to have inside information that the war could end any day and you know for a fact that the South is going to lose. What will you do with your Confederate money?

While this may seem like a strange question to ask 150 years removed from the end of the Confederacy, it is completely appropriate to help us properly understand the nature of our possessions. Every dime we possess is nothing more than Confederate money. It is useful today and may even provide us with a temporary sense of security, but a day is coming when it will be worthless. Imagine, someday a stack of one hundred dollar bills will be absolutely worthless. Jesus warns in Matthew 6:19, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." What once was a fine set of clothes is now nothing more than rags. What was once a shiny new automobile that filled its owner with pride is now nothing more than a pile of rust that sits in a field with a tree growing inside. This change to worthlessness happens over time, but it also happens in an instant I have preached many funerals for rich men. As you stand beside their graves, you can't help but come face to face with the reality that all their money means nothing today. There is coming a time when the material things of this world will cease to even exist, but our souls will live on (2 Peter 3:10-11). What will we do with our Confederate money?

Knowing about this impending worthlessness, we have the opportunity to send our treasure ahead of us. If I plan to return to the North and I know that all of these Confederate dollars are soon to be worthless, the first thing I will do is trade as much of it as I possibly can for U.S. dollars. That is exactly what Jesus advised us to do in regard to handling our soon-to-be-worthless possessions. He said in Matthew 6:20, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal." How do we lay up treasure in Heaven? By taking our possessions and using them for God's glory in the midst of this spiritual war that rages around us. We should be giving liberally to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8-9), helping those who are in need (Matthew 25:35-40), sacrificing for fellow Christians (Acts 4:34-35), supporting mission efforts (Philippians 4:18), and looking for ways that we can honor God with the possessions with which He has blessed us (Matthew 25:14-30). When we do those things, it will cost us some of our Confederate money, but we will only be trading it for

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*"Devise not evil against thy neighbour,
seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.
Strive not with a man without cause,
if he have done thee no harm."*

Proverbs 3:29-30

For at least three decades, Christians have been hoping the problem will silently fix itself. We have built sizeable buildings, paid youth ministers, sent foreign missionaries, and funded a veritable miasma [*unwholesome atmosphere-RTS*] of programs—all the while knowing in the back of our minds that there is a deadly “cancer” that is rapidly claiming thousands of souls. Insanity has been defined as “doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result,” and yet, we continue doing the same thing silently, praying for a different result. I am convinced that the time has come to not only dissect and expose the problem but to eradicate it permanently.

During the historical period in which God delivered the Israelites through the hand of Moses, the Egyptians feared massive population of the children of Israel. God’s hand had carried this dynasty from seventy (Genesis 46:27) to what has been estimated to be two million out of Egypt. Just prior to the introduction to Moses we discover an evil plot to wage war on the sons. The king of Egypt ordered the Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son then you shall kill him but if it a daughter, then she shall live” (Exodus 1:16). They wanted to stop the increase and threat of the Israelites. Sim-

Society Has Waged War On Our Children

By Brad Harrub

ply put, darkness does not like the light—and will go to great lengths to make sure the light is extinguished in each community. While modern Christian children are not being physically killed at birth, our society is performing a greater travesty—they are killing our children spiritually.

The simple truth of this will trouble or offend individuals who may currently be “comfortable” in their Christian walk. Others will nod in agreement once the problem is uncovered, but will find the remedy too inconvenient for their lifestyles. The problem is not a pretty one and will take an active, conscientious effort to correct. It is going to require individuals to think “outside the box” and realize what is truly at stake. Bear in mind that we have known about this issue for at least two generations, but the treat-

ment is often considered too costly. Will our generation finally address the problem, or will we continue dumbly like lambs to the slaughter?

I often admonish preaching students in their classroom presentations to stop “circling the runway and just land the plane.” While we should always strive to teach the “truth in love” and deliver messages tactfully, I am afraid that in many cases the truth has been so watered down that listeners cannot detect the real message. Or in other cases preachers wait so long to “land the plane” that they have effectively lost their audience before the point is communicated.

