



# Living By Faith

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

September 19, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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

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.

## How to Truly Approach God

by Mike Vestal

The story of a leper whom Jesus would heal tells us much about the attitude we should possess when we approach God in worship today. The account is found in, Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, and Luke 5:12-16. This man suffered from a repulsive and devastating disease, one that also was stigmatizing and incurable. Luke 5:12 says of this particular case, "behold, there was a man covered with leprosy." There was no covering up the fact the man was covered up with leprosy! Notice how this man comes to our Lord.

**HE CAME EARNESTLY.** Now there's an expression not used too much anymore, but it has to do with purpose and determination (cf. Matthew 8:2; Mark 1:40). The leper did not allow the crowd or their words to keep him from Jesus. He was willing to deal with any obstacles or disadvantages to get to Jesus. Getting to Jesus was the most important thing in the world to him, and the leper knew it. Do we?

**HE CAME REVERENTLY.** The leper "bowed down before Him" (Matthew 8:2). He fell "down on his knees before Him" (Mark 1:40), and "fell on his face and implored Him" (Luke 5: 12). The leper realized that worship must honor the Lord; everything in his approach to God showed the man's desire to honor Jesus. How about us?

**HE CAME FAITHFULLY.** "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean" (Matthew 8:2). In true worship, we honor God, His power and His will. The leper does not doubt Jesus or His power, but speaks with great trust, deferring to the Lord, "if you are willing." In worship we come to God in faith acknowledging that He knows best and will see us through. Is this what we do in our approach to God in worship?

**HE CAME HUMBLY.** When the leper approached Jesus, he did not come in a proud, demanding way. He didn't say Jesus "owed" him anything. He didn't "name it and claim it" like some of the "health and wealth" preachers of today. Nor did he seek to hide his condition or to in any way lessen its condition. There was no pretense whatsoever, only humility in the presence of the Lord. Is our worship of God characterized by a lack of pride and pretense, showing deep humility?

**HE CAME WISELY.** "And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him, and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean'" (Mark 1:40). There are at least five references to Jesus in just this verse! Jesus was the ONLY One who could help the leper, and the emphasis was ALL UPON HIM. How about us in our worship? Does our heart say, "Lord, it's ALL about You?" Do our actions convey the wisdom that God is the focus of it all?

Yes, we really can learn a great deal about how to approach God in worship from this leper. As God's people, let's remember that we have been cleansed from sin by the blood of the precious lamb of God. We are victorious because of Him. May we convey that love and joy to God.



*Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*Psalm 118:24*

## Language

By Terry Jackson

Man uses language to communicate his thoughts and feelings. God used language to reveal His love as well as His directions for man. Often the Bible warns us about using filthy language, (*Gal. 3:8*) and commands us to control our tongues, (*James 3:6-10*). In this article we want to deal with the positive use of language. With our language we express our undying love and commitment to God. *"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation," (Romans 10:10)*. How precious to the ear of God to hear the sweet confession of those once estranged who are now redeemed through their faith and obedience. How God must rejoice to hear His saints express their love for Him. It is through the use of language that we worship our spiritual God, (*John 4:24*). We sing praises to Him, *"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," (Ephesians 5:19)*. Notice the passage in *Hebrews 13:15* *"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."* God gave us our voices to praise Him and worship Him. How it must please God to hear the combined voices of His people lifting up their praises in song on the Lord's Day. With language we lift our voices in prayer, *"Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up," (Psalms 5:2-3)*. With the language of men we preach the glorious gospel, *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound," (Isaiah 61:1)*. This great prophet understood the responsibility and the privilege of preaching God's message. With our voices we share the good news of Christ to a lost world just as Jesus commanded in *Mark 16:16-18*. With language we warn weak brethren to not give up but encourage them to be strong in temptation, *"exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13)*. With language we can lift up hands that are weak and strengthen the legs of the feeble. As God's children we should exhaust our verbal energies to the benefit of others and to glorify Him and not waste our language on vain, obscene, and worldly palaver.

*(Colossians 4:6 NKJV) Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

## Buried Treasure In Your Backyard!

By Jim Murrell

Did you ever dream as a child, of finding buried treasure in your back yard? Did you ever imagine that some pirate might have buried a chest full of gold and treasure and that it was buried in your back yard just waiting for you to find it? Ok, so maybe it's just me. I had an active imagination.

But now, suppose with me that you really knew there was indeed a treasure buried in your back yard. What would you do, and how would you go about it? If you're like me, your back yard would be full of pot holes, and probably your neighbor's as well. I certainly wouldn't dig one hole and quit when it wasn't there. And it wouldn't take me years and years to get the back yard dug up. It would be a priority that I wouldn't quit on until I had unearthed my treasure.

Now here's the point. Solomon said that we need to seek wisdom, understanding, and knowledge like we would a buried treasure. Listen, "If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (*Prov. 2:4-5*).

Question: Do you pursue the knowledge of God as you would a buried treasure? Are you as diligent in digging into the word of God for spiritual treasures as you would be digging in your back yard for silver and gold? Maybe we need to rethink our priorities. After all, the mother of all treasure chests would pale in comparison to the treasures that can be uncovered in the word of God.

