



Living By Faith

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

October 24, 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..... 10:00 AM
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.

A Little At A Time

By Bill Burk

*A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep:
So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
and your need like an armed man.*

(Proverbs 6:10-11)

The wise man, in the abovementioned passage, reminds us that he just wants a "little sleep, but we suspect that that little nap will become a long sleep to avoid work necessary to sustain life" (Tremper Longman, *Proverbs*, p. 172). In other words his little becomes a lot and disaster eventually results. Major difficulties don't always happen "out of nowhere" but are the result of incremental causes that lead to problematic circumstances. On the flipside, good, positive things seldom come without any previous effort but rather by slow, patient endurance. The harvest is the result of hard work (2 Tim. 2:6); the race isn't won until numerous miles have been run (Heb. 12:1-2); and investments don't pay dividends until they grow. Spiritually things tend to be the result of either wise or foolish choices which accumulate with time and experience. Consider these thoughts...

1. Sin compounds a little at a time. King David's sin problems began when he first "saw" Bathsheba bathing from a rooftop. This of course led to adultery, then murder and finally horrible family consequences (2 Sam. 11-18; 1 Kings 1-3). Going back to the beginning we see the same process at work when the first pair "looked, lusted and got busted" (Gen. 3:1ff). The lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life attempt to persuade us daily (1 John 2:15-17). We must resist (Jas. 4:7-8). The righteous man in Psalm 1 avoided sin by refusing to first walk, then stand or finally sit where sin could capture him (Psa. 1:1ff). It only takes a little time to find ourselves overwhelmed and overcome by sin (Jas. 1:12-16). Be on guard, it only takes a little at a time for sin to ruin us.

2. Slipping Out Of God's Grace Happens A Little At A Time. Despite the claim of religious dogmatists it is possible to fall from God's grace (Gal. 5:4). The Hebrews writer gives a sobering warning when he says, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Heb. 2:1). A boat not securely stationed will slowly drift out to sea finally being lost. God's children can slowly but surely get farther and farther from home that they find themselves in the pigpen of the world (Luke 15:11-32; 2 Pet. 2:20-22). I have never heard of someone deciding without any warning signs at all, "I'm finished with the Lord and His church." Usually it begins with a change of attitude; a service missed here or there or some other circumstance until finally little by little they are gone. Unfaithfulness, like small steps in the wrong direction, takes place a little at a time.

(Continued on page 2)



*The righteous shall be glad in the LORD,
and shall trust in him;
and all the upright in heart shall glory.*

Psalm 64:10

Ongoing Instruction, Ongoing Change

By Kevin W. Rhodes

One of the more difficult adjustments that a Christian must make throughout his life

is growing to accept that no matter how long you are a Christian, there always will be something more to learn and often something that requires a change in attitude or lifestyle. When you first become a Christian, the teaching on repentance (Acts 17:30) should have provoked in you a desire to change a good number of things. However, as time goes by, it can be easy to lose that enthusiasm and simply settle into whatever spiritual level you reached as a result of those early changes. It is this temptation that all of us must fight, not only in the early days of our new Christian walk, but also throughout the rest of our lives (1 Cor. 10:13).

The temptation early on in a Christian's life is to limit repentance to those sins that were recognized before becoming a Christian. This is natural. When we become truly aware of the cost of our sins and the price paid by Jesus' death on the cross (Isa. 59:2; 1 Pet. 1: 18-19; 1 Cor. 7:23), the sins in our life become amplified in our eyes, and we associate them with our spiritual guilt. However, Jesus' blood is what makes forgiveness possible (Eph. 1:7; Acts 2:38) not only for these sins but also for those that follow through our weakness (1 Jn. 1:5-10). Unfortunately, the more removed we become from that original feeling of guilt, the easier it can be to downplay our sins. This is what we must work to overcome for the rest of our lives. We must always see sin as the forerunner of spiritual death (Jas. 1:13-16) or we will simply accept its presence in our lives.

