



Living By Faith

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

August 29, 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
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

Are We To Be Servants, Friends, Or Both?

By Marvin L. Weir

In speaking to His apostles, Jesus said: *“No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father, I have made known unto you”* (John 15:15). Some assign a meaning to this verse that the Lord did not intend and conclude that His followers from this point forward are not to be His servants but His friends. The evidence is overwhelming, however, that such a conclusion is false. Just five verses later, Jesus refers to His apostles again as *“servants.”* The parable of the servants is recorded in Matthew 25 and Jesus stresses there will be good and faithful servants as well as wicked servants in the kingdom. Christians are warned, *“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* (Luke 16:13). The apostle Paul is referred to as a *“servant”* in Romans 1:1 and Titus 1:1. James, Peter, and Jude are all called *“servants”* of Christ (James 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; Jude 1).

In his commentary on *The Gospel According To John*, Guy N. Woods comments on John 15:15 as follows:

They were to *serve* him but not *servilely*; thenceforth the service they rendered would not be the mercenary type which looks only to its interests but from a motivation based on genuine love. They were no longer to be servants, without knowledge of their master’s interests and mission, but friends, fully accepted in his circle of loved ones, and informed in all of his plans. There is no more honored position than the privilege of serving Christ as his friends.

Let us learn the following from John 15:15:

It is a privilege to be a servant, but a far greater privilege to be a friend! A man may have many servants serving his household, but none of those servants may be his trusted friends. A servant may do the job the master has assigned him, but know nothing more of the master’s plans. One who is a friend will surely know more about the master than one who is only considered a servant.

A servant is hired but true friendship cannot be bought! One who is rich and willing to spend his money can have any number of servants. True friends cannot be purchased with money; they willingly volunteer their friendship! Many people today who claim to serve the Lord are only doing so because of the material or social advantage they gain. Preachers for hire (wolves in sheep’s clothing, Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:29) may render some service but only because it enables them to fleece the sheep! Christians who are friends of the Master cannot be bought and will faithfully serve the Lord regarding of the situation or circumstances.

A servant does not necessarily know of his master’s plans but close friends usually do! A mere servant is required to obey the master. He may know nothing more than the task that has been assigned to him. A true friend, however, may know

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Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.



“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:14

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many things about the master. One thing is for certain – one who is a friend of the world is God’s enemy instead of His friend (James 4:4).

A servant may only work for the wages, but a friend will serve because of love! Those who serve only for wages cannot wait until the day is over or the task is completed. This is the attitude that asks, “How much must I do to be faithful?” Loosely translated, the person is asking, “Do I have to attend church services **every** week? If I worship Sunday morning, is it necessary to worship Sunday evening? Must I attend Bible classes to go to Heaven? Can I not skip the Wednesday evening service? How much do I have to give for God to be pleased?” This person wants to know **how little** he can do and get to Heaven! He is willing to serve some, but not any more than what is absolutely necessary. This is not service out of love, and not the love of a friend.

A Christian should desire to be both a loyal servant and a faithful friend to God and Christ! The following question is revealing. In Genesis 18:17 God asks, “*Shall I hide from Abraham that which I do?*” The Psalmist reveals God saying, “*For he remembered his holy word, and Abraham his servant*” (105:42). Yes, Abraham faithfully **served** God, but he was also God’s **friend** (Isa. 41:8; James 2:23).

Service for the wrong reason or void of love will not suffice! The Lord makes this absolutely clear when He states, “*Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you*” (John 15:14). To claim to serve and follow the Lord while refusing to submit to and obey His commandments is a lie! In so doing, one is not God’s friend but His enemy.

Let us purpose to be faithful servants and loyal friends of the Heavenly Father!

Don't Ever Quit

by Mike Riley

Most people regard a quitter is one of the most despicable characters on earth. We admire a person who, against all odds, keeps on struggling till the contest is ended; who keeps on running till he finishes the race, even if he has no chance of winning. We applaud the man who crawls across the finish line dead last - but finishes the race! The book of Hebrews is filled with admonitions to discouraged Christians, but in Hebrews 10, the writer particularly focuses on the needs of despondent and weary disciples. The Hebrew writer develops three central thoughts that are designed to stir the brethren up to renewed efforts.

