



Living By Faith

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

November 21, 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..... 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

HOW COULD THEY LOSE THE BOOK?

By Carl B. Garner

If you have ever lost anything, you know how frustrating it can be. If it was valuable, you were concerned, even frightened. It is not too unusual for us to lose an item and not even know we have lost it until we need it. This is just what happened to Israel about 2,500 years ago. It is hard to imagine that you could lose the "book of the law of the Lord," and especially "in the house of the Lord," (2 Chronicles 34:15). But it happened during the reign of Amon, grandson of Hezekiah and father of Josiah, during whose reign it was found. Josiah became king at the age of 8 years, but it was still another 18 years before the lost book was found. Perhaps the strangest thing about this situation is that the book was lost and found in the "house of the Lord." How could that happen?

Josiah, though not perfect, was a righteous man. He is said to have done "that which is right in the sight of the Lord...and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." That was not because of his father's or grandfather's examples, for both Amon and Manasseh were evil. His great-grandfather Hezekiah is regarded by many as the greatest of the post-division kings, and he may have influenced Josiah. Also, Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Nahum did their work in the same general period of Josiah's reign.

During the 18th year of his reign, Josiah authorized certain repairs to the Temple, and as this was being done, Shaphan the scribe came to the king and said, "Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes," (2 Kings 22:10-11). A restoration of God's worship and teaching was immediately begun, and many needed changes were made. As a gospel preacher, I cannot read these words without the thought that God's book can be and has been lost to many people in our generation. It seems incredible to me that it could happen, but one can hardly deny that it has happened.

LOST BOOKS TODAY

Just look at the world around you; and at the religious world. The Bible, while not lost in the sense that we do not have a Bible, is, for all practical purposes, lost to many. They may have a Bible but never read or study it. It might as well be lost to them. Some read their Bible, but have little respect for it, substituting their own preferences in doctrine, worship and life-style. Others have translated the Bible in such a way as to have, by their "translation," lost the thought of the original words inspired by the Holy Spirit. For all the value of some of these "translations," the Book of God may as well be lost.

(Continued on page 2)

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



How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:103-105

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

I can't tell you how the book was lost, but I can tell you what they did to solve the problem. And it just may be that this "process" needs to be reinitiated in this day of lack of respect for the authority of scripture. Perhaps if we will do what they did, we can bring back a measure of reverence to a book that is "lost" to many today. The following was their course of action:

1. Josiah removed all remnants of Baal worship. He "commanded Hilkiah the priest...to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal...and he burned them," (2 Kings 23:4). You cannot be true to God and not rid yourself of every vestige of rebellion.
2. All of the priests who participated in or encouraged the worship of idols were removed (v5). There are some preachers who will have to be replaced if we ever restore pure New Testament Christianity in our century.
3. Houses of the sodomites, male prostitutes in the land, were burned and destroyed, along with remnants of their idol worship, (v7). You cannot leave intact the symbols of rebellion without encouraging the practice of rebellion.
4. They removed all of the altars made to worship Ashtoreth, Milcom and Chemosh, the gods of their pagan neighbors. Not only did they remove them, but they "brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men," (2 Kings 23:13-14). Physical violence will not be needed, but error and sin must be removed or the disease will return.
5. They reinstated the worship God had originally ordained, along with all the associated activities (v21ff). In other words, they restored the worship and commandments that had originally been given to them.

What does this have to do with us in the twentieth century? Are we in danger of losing the Bible? Is there a

danger that the church Jesus built will die? There is a danger; but not that Christ's church will die. Only that the message of redemption will be kept from a lost generation. There is also the danger that the family of God today can become as Israel of Josiah's day; rebellious, apathetic, lost in religious error. His church will survive, Daniel 2:44. But will we?

Josiah's solution was very simple. Remove all worship not authorized by God and replace it with the "pure religion" authorized by God, in both theory and practice. The same thing will work today. It is not likely that we will lose the Book as they did. We may lose our love for truth; our determination to live by it; our love for the God who gave it; our willingness to teach it. That is what happened to Israel then, and it could happen to us today. By the way, do you know where your Bible is?

She Loved The Author

By Jim Murrell

The young lady stopped by the book store to pick up a book, the best-seller of the day. She hurried home with anticipation of spending a pleasant evening with the book. After arranging the comfortable chair and the reading light, she found the book to be dull and very uninteresting. Placing the book on the shelf, she soon forgot about it.

Later, a young journalist moved to the town to work on the local paper, and the two young people fell in love. One evening she remembered the book and exclaimed, "Why, Tom, you have the same name as the author of this dull book!" But he replied, "It is not strange. I wrote the book."

That evening the young lady read the book completely, and was amazed to find it was neither dull nor uninteresting. The reason? She had fallen in love with the author."

So many people today see the Bible as dull, boring, and outdated. Before we truly appreciate the inspired Word of the Bible, we must love the Author.

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day"
(Psalms 119:97)

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...Ezekiel 14-16; Hebrews 12
Monday...Ezekiel 17; Hebrews 13
Tuesday...Ezekiel 18-20; James 1
Wednesday..Ezekiel 21; James 2
Thursday...Ezekiel 22-23; James 3
Friday...Ezekiel 24-26; James 4
Saturday...Ezekiel 27-28; James 5
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

Setting Our Priorities

By Tom Moore

There's an old story about a farmer who one morning decided to plow the north forty. His tractor needed oil, so he started to the barn to get it, but on the way he noticed the pigs had not been fed. Near the corncrib was a pile of sacks, reminding him that the potatoes were sprouting. But on his way to the potato pit, he passed a woodpile and remembered that the kitchen stove was burning low. While picking up wood, he saw that one of his chickens was ailing, so he dropped the wood to doctor the chicken ... and so it went to the end of the day, and he still had not oiled the tractor or plowed the north forty.

