



Living By Faith

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

August 15, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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
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.

“Spouting Scripture”

by Jon Mitchell (via Carolina Messenger, June 2010)

Recently, I was involved in an interesting religious discussion on Facebook. One of my Facebook friends who attends a church of Christ in the Nashville area is involved in benevolent work aimed at helping the many who are in desperate need due to the floods in that area. A few days ago, he wrote on his Wall about how someone had apparently called him at the church building wanting to help out with the relief work and asked, “We want to do flood relief. Y'all are acapella. right?” To which my friend commented, “As if that has anything to do with helping the hurting.”

In the comments section, I wrote, “I understand the negative reaction to the acapella inquiry, but I can also understand why the caller asked the question. They are interested in following Galatians 6:10 and Matthew 25:31-46; that's why they called. However, they are ALSO wanting to obey passages like Romans 16:17-18, Ephesians 5:11, and 2 John 9-11, recognizing from the principle of Matthew 23:23 that Christ wants Christians to do both: help the needy at every opportunity, while also having nothing to do with those who teach and promote false doctrine.”

A few minutes later, a friend of my friend commented on what I had written by saying, “WOW. . . I can't spout scripture and am proud of that because I don't need chapter and verse to know that God wants us to help the world...” This started a discussion in which many people, my friend included, ridiculed and disparaged me and one other person who were promoting going to Scripture for guidance concerning the instrumental music question and in all other things that we do.

The main thing I took away from that discussion is how so many who call themselves Christians and followers of God have a major problem with following God's word, specifically, the parts of God's word with which they disagree. To see how this is so, notice that the person who accused me of “spouting scripture” then claimed to not “need chapter and verse to know that God wants us to help the world.” In actuality, however, “chapter and verse” are *exactly* what one needs to know in order to recognize that God wants us to help the world (cf. Gal. 6:10; Matt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27; etc.). If we were not told in the Bible to “...as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone...” (ESV), we would not know that “God wants us to help the world.” In fact, if it wasn't for the revelation of God's will in the Bible, we would have no idea about anything that God wants us to do, benevolent or otherwise. We would have not known to even worship God in the first place, much less *how* to worship him (John 4:23-24). We would

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“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:37-38

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not know that we're supposed to love God and each other (John 14:15; 13:34-35), or treat others like we want to be treated (Matt. 7: 12), or love our spouses and children in certain ways (Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-21; I Pet. 3:17), or preach the gospel (Mark 16: 15), or even what the gospel *was* (Mark 16:16; Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1ff; Acts 2:4ff) if not for God's Word.

So to claim that Scripture is not needed in order to know God's will in a particular matter is a false, inconsistent claim. The reality of the matter is that some make this claim only when there is something found in Scripture which contradicts their own beliefs and desires. Rather than having humility and a willingness to love and serve God and thus change themselves in order to meet his revealed will, they instead choose to remain stubborn and rebellious, openly claiming that the Bible is not needed, and thereby reject it to their own eventual peril for all eternity (John 12:48; II Thess. 1 :7-9; Matt. 7:21-27). Therefore, the parts of God's Word which tell them to "do good to everyone" are fine. . . because they *want* to "do good to everyone." The sections of Scripture which talk about the great love God has for the world and the sacrifice Christ made on the cross for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-11) are also fine. Passages which talk about the need to believe in Jesus in order to be saved (John 3:16; Rom. 1:16) are also accepted. They won't accuse one of "spouting Scripture" if *those* particular verses are "spouted."

However, what about citing verses which command one to sing in New Testament worship to God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; etc.), along with verses which command us to "not go beyond what is written" (I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19; cf. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6) to show that instrumental music, "praise teams," and hand clapping are not acceptable in Christian worship? What about citing verses which show that baptism is actually necessary in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38; 22:16)? What about citing verses which command that women in the church are not to teach or exercise author-