Please allow me to land the plane. Satan has our children in his hands and we are doing very little about it. Society has waged war on our children and is currently winning the battle. We hear lessons on being sober and vigilant “because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8), and yet deep-down we believe that verse was written for other people—not our children. I fully recognize the knee-jerk reaction is to say “Not my children,” or to accuse me of wrongly judging your family. Have you considered lately what your children are putting into their hearts and minds? Have you looked around the auditoriums of many church buildings and noticed the departure of the younger generation? When will we address the problem and be Christian in word and deed! Isn’t it time we admit there is a problem, and address 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...Neh. 12-13; Acts 16:14-40
 Monday...Esther 1-3; Acts 17:1-15
 Tuesday...Esther 4-6; Acts 17:16-34
 Wednesday..Esther 7-10; Acts 18
 Thursday...Job 1-3; Acts 19:1-20
 Friday...Job 4-6; Acts 19:21-41
 Saturday...Job 7-8; Acts 20:1-16
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

(Continued from page 1)

heavenly treasures that will never lose their value. Jim Elliot once said, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." What are we going to do with our Confederate money?

I have a financial advisor who handles investments and things of that nature. He constantly stresses the importance of thinking long term. Mutual funds are great investments if you are not going to need the money for 10 years. It would not be very smart to invest if you are going to need them next week. In regards to all of our possessions, we need to think long term-not ten or twenty years from now, but into eternity. Will our possessions be nothing more than a pile of rust that stands as a witness of condemnation against our souls because we "have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure?" (James 5:1-6, NASB). Or will our possessions be a witness of righteousness that goes before us and awaits us in Heaven above? It all depends on what we do with our Confederate money.

THINK Magazine: Focus Press, Inc.; Brentwood, TX; July 2010

Tater People

Some people never are motivated to participate. — They are called "Spec Taters."

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. — They are called "Comment Taters."

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. — They are called "Dick Taters."

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. — They are called "Agie Taters."

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to doing the promised help. — They are called "Hezzie Taters."

Some people put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. — They are called "Emma Taters."

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine to the lives of others.

— They are called "Sweet Taters."

-Ed Williams, Lenoir City, TN.

Thank You

Look for new thank you cards from Charlie & Debbie Perkins as well as Kathy Burcham.

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **25 contacts** were made. Remember too that following our evening worship we will have our 3rd Sunday finger-food fellowship meal.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **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	July 04, 2010	July 11, 2010
Bible Class	53	61
AM Worship	86	82
PM Worship	43	46
Wednesday PM	41	48
Contribution	\$1535	\$1656

Privileged to Serve	07/18/10 - AM	07/18/10 - PM	07/25/10 - AM	07/25/10 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford 1 John 2:1-5		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Paul McClung	Allen Griffith	James Thomas	Matthew Churchwell
Wait on Table	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	July 21 Ken Makuta	July 28 Allen Griffith	August 4 Jim Moore	August 11 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of July 18th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 11)

Wednesday Class *Truth Be Told (DVD)*

Lessons Learned Too Late (Luke 16:19-31)

*The rich man learned some lessons too late to benefit him;
don't let the same happen to you.*

1. Death is Certain.

- a. It comes to all (Eccl. 12:7, James 4:14, Heb. 9:27).
- b. Neither riches nor poverty would matter at this point (Lk. 12:15, 1 Tim. 6:7).

2. Judgment is Final.

- a. Each passed to their reward based on their lives (2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 6:19-21). Lazarus to reward (2 Thess. 1:7, Rev. 21:4); the rich man to torment (Matt. 25:30, 41; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- b. They were in a set state, neither could change after life, and each state was just as long (Eccl. 9:6, 10; Matt. 25:46).

3. Eternity is Revealing.

- a. Revealed the value of the soul; the rich man suddenly becomes interested in the lost and desires their salvation (Mark. 8:34-37; Luke 15:7, 10, 32, James 5:20).
- b. Revealed the importance of following God; the living have everything they need to know and follow God (Rom. 1:20; John 20:30-31; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- c. What will we that are living do (Matt. 7:24, 21)?

Notes: _____

PM: James Fuller, Preaching

Another group of kids and staff will be off to camp following the morning worship today. This is the second week of camp that the congregation at Bangs oversees and the congregation here helps supports. Please keep all of those involved in your prayers. I have not heard an official count but I believe it will be close to 120 kids and 40 or so staff involved this time. I also thank you again for allowing me the time to go and participate. I will be serving as a counselor in a cabin and will be teaching the 12th grade class in the afternoons. Special thanks as well to **Jim & Peg Moore, Allen & Linda Griffith, and Priscilla Smithey** who labor diligently each day in the kitchen and snack areas to keep us all going and also to **James Fuller** for being willing to preach for me tonight.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
Ephesians 6:17-20

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Return Service Requested