### 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... Proverbs 14-15; 2 Cor. 4

Monday... Proverbs 16-17 ; 2 Cor. 5

Tuesday... Proverbs 18-19; 2 Cor. 6

Wednesday.. Proverbs 20-21; 2 Cor. 7

Thursday... Proverbs 22-23; 2 Cor. 8

Friday... Proverbs 24-25; 2 Cor. 9

Saturday... Proverbs 26-28; 2 Cor. 10

*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

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Today: **Vicksburg Devotional** at 3:30 PM;
- ◆ September 24-26: **Lectureship at 5th & Grape in Abilene**, please see the flyer on the bulletin board.
- ◆ Saturday, September 25: **Ladies Day at Patrick Street congregation in Dublin**; the theme is "Four Trees". There is a flyer on the bulletin board and you need to RSVP by the 18th.
- ◆ September 29: **5th Wednesday singing**.
- ◆ October 2: **Ladies Day at the Mesquite & Rusk congregation in Ranger**. The theme is *Lessons From Esther*; please see flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ October 3-6: Our own **meeting with Tom Moore**; the theme is "The Church Moving Forward." This is rapidly approaching and is now only 2 weeks away! Keep this effort in your prayers and begin inviting others. Flyers are available at the back of the auditorium.



## Bible Search

Area congregations are once again going to be having a Bible Search program beginning in October. Please make plans to be a part of this great time of fellowship and Bible study. This year we are studying the **book of Acts** and tests will be one Sunday a month at area congregations from 2-4 PM; **Bangs will host the first session on October 17th**, so start studying. Age groups are: Kindergarten to 2nd grade; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th; and 9th-12th. **Let Ryan know if you have any questions and if your child is planning on participating please let me know today so we can find a time to get together and prepare.** Also 4th & Stewart is hosting this event in November, hope everyone can plan on helping out—details to come.

## Directory & Picture Updates

I want to thank everyone who has so promptly returned your directory information pages. If you have not yet done so, please complete it and return it as soon as possible.

Also there is still time to get your picture taken for the directory and the photo wall. Please see Tom Wilcox to get that taken care of.

Let me know if you have any questions and thanks again for your help in updating our information for the directory and picture board.



~Ryan Smithey

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **24 contacts** were made. Also remember that it is our 3rd Sunday finger-food night.

### JD Tedford (1933-2010)

Another loved member of this congregation passed to his reward recently. JD Tedford died seemingly quickly on September 9 after suffering from heart and kidney problems. JD was a man who showed his love for the Lord. Few were the times that JD did not assemble with the saints here at 4th & Stewart even when he was likely not well enough to be here. He showed an interest in the welfare of those around him and yet far greater was the interest he showed in the spiritual affairs of others. He was always looking for ways to try to reach others by passing out flyers and invitations to meetings and distributing bulletins and tracts to those who would hopefully read them and benefit from them. We appreciate his zeal and will long to see him again when reunited in the Lord forever (1 Thess. 4:16-17)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**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	September 5, 2010	September 12, 2010
Bible Class	57	57
AM Worship	79	73
PM Worship	50	47
Wednesday PM	42	49
Contribution	\$1530	\$1714

Privileged to Serve	09/19/10 - AM	09/19/10 - PM	09/26/10 - AM	09/26/10 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler Acts 5: 35, 38-39, 42		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	September 22 Don Smith	September 29 James Fuller	October 6 Gospel Meeting	October 13 Ken Makuta

### Studies For The Week of September 19th:

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians (Chap. 13-14)*

Wednesday Class ..... *Hosea (Chap. 4-5)*

#### The Meek (Matt 5:5)

##### 1. Does Not Mean Weakness

- Ancient usage was of something powerful brought under useful control; it was an admirable quality.
- Two great examples of meekness were Moses (Num. 12:3; cf. Ex 32:10, 11-13, Num. 14:13-19; 16; 21:7) and Christ (Matt. 11:28-30; cf. Matt. 21:12; John 2:15; Matt. 23; Matt. 27:13-14; 1 Pet. 2:23; Matt. 26:53).

##### 2. Power Under Control

- Meekness must be a part of the Christians life (Gal. 5:23; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:4; Eph. 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 6:11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; Titus 3:1-2).
- But rather than weakness this is yielding our power and will to God (James 1:21; Rom. 6:13; 1 Pet. 2:23); we have power to do as we wish, but we submit to the will of God and His instruction, such takes great strength and courage.

##### 3. Reward for Meekness

- Become more Christ like (1 Pet. 2:21).
- Inherit the earth; be the greatest benefactors and the most thankful for the blessings of God (James 1:17) and yet recognizing we have something far greater in store.

*Will we set forth with courage and strength that is yielded to the control of God's Will?*

#### Dreaming of a Harvest White (John 4:35)

Jesus had what many might consider an impossible dream (Mark 16:15-16) and yet He knew it was not impossible for He had a vision that should still be ours today of a white harvest (John 4:35), a harvest that began to be gathered in during the first century and continues today when we see what He saw (Matt. 9:35-38):

##### 1. He saw the multitudes.

- He took special note of them; we too have to see the people that are all around us as precious souls that will spend eternity somewhere (Gen. 1:27; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- Recognize that Jesus concern was not just for the whole, but each individual (Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15).

##### 2. He saw them as they were.

- He saw their true spiritual condition and had compassion on them; He was motivated by love (Lk 19:10; Jn 3:16; 15:13).
- We have to first see peoples' condition (Matt. 9:12; Eph. 2:1, 12) and then be driven by love to help them (example of Paul – 1 Tim. 1:15; 2 Cor. 5:9-11, 14).

##### 3. He saw them as they could be.

- He recognized the great potential for this white harvest; He was come to be their shepherd (John 10:11; Rom. 6:23).
- He was already teaching them and that continues to be our mission today (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 10:15).
- Warning: be prepared to be those laborers (1 Cor. 3:9, 6).

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