ity over men (I Cor. 14:34-35; I Tim. 2:8, 11-12)? What about citing verses which teach that there's only one church and one faith (Eph. 4:4-5; cf. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; John 17:20-23; I Cor. 12:13; 1:10-13; Phil 2: 1-2), and that members of that one church are not to partner with those who unrepentantly teach and practice falsehood (II John 9-11; Eph. 5: 11; Rom. 16:17-18)? What about the passages that teach that salvation won't be obtained by people who don't obey the gospel and stay faithfully obedient (II Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 10:26-31; Rom. 2:4-11)? What about the passage that teaches that God accepts only one reason—fornication—for divorce and remarriage (Matt. 19:9)? What about the passages that teach that social consumption of alcohol is sinful (I Thess. 5:6-8; Eph. 5:18)? What if we talk about that verse which prohibits immodesty in dress (I Tim. 2:9-10)? What about bringing up the passage that commands that one not forsake the assemblies (Heb. 10:25)? What about bringing up the passages that talk about withdrawing fellowship from unrepentant brethren (I Cor. 5; II Thess. 3:6,14-15; Matt. 18:15-17)?

If we bring *those* passages up, then all we're doing, they accuse, is "spouting Scripture" and we should be ignored at best and ridiculed at worst. Why? Because they don't *want* to obey *those* verses. They don't *like* what those passages bring up, and so they pretend that they aren't in the Bible. If we, due to our love for their souls, dare to try to bring the harsh light of reality into their fantasy world by citing the authority of these passages, they immediately ridicule us as "spouting Scripture" in an effort to bully and intimidate us into silence so they can continue to go on living their lives according to *their* will instead of God's, all the while deluding themselves into thinking that they're actually his followers (Matt. 7:21-23).

What did Paul say immediately after rebuking the Galatian churches for "turning to a different gospel" (Gal. 1:6-9)? "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were

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Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
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	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)	Sunday...Psalms 34-36; Romans 8:1-17 Monday...Psalms 37-38; Rom. 8:18-39 Tuesday...Psalms 39-43; Romans 9 Wednesday..Psalms 44-47; Romans 10 Thursday...Psalms 48-51; Rom. 11:1-21 Friday...Psalms 52-56; Rom. 11:22-36 Saturday...Psalms 57-61; Romans 12 <i>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)</i>
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		

News & Notes

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still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10). That’s our goal, friends, our only goal...seeking God’s approval. In order to please God, we must have faith (Heb. 11:6)...but in order to have living faith in God’s eyes, we must hear God’s word (Rom. 10:17) and obey it (Jas. 2:14-26). Everything we do...or say...must be in his name (Col. 3:17). Therefore, if we want to go to heaven, if we want to please our Creator, if we want Christ to be our Savior, we *must* “spout Scripture.” We *must* tell others the truth of God’s Word no matter how disparagingly they respond (Jer. 20:79), because their lack of knowledge and disobedience to God’s Word will be their eternal condemnation in the end (Hos. 4:6; John 12:48; Heb. 10:26-31). If we choose to keep the truth to ourselves, God will condemn both us and them (Ezek. 3:16-21; Acts 20:26, 27). However, if we “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) and “preach the word...with complete patience” (II Tim. 4:2) with kind gentleness (II Tim. 2:24, 25), then not only will they perhaps “escape the snare of the devil” (II Tim. 2:25-26), but we can be sure that God will deliver us (Ezek. 33:1-9).

“Spout Scripture,” friends. Don’t pick and choose, but proclaim and uphold all of it (Psa. 119:160). Speak the “oracles of God” (I Pet. 4:11). Do so with love and gentleness, but do so with firmness, courage, and conviction. If they ridicule you, know that they’re in reality ridiculing God (cf. 1 Sam. 8:7), because you are nothing more than his messenger when you cite Scripture as authority. Don’t take it personally when you are rejected. Instead, just “shake off the dust from your feet” (Matt. 10:14-15) and move on to the next opportunity to speak God’s word. The church needs it, as does the world.

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **22 contacts** were made. Also remember that tonight is the **3rd Sunday** so plan on staying after the meeting if you can for dinner.

Food Pantry Needs:

We need some help restocking the pantry; suggested items include: Rice, Dry Beans, Pasta, Spaghetti & Sauce, Peanut Butter, Can corn, Tuna/Canned Meat, Soup/Stew, Can Fruit.

