



Living By Faith

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

July 25, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
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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
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.

Over 120 Respond to the Gospel!

God promised long ago during time of Isaiah the prophet:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so **shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it**” (Isaiah 55:10-11, ESV).

Such was once again shown to be true this past week at the Bangs senior session of Lake Cisco Christian camp composed of eighth through twelfth grade boys and girls. Each day was filled with great fun, activities, food, and most importantly Bible study. The young people were led in morning and evening devotionals; a morning class studying great Biblical examples (Jesus, Abraham, Daniel, Joshua, and Paul); a second morning class studying dating; an afternoon class studying errors they will face (humanism, subjectivism, extremism, materialism, and racism); as well as an evening period of singing and worship. I can confidently say that the word of God was proclaimed and it challenged all who were privileged to attend these sessions and indeed it did not come back empty.

Over 120 precious young souls were present at camp this week along with about 40 staff members each of whom had the opportunity to learn more about God and His Word, “which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32). All were challenged to consider their spiritual condition before God and charged to continue in their study and application of God’s Word to their lives. We had wonderful responses and participation in all of the classes and worship times. It would be impossible to know how many lives will be affected by the work done this past week. Likewise, it is impossible to know how many made private decisions to study further concerning their spiritual condition, to be more faithful in the challenges they face, to be a better example to others around them, and be more Christ-like in all that they do.

There are times that I am asked concerning the success of a camp or other such effort along the lines of how many obeyed the gospel; while I believe such responses are certainly important, I am reminded that that is not the only measure of success. Knowing that God’s Word was studied and faithfully proclaimed, I can confidently say that any such effort is a great success and 120 plus young people were challenged by the gospel and 120 plus young people made a response to either ignore it and be condemned by the gospel, obey it and be saved by the gospel, or—for those still in innocence—study more to one day obey the gospel. However, I rejoice that there were those who desired to obey the gospel and those who wanted to be restored to a faithful relationship with God. **In total I believe there were 17 that were baptized into Christ and 18 that were restored!** We along with the angels in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10, 32) had much to rejoice over! Of particular interest to the congregation here, **Caitlin Barnum** made the decision to be baptized on Wednesday night as did **Conner Vara**, a friend of Garrett Barnum’s who has visited here frequently, on Thursday

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“Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence.”

Proverbs 3:31-32

Modern technology has provided some wonderful tools by which God's people all over the world present the glorious Gospel to the lost. Included in this technology is television. While it has been around much longer than other methods of communication (Internet, etc.), it still provides great opportunities for reaching out to the lost. A number of sound and faithful programs are aired on a regular basis, both nationally and locally, to accomplish the goal of evangelism. We should be very thankful for such technology and for faithful Christians who are willing and able to use it to the glory of God.

However, Satan has been and continues to be very effective in the use of the same technology. How often do you hear someone suggest that there is nothing worth watching on television? Such is a fairly accurate assessment of the situation. We should be very concerned about the influence, both good and bad, of television on Americans in general. But, perhaps even to a greater extent, we should be concerned about its influence on us. Let us note some of the areas of influence that television is having.

Television and Violence

Unfortunately, much of what is seen on television today includes violence, much of it extreme. When one considers that the average person, including young people, watches television 3-4 hours daily (about 25 hours weekly), one must also recognize the powerful influence that it has in the development of our values and behavior. In studies conducted by various groups, violence can have a variety of effects, including (1) becoming immune or numb to the horror of violence, (2) gradually accepting violence as a way to solve problems, (3) imitating the violence that is observed, (4) identifying with certain characters,

Television: The Power of Persuasion

By Sidney White

victims and/or victimizers, and (5) increasing aggressiveness. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has contributed much to such studies.

At the same time, several suggestions are made as to how parents can handle this situation within the home. (1) Pay close attention to the programs children watch. Television should not be used as a babysitter without supervision. (2) Set limits on the amount of time young people can sit in front of the television. (3) It is quite likely necessary to remove the television from the child's bedroom (if it is there in the first place). (4) Refuse to allow them to watch shows that portray extreme violence. (5) Watch some programs with your youngsters and openly disapprove of violent episodes in front of the children, explaining that such behavior is not the way to solve problems.

Many studies have been done over the past 50+ years to determine if there is any connection between watching violence on television and committing violence in real life. A joint statement was released on July 26, 2000, on the impact

of entertainment violence on children. Included in that joint statement was the following quote: "Well over 1000 studies... point overwhelmingly to [a] ... connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. The conclusion of the public health community, based on over 30 years of research, is that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behavior, particularly in children." This joint statement was signed by six of the nation's top health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the American Medical Association.

Consider these statistics. By the time a child leaves elementary school, he/she will have witnessed 8,000 murders and over 100,000 acts of violence. Lt. Col. David Grossman, author of *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill*, explains: "Violence is like the nicotine in cigarettes. The reason why the media has to pump ever more violence into us is because we have built up a tolerance. In order to get the same high, we need ever higher levels."

Television and Sex

The problem of violence on television is not the only concern of television's influence on Americans. There is the problem of television and sex, especially as it relates to teens. Considering the amount of time the average teen watches television weekly, and considering that they usually watch programs that contain much sexual content (ranging from touching, kissing, jokes and innuendos, to conversations about sexual activity), there should be concern. Such activity is usually portrayed as "casual activity" without risk or consequences. One study of 1,762 adolescents asked about their

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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...Job 9-11; Acts 20:17-38
Monday...Job 12-13; Acts 21:1-16
Tuesday...Job 14-16; Acts 21:17-40
Wednesday...Job 17-19; Acts 22
Thursday...Job 20-21; Acts 23:1-22
Friday...Job 22-23; Acts 23:23-35
Saturday...Job 24-27; Acts 24
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)

morning. Let us encourage these new young Christians to grow in maturity, knowledge, and courage as they face the challenges of life and look forward to an eternal reward.