- 1) "**Call to remembrance the former days**" (Hebrews 10:32) - As the readers would reflect upon the former days, they would remember their endurance in a great struggle of suffering when they were openly exposed to public ridicule and scorn. This may well have been in an open arena with jeering crowds watching. Their courage and stand for right would not yield, nor would they hang their heads in shame because of their faith. They would remember that they shared in the affliction of others when they stood by them. What is more, they had even accepted the seizure of their property joyfully, because they were aware, at that time, of the enduring reward they had in heaven as compared to the transitory value of material things (cf. Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 6:17,19). Remembering the strength they had in times past would instill their strength anew.
- 2) "**Cast not away therefore your confidence**" (Hebrews 10:35) - This thought is best illustrated by the soldier who, in the heat of battle, throws away his shield in fear and flees. They needed to be reminded that their trust has a great recompense. However, the only way they will receive that reward is by enduring (cf. Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2: 1 0). The hope for relief is in sight, for the Lord will not tarry in His coming in judgment against the oppressive powers (Hebrews 10:37;cf. Habakkuk 2).
- 3) "**Don't draw back.....**" (Hebrews 10:38) - The just will survive by his faithfulness but God has no pleasure in quitters. The picture here is of one who stealthily sneaks back away from the conflict, hoping that his withdrawal will be inconspicuous. While Jesus offers the Christian peace in the midst of an anxious world (John 14:27), He does not offer freedom from conflict and adversity with the world (John 15:18-20; cf. 2 Timothy 3:12). Let us remember that only the coward shrinks from the heat of the battle.

Brethren, don't ever quit! Don't ever give up! If you quit, you lose it all (Matthew 16:25). In the [mal analysis, it matters not how much we loath a quitter - God loathes a quitter even more, "... but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38b). With knees bloody and body spent, crawl if you have to, but finish the course! (2 Timothy 4:7; cf. Philippians 3:14).

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...Ps. 85-88; 1 Corinthians 3
Monday...Ps. 89-90; 1 Corinthians 4
Tuesday...Ps. 91-94; 1 Corinthians 5
Wednesday..Ps. 95-101; 1 Corinthians 6
Thursday...Psalm 102-103; 1 Cor. 7:1-24
Friday...Ps. 104-105; 1 Cor. 7:25-40
Saturday...Psalm 106; 1 Corinthians 8
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

Ladies Day

There is a ladies day planned at the Elm Street congregation in Coleman on Saturday, September 18th. If you would like to attend please see the flyer on the bulletin board and sign the attached list by September 13th so that we can tell them how many are coming.

Directory & Picture Updates

We have been in the process of updating our pictorial directory for some time and it is only one step away from completion! It is now your turn to make sure that all of the information we have for you is current before it gets printed.



Starting today we will be passing out “proof sheets” for each family. Please review the information that we have for you and make updates or corrections as needed. You will also notice we have added a few additional pieces of information that you can supply if you wish (such as email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc.). Please mark all corrections or note that your information is all correct and return to Ryan or place in his office as soon as possible.

Also, please note that the “proof sheets” are double sided and on the back you will notice spots to fill-in areas in which each member of the family is willing to aid in the work of the church. Please have each member of the family fill this in to make sure that we are keeping as many people as we can active and involved in the various aspects of the work that goes on here.

Along with checking your information, please take note of your picture. Unless you update your picture, this is the one that will be used in the directory as well as on our membership board in the hallway. Tom Wilcox has agreed to take new photos over the next few weeks and I would like to see everyone get an updated photo before the directory prints. Please see Tom before or after services over the next few weeks (hopefully by the end of September) to get those photos taken.

We greatly appreciate your help in keeping our records updated and ask that you complete these forms by the end of September so that we can move on to printing new directories for everyone. If you have any questions please see the elders or Ryan. Thank you.

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **18 contacts** were made.