Summer Youth Series

Thank you all for your great support of the Summer Youth Series this past Tuesday. I believe we had about 160 people here that night and we received wonderful complements and everything went very well. Thanks for your help in providing food, in setting up, in cleaning up, in support by your attendance, and in any other way you helped make this event such a success.

Something to think about...

Ken Hatfield (former Rice Owls football coach) gave his players this advice about why people fail:

- (1) a lust for laziness;*
- (2) a want to be popular rather than respected;*
- (3) a fear of failure; and*
- (4) no obligation to responsibility.*

I found this quote posted by Rick Popejoy and thought of how the reason we sometimes fail in our example or faithfulness as a Christian can be the same reasons. Think about it...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Pam & Terry Teague (16), Darlene & Don Smith (29).

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)
Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



Recent Records	August 1, 2010	August 8, 2010
Bible Class	60	55
AM Worship	74	74
PM Worship	51	41
Wednesday PM	48	46
Contribution	\$1842	\$N/C

Privileged to Serve	08/15/10 - AM	08/15/10 - PM	08/22/10 - AM	08/22/10 - PM
Greeters	Jim & Peg Moore		James & Cindy Fuller	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Fuller Psalm 25:1-6		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism	Jim Moore	Don Smith
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	August 18 James Fuller	August 25 Ken Makuta	September 1 Michael Bickford	September 8 Allen Griffith

Studies For The Week of August 15th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 12)

Wednesday Class *Hosea (Chap. 1-2)*

Proper Response to Sin (Psalm 51 & 32)

- 1. Weight of Sin (Ps. 51:1-6; 32:3-4)**
 - a. It had devastated his life but he pleaded for God's mercy.
 - b. Sin was something to be corrected, not ignored (v2-3) – he wanted to be cleansed from it.
 - c. Sin was something to be confessed, not hidden (v4-6) – he could not hide it from God against whom he sinned first and foremost; he succumbed to sin instead of walking in truth.
- 2. Relief of Sin (Ps. 51:7-12; 32:5-10)**
 - a. He recognized that he must be cleansed from sin which can only come by God's forgiveness (V7; cf. Acts 2:37-38, 4:12).
 - b. He wanted relief from the sadness of sin (v8-9); sin crushes the spirit – he longed for God to wipe it away.
 - c. He desired a new heart (v10-12); he wanted to be guided in what was right, rather than be cast away, he sought for God's presence to bring the joy of salvation back to his life.
- 3. Blessing of Forgiveness (Ps. 51:13-10; 32:1-2, 11)**
 - a. Instead of separation, and death (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1), he could enjoy forgiveness (Heb. 8:12, 10:17).
 - b. Desire to help others and praise God (v13-15) – he would tell others of the greatness of God and His righteousness.
 - c. A change of heart has occurred (v16-17) – a penitent, contrite heart and a broken spirit before God (Jn 4:24; Matt. 5:3-6).
 - d. He prays for the success of God's people (v18-19) – his sin has affected them, his concern is for them to be built up.

Loneliness

Loneliness is a problem that we probably all face from time to time but God's Word comforts us and encourages us and lets us know we are not alone – even in such feelings.

- 1. The meaning of loneliness.**
 - a. Being alone; without company; solitary; produces feelings of sadness and desolation.
 - b. Not always bad to be alone (John 6:15; Luke 6:12); but man does need companionship (Gen. 2:18).
 - c. Types: Social (isolation), Emotional (disconnected; happens even when surrounded by people), and Spiritual (isolation from God).
- 2. The problem of loneliness.**
 - a. Distorts thinking; makes us think no one cares (Ps. 142:4).
 - b. Causes us to forget that God, Christ, and God's people care (1 Pet. 5:7; Matt .22:39; Gal. 5:14, 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:14).
- 3. Coping with loneliness.**
 - a. Have a right relationship with God (2 Cor. 5:19-21; 1 John 1:4-7; Heb. 13:5) -- example of Christ (Matt. 26:39, 56; John 16:32).
 - b. Get involved with the church—a place of work and family (1 Tim. 3:15).
 - c. Trust in God's promises (Heb. 13:5; 1Pet. 5:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-9).
 - d. Stay close to God (Ps. 142:5, 130:2; 1 Pet. 3:12).

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Return Service Requested