After a Christian has made many needed changes in addressing those types of sins that others in the congregation would notice, it can be very tempting to relax and feel a sense of accomplishment. While it would be appropriate to feel good due to spiritual growth, relaxing can be very detrimental to your soul if it means letting down your guard or becoming content with where you are spiritually (1 Pet. 5:8). This actually happens quite easily, because of how we tend to categorize sin. When we rid ourselves of the "big sins" that weighed on our minds to create guilt, we can tend to treat those "smaller sins" with less intensity. As we move our focus from blatant public sin to sins

obvious to the congregation to sins that are subtle, like envy, and perhaps private, like lust,

we must not give them less attention and less energy but even more! The more public our sins, the more external motivation we will have to repent. The more private our sins are, the more internal motivation we require. Therefore, while we are receiving encouragement from others to overcome sin, we must also build up our own motivation so that we are ready to attack private personal sin with just as much force and dedication (2 Pet. 1:8-10).

The longer a Christian goes between addressing sins in his life, the easier it will become for pride to set in, fooling him or her into accepting sinful attitudes and even actions as "normal" and "okay" instead of humbly repenting of them and changing (Jas 4:7-10). Some people even resent having some of these things pointed out because they have entered the stage of self-righteousness-expecting that all teaching should be directed toward others because "they need it." There are few things sadder than seeing someone who has been a Christian for years who then wastes it with such an ungodly attitude.

My friends, as you continue to learn, you must continue to change. This will go on throughout all of your life. It is what it takes to grow spiritually. It is what it takes to go to heaven (Rev. 2:1 0).

(Continued from page 1)

3. Spiritual Traits Accrue A Little At A Time. No one becomes a spiritual giant overnight. Rather he or she steadily pursues godliness through continual, faithful, spiritual exercise (1 Tim. 4:7-9). Perhaps it would be nice if we could be hit one day by a heavenly lightning bolt that would conform us into the image of God's Son (Rom. 8:29) but such will never happen. As Peter writes, each Christian grace is the result of building upon the previous one: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love" (2 Peter 1:5-7). Progress is the product of steady' pursuance. Becoming God's man or woman is accomplished a little at a time.

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...Jeremiah 3-4; 2 Thess. 1
 Monday...Jeremiah 5-6; 2 Thess. 2
 Tuesday...Jeremiah 7-8; 2Thess. 3
 Wednesday...Jeremiah 9-10; 1 Timothy 1
 Thursday...Jeremiah 11-13; 1 Timothy 2
 Friday...Jeremiah 14-16; 1 Timothy 3
 Saturday...Jeremiah 17-19; 1 Timothy 4
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

- ◆ October 24: Bible Search Practice, 5:15 PM on Acts 5-8.
- ◆ October 31–November 3: **Gospel Meetings** at **Stephenville** with Richard Massey and at **DeLeon** with Rick Popejoy. See flyers on the bulletin board.

Attention Ladies

Remember that Ladies Bible Class got started back last week and it is not too late to join in. The ladies meet every Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the fellowship hall and enjoy a time of singing, prayer, and Bible study. Make plans to join them as they study the Life of Christ.

Bible Search

- ◆ Congratulations to our youth who did a great job at Bible Search last week at Bangs. Certificates are given to the top three scores of each age group and **Garret Barnum** took number one in the high school division. **Michael and Jonathan Fuller, Caitlin Barnum, and Seth Smithey** all did excellent as well each showing the effort they had put forth in study. Congratulate and encourage these young people.
- ◆ The next test (over chapters 5-8) will be held here on November 14. We will be asking for your help in making cookies for the kids and in giving the test. Watch for details to come.



Be like the Bereans who "...searched the scriptures daily..."
(Acts 17:11)

Wedding Shower

There will be a wedding shower to honor recently married Ben and Meredith Griffith on Sunday, October 31 at 4:30 PM in the fellowship hall. They are still registered at Walmart. For any questions please see Peg Moore.