Requests for Help

- ◆ One of the preachers Allen met in Africa last year is looking for a **laptop computer** to use. If you happen to have a used one you are no longer using, please let Allen know.
- ◆ We have received a letter from the elders at Rising Star concerning an **account set up to help Terry Jackson** and his family deal with their medical bills. If you are interested in helping, the letter is on the bulletin board.

1st Sunday Lunch

Remember that next Sunday is the first Sunday of September and time for our potluck dinner following the morning worship, hope you can join us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

August Birthday: Roy Dodson (29) & **Anniversary:** Darlene & Don Smith (29).
September Birthdays: James Fuller (06), Storie Arnold (08), Gene Bannister (16), Billie Ford (17), Clarence Ford (17), Ben Griffith (18), Marie White (18), Cindy Proud (26), Garret Barnum (27).
September Anniversaries: Jack & Joyce Hill (10).

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



	Recent Records	August 15, 2010	August 22, 2010
Bible Class		58	58
AM Worship		73	72
PM Worship		56	51
Wednesday PM		51	45
Contribution		\$1959	\$1514

Privileged to Serve	08/29/10 - AM	08/29/10 - PM	09/05/10 - AM	09/05/10 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum Galatians 6:7-10		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum James Thomas, James Fuller	Gene Bannister
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 1 Ken Makuta	September 8 Allen Griffith	September 15 Jim Moore	September 22 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of August 29th:

Sunday Class 1 Corinthians (Chap. 13)

Wednesday Class *Hosea (Chap. 3-4)*

Poor In Spirit (Matthew 5:3)

As Jesus begins, He says empty yourselves as the way to true joy and happiness and a place in God's Eternal Kingdom (Matt. 16:24-25).

1. We must first recognize our own **deficiency**.
 - a. That is recognizing we cannot trust in ourselves (Lk 5:31) but rather be willing to humble ourselves to God even as did Christ (Phil. 2:5-11; James 4:10).
 - b. The proud and haughty will never do so – compare Pharisee and publican (Lk. 18:9-14).
2. In doing so we recognize our **dependency**.
 - a. That we must trust in God our maker, sustainer, and guide (Acts 17:24-28; James 1:17; Jer. 10:23, Prov. 3:5-6).
 - b. Seen in the life of Moses who was only successful when he recognized he could not deliver God's people on his own (Acts 7:22-25, Ex. 3:10-11).
3. Then we can recognize God's **sufficiency**.
 - a. Here we find One sufficient for all of our greatest needs (Lk 15:17; Matt. 6:33).
 - b. This was Paul's realization from all of his sufferings (2 Cor. 1:9-10; Phil. :11-13).

*Indeed to come before God and be pleasing to Him,
one must develop this attitude (Isa. 66:1-2).*

Spiritual Dropouts

One can cease from the Christian life and the hope of eternal life (Gal. 5:4, 6:1; 2 Tim. 4:10; James 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:20-31). Why would some chose such a life and what warnings are there for us?

1. **Fail to be led by the Word of God.** Led about by what appeals (Eph. 4:14; 21 Tim. 4:3-4) rather than by what is true (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11; Psalm 1:1-3).
2. **Fail because of false doctrine.** We must be discerns of truth according to God's Word not man's (1 John 4:1; Acts 20:28-30; Titus 1:9-11).
3. **Fail because they are set in their own ways.** They care more about being right in their own sight than in God's (Prov. 14:14, 12; Matt. 15:9; Rom. 10:1-3).
4. **Fail because they lose their love for God.** Love motivates us to follow God (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3) so failure to follow God shows a love grown cold (Matt. 24:12, 13:20-21; Rev. 2:4-5, 3:15-16). Need for constant reminders (1 cor.11:24-25; Phil. 3:1; 2 Peter 1:5-13).
5. **Fal because of inactivity.** Chrisitan faith is tobe active (Heb. 11; James 2:24, 18, 20) but sadly many cease from proper activities (Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:6; Matt. 24:42-51).

*Let us continue on faithfully knowing that in so doing
we will reap eternal rewards (Gal. 6:7- 9).*

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Return Service Requested