Also let us be challenged to continue supporting such efforts and sowing the seed of the word of God (Luke 8:11, 2 Tim. 4:2) knowing that God's Word will always produce responses. And when it does in such a positive way as this last week, let us have the attitude of Paul, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God gave the increase**" (1 Cor. 3:5).

~Ryan Smithey

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sexual experiences and also their television viewing habits. A year later, the same group was surveyed again. Teens who viewed the greatest amount of sexual content were two times more likely than those who viewed the smallest amount to initiate sexual intercourse during the following year. They also found that a twelve year old with the highest levels of exposure behaved like a 14 or 15 year old with the lowest levels. The list of suggestions in dealing with this problem is much the same as in dealing with the matter of television and violence. Since this problem is of great concern to parents of teens, this can pose some serious challenges.

Television and Vulgar Language

Another problem with the influence of television on Americans is that of speech. The same problems arise here as in the previous two areas mentioned-the more exposure, the more tolerant we become, and the more improper language is accepted and used. When one considers these three areas combined, just how much do we allow into our homes-even yet, into our minds-that is so contrary to principles of Christian thought and behavior?

Other Related Matters

We have only touched the "hem of the garment" on this matter. What about the influence of television in matters of homosexuality, gambling, marriage-divorce-remarriage, the sanctity of marriage, political thinking, and religious influences that teach "buffet" style religion? We need to be concerned! I can recall watching television as a young boy, at which time little or no filthy language was used, no indication of sexual activity was shown, and no degree of violence (compared to today) was shown. What has happened? An outcry from the public for more and more of what appeals to the worldly mindset has obviously been heard. Unfortunately, those who would oppose this kind of viewing have nevertheless accepted it to the point that seldom is there an outcry against such. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). God's Word has the answer! *Think Magazine; Focus Press; September 2009*

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **22 contacts** were made.

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **July 27: Summer Youth Series** at 7 PM, hosted by Rising Star.
- ◆ **August 3: Summer Youth Series** hosted by 5th & Grape in Abilene, begins at 7 PM.

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:10*

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 11, 2010	July 18, 2010
Bible Class		61	54
AM Worship		82	71
PM Worship		46	37
Wednesday PM		48	41
Contribution		\$1656	\$1185

Privileged to Serve	07/25/10 - AM	07/25/10 - PM	08/01/10 - AM	08/01/10 - PM
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum Ecclesiastes 10:1-3		Hank Wheeler
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	Matthew Churchwell	James Fuller	Jim Moore
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Ken Maninger
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	July 28 Allen Griffith	August 4 Jim Moore	August 11 Don Smith	August 18 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of July 25th:

Sunday Class.....1 Corinthians (Chap. 11-12)

Wednesday ClassAmos (Chapter 8-9)

Reasons For Failure

The Israelites enjoyed great success under Joshua, why did things change so much during the the period of the Judges?

1. Presence of the Heathen Nations

- a. They had been warned of God to drive out the residents of the land lest they turn them from God (Deut. 7:1-2); but they failed to listen (Judges 1:27-29, 21; 2:3).
- b. We have to guard against such worldly influence as well (James 4:4; 2 Cor. 6:14, 17).

2. Idolatry of the Heathen Nations

- a. Israel turned to worship the idols of the land (Judges 2:11-13) even though they had been warned by God (Deut. 7:5; 2:14-15) and God turned from them as promised (Josh. 24:20).
- b. We can have idols as well but are warned to flee from them (1 Cor. 10:14; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 6:10; Col. 3:5).

3. Intermarriage with the Heathen Nations

- a. These relationships turned their hearts to the gods of their spouses (Judges 3:5-6) even against God's warnings (Deut. 7:3-4) and brought His anger (Judges 3:7).
- b. We must guard our relationships as well with those of the world (1 Cor. 15:13; 2 Cor 6:14, 17; Lk 14:26). Determine to be faithful to God and an example to others (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

4. Doing Right In Their Own Eyes — They set themselves as a standard of authority rather than God (Judges 21:25; Prov. 16:25; Jer. 10:23; Acts 5:29; John 12:48; Col. 3:17).

The One Whom God Calls A Fool

Our language is not to be taken lightly (James 3:5; Matt. 5:21-22); but there are those who show themselves to be fools by their actions (John 7:24) and are defined as fools by God:

1. **The One Who Does Not Believe In God** (Ps. 14:1). He refuses to acknowledge and submit to God even with ample evidence (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19-20).
2. **The One Who Despises Wisdom and Instruction** (Prov. 1:7). Will not be disciplined by God but rather trusts in his own wisdom that will fail them (1 Cor. 1:18-24; Rom. 1:22; Heb. 12:6-7).
3. **The One Who Mocks at Sin** (Prov. 14:9). Our society considers sin a joke and entertaining but sin is destructive (Isa. 59:2; Rom. 6:23) and is no laughing matter.
4. **The One Who Always Speaks His Mind** (Prov. 29:11). A person that never listens but always speaks and never thinks before he speaks proves himself foolish (Eccl. 3:7; Prov. 10:18; James 1:26).
5. **The One Who Hears Jesus' Words and Does Not Put Them Into Action** (Matt. 7:26-27). One must hear AND obey (Matt. 7:24-25) or it will do no good (James 1:22, 26-27).

Let us show ourselves to be wise by watching how we live our lives (Eph. 5:15-16).

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