Something to think about...

God is the potter and man is the clay. What does that mean? Saul of Tarsus, one that breathed out threats and slaughter against Christians, became a Christian. He became one of the greatest Christians to ever live. How? Because he said, "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" He had a humble attitude willing to conform to the will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).

~Richard Massey

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following the evening worship services**. Last week **31 contacts** were made.

Directory & Picture Updates

Time is Running Out!!!! A "final proof" of the new directory has been made available at the back of the auditorium, please check and make sure you are happy with your picture and your information is correct before we print the final copies for all of the congregation. Thank you again for your help. To update information, please see Ryan and to change your picture, please get with Tom Wilcox.

New Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. The theme is "**What The Church Needs.**" Make sure you pick one up and study it with an open Bible. Then keep it for reference or pass it along for someone else to study!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

October Birthdays: Jim Moore (03), Lisa Greer (05), Matthew Churchwell (07), Sara Evetts (12), Jo Maninger (12), Seth Smithey (13), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Peggy Dudley (25).

October Anniversaries: Freda & James Womack (19), Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25), Patti & Mike Bannister (27).

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	October 10, 2010	October 17, 2010
Bible Class	57	55
AM Worship	78	76
PM Worship	49	53
Wednesday PM	50	45
Contribution	\$1672	\$1528

Privileged to Serve	10/24/10 - AM	10/24/10 - PM	10/31/10 - AM	10/31/10 - PM
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford James 1:2-4		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	October 27 Allen Griffith	November 3 Jim Moore	November 10 Don Smith	November 17 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of October 24th:

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians (Chap. 14-15)*

Wednesday Class *Hosea (Chap. 6-7)*

The Peacemakers (Matt. 5:9)

1. God is a Peacemaker

- a. Called the God of peace (Rom. 15:33, 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20).
- b. While involved in a spiritual warfare; He seeks peace with all men (cf. Eph. 6: 2 Cor. 10:4; 2 Tim. 2:3; Rom. 11:22; 1 Tim. 2:4; Ex. 34:6-8).
- c. He has done this by reconciling man to Himself (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Rom. 5:8-10).
- d. This was the mission of Jesus (Isa. 9:6; Luke 2:14) and peace can only be found in Him (Isa. 57:21; Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:9).
- e. This peace we have with God increases with knowledge and drawign closer to God (2 Pet. 1:2; Gal. 1:6; Phil. 4:6-7).

2. God Expects Us To Be Peacemakers

- a. Remember we are to be like Him (Eph. 5:1).
- b. Actively seek to live at peace with men (Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:10-11).
- c. But also involved in spreading the gospel of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:15).
- d. Involves waging a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:15, 17) which will bring peace to some and divide others (Matt. 10:34-35).
- e. When we do this we will be the sons of God – the world will see us as different and God will claim us as His own (2 Cor. 6:17-18).

Facing the Storms of Life

The question of facing trials in life is not a matter of “if” but “when” (James 1:2). The Bible offers some practical advice on facing such “storms”:

1. Before the Storm:

- a. Pray (1 Thess. 5:17).
- b. Build a Strong Foundation (Matt. 7:24-27; Heb. 6:19-20).

2. During the Storm:

- a. Pray (1 Pet. 3:12ff)
- b. Cling to God; Trust in Him (Matt. 14:28-31; 1 Pet. 5:7; Rev. 2:10; Rom. 8:18).
- c. Cling to One Another (John 15:12; Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 12:26).
- d. Learn/Grow (Acts 27:25; James 1:2-9; Ps. 37).

3. After the Storm:

- a. Pray (Col. 4:2).
- b. Take Inventory/Keep Perspective (2 Cor. 13:5; James 1:23-25; Phil. 4:11).
- c. Use what we have learned (James 5:11; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).

Notes: _____

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Return Service Requested