Is your Christian life like this trip to the barn? Do you have grand visions of great service that never gets done? Have you found too many "other things" to do that interfered with your goal of being a productive servant in God's kingdom?

The only way you and I will ever "get to the barn" of Christian service is to get our priorities in order. The farmer in the story did not have any priorities. He just flowed with the tide of events around him!

Our life contains plenty of "pigs to feed," "wood to cut," and "chickens to doctor." But we can't allow these to get in the way of serving God. If we make the commitment and extend our effort, God will make a way for us to "get in the barn!" "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33).

The Cost of Christianity

By Tim Ayers

Luke 14:28 speaks of counting the cost. We value things according to what they cost. The greater the cost, the greater the value. What is the cost of Christianity? It cost God His Son (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). It cost Jesus His life (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24). What does it cost us?

There are certain costs that every person must count:

- ◆ Forsaking all (Luke 14:33)
- ◆ Denying ourselves (Matthew 16:24)
- ◆ Presenting our bodies a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)
- ◆ A life of working out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12)
- ◆ A life of teaching (2 Timothy 2:2)
- ◆ A life of suffering (2 Timothy 3:12; Luke 6:26)
- ◆ A life of seeking first things first (Matthew 6:33)

Nothing is more valuable than being a Christian. It is worth all the cost, all the time, all the effort we can put into it. Let us "spend and be spent" for the greatest cause of all, the cause of Christ!

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services and our **3rd Sunday finger food supper** following the meeting. Last week **37 contacts** were made.

Ladies Bible Class

The **Ladies Bible Class will not meet this week** but will resume on Wednesday, December 1st at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Join them as they study the Life of Christ

Today's Events: Vicksburg devotional at 2:30 PM; **Bible Search practice** at 5:15 PM; **Visitation meeting and fellowship meal** following evening worship.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

November Birthdays: Linda Jiminez (08), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), Xavier Martinez (28).

November Anniversaries: Barbara & Gene Bannister (06).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



	Recent Records	November 7, 2010	November 14, 2010
Bible Class		66	60
AM Worship		81	73
PM Worship		49	51
Wednesday PM		52	47
Contribution		\$1696	\$1564

Privileged to Serve	11/21/10 - AM	11/21/10 - PM	11/28/10 - AM	11/28/10 - PM
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Fuller Psalm 19:1-3		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	November 24 Ken Makuta	December 1 Michael Bickford	December 8 Allen Griffith	December 15 Jim Moore

Studies For The Week of November 21th:

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians (Chap. 16)*

Wednesday Class *DVD*

Against Anger (Matt. 5:21-27)

1. Forbids Anger (v21-22)
 - a. Law of Moses forbid murder (Ex. 20:13, 21:12, Num. 35:20-21) but they had not made application of this teaching beyond the actual action.
 - b. Jesus shows that we must be concerned about the root cause of murder — anger.
 - c. Not condemning righteous anger (Mark 3:5, Ps. 7:11) but reminds us that anger must be controlled (Eph. 4:26-27; James 1:19).
 - d. Shows this in the example of “raca” and “fool” – hateful, destructive words that expressed anger and would be liable to judgment.
2. Examples (v23-24) – both show the importance of settling matters quickly rather than letting anger build.
3. Lessons:
 - a. Conduct originates in the heart. (Prov. 4:23; Matt.12:34-35) Hostile feelings will lead to hostile actions and so it necessary to control them early on (Eph. 4:26-27; Phil. 4:8). Correct the heart to preven the sin!
 - b. Our attitdues and words matter (1 John 3:15; James 3:5).
 - c. Maintaining right relationships with men is essential to maintianing a proper relation ship with God (Rom. 12:18; 1 John 4:20).

Lessons from Geese

God's creation is a reminder of fact of The Creator (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19-20) and also can serve to teach great lessons (Prov. 6:6; Prov. 30:24). What about geese, what can we learn from them:

1. **We accomplish more when we work together.**
 - a. The v-shape formation they fly in increases their flying distance by about 71% but it is important each does their part.
 - b. We must work together toward the same goal; unity is expected and helps us reach heaven together (John 17:20-21; Col. 3:1-3; 1 Cor. 1:10).
 - c. We must make the individual decision to be faithful — one should feel the difference of falling away (2 Thess. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:13, James 5:19-20).
 - d. We must also work as a team (Gal. 6:1-2, 5).
2. **We need to encourage one another.**
 - a. The v-shape is increases visibility and communication.
 - b. We must be active in encouraging one another in our singing (Col. 3:16) and assembling (Heb. 10:24-25) and simply supporting one another (Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Thess. 3:13).
3. **We need to help one another.**
 - a. When one goose gets sick others will fly down with them and stay until they can continue their journey together.
 - b. Again application can be made to helping those in sin (Gal. 6:1-2) or in the problems of life (John 13:34; 1 Thess. 3:12).

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Return Service Requested