



# Living By Faith

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

November 28, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
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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..... 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.

## THE WIDOW'S MITE

By David Harris

Sometimes the Lord chooses what many would consider to be the most insignificant things, and people, to teach tremendous lessons. Consider the Widow and her offering in Luke 21.

*"And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Lk.21:1-4).*

The Lord used the Widow and her mites as an example for all time. This widow must have thought, as she tried her best to labor for the Lord; "What can I possibly do to make a difference, I am poor, I am destitute, I am a widow with nothing of significance?" Jesus took her circumstance in life and used it for all to follow.

The contribution of two mites was considered to be nothing by many who worshiped. A mite is a coin of very small value, not even as much as our penny today, and we know how much a penny will buy. But the Lord had need of this widow and her two mites. Compared to the gifts of the rich men it was considered to be nothing, but to the widow it was all that she had, even her food money. This was truly a sacrifice.

Did she know that Jesus was going to be there? No. Did she think at the time that the Lord would use her sacrifice as an example for all time? No. She was just being steadfast in her devotion to the Lord.

The Holy Spirit through Paul teaches a lesson concerning our sacrifice today in the New Testament church: *"Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:2).*

If we all gave as the Lord has prospered us, we still would not have given as much as the Widow and her mites. We are taught to give as we have been prospered by God. If we do that, we will be found acceptable in the sight of the Lord. If we do more than that, no doubt it will not go unnoticed. The men with their rich gifts in the account of Luke, were giving only that which was required of them, thus it could be said of them and us today; *"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Lk.17:10).*

This was the widow's moment in time – she made a difference in the Kingdom of God, because of her devotion to God. We can not, and must not, ever think that we are invaluable in the Lord's work. Nothing is too small nor too little, if it is used by the Lord. *"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, un-*

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting  
God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not,  
neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

*Isaiah 40:28*

(Continued from page 1)

moveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor.15:58).

God needs everyone of us, because this is our moment in time. We only get one opportunity at life, we must make it count for the Lord. If we, as Christians, do not speak up and stand up for the Lord, then who will?

As much as the widow knew, her labor was not in vain. As much as we know, our labor will never be in vain in the Lord (Mt.6:33).

When we look at the stars, we are impressed by their beauty, majesty, wonder, and their great number. They are a multitude of glimmering lights in the sky. While scientists have learned much about the stars in recent years, there is much more that mankind still does not know about the stars. For us it is a marvelous wonder of creation.

By the Word of God the stars were placed in the universe and have continued in their role since the creation of the world. But what to us is such a marvelous wonder is summed up in five words in the creation account, "He made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16). The first two chapters of Genesis give the account of God's creation and show that such a scientific marvel, such as stars, was no problem for the Creator! The power of God is beyond our imagination, that by mere words God set this whole universe—a universe that is complex beyond our imagination—into motion. Not only that, He did it in six days (Exodus 20:11)! Surely we serve an awesome God.

Yet so many think this earth came by chance, by some accident of nature and everything just came to be - that somehow every wonder of creation that we see about us is really just part of a process that was set in motion millions or billions of years ago and just happened to make such a wonderful place to live.

If one will pause and consider the earth, and indeed the whole universe, he will have to ask himself, "Did this all really come about without a designer?" "Did everything just happen to be?" One such person that asked that question was William Paley. He is known for proposing that as a watch cannot make itself or just happen to be, neither can this universe just hap-

## He Made The Stars Also

By Ryan Smithey

pen to be. In 1802 in Natural Theology he wrote:

*In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there; I might possibly answer, that, for anything I knew to the contrary, it had lain there forever: nor would it perhaps be very easy to show the absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place; I should hardly think of the answer I had before given, that for anything I knew, the watch might have always been there.... There must have existed, at some time, and at some place or other, an artificer or artificers, who formed [the watch] for the purpose which we find it actually to answer; who comprehended its construction, and designed its use.... Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design, which existed in the watch, exists in the works of nature; with the difference, on the side of nature, of being greater or more, and that in a degree which exceeds all computation.*

Thankfully the answer of our universe's origin has not gone unanswered. The book of Genesis, by inspiration of God, reveals the creation account. There indeed was a designer; He is the God that has made Himself known to us by means of His word. Paul described Him to the Athenians as the one in whom "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Yes, indeed, "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). He created this universe in six days—and, "He made the stars also!" (Genesis 1:16).

### 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 29-31; 1 Peter 1  
Monday...Ezekiel 32-33; 1 Peter 2  
Tuesday...Ezekiel 34-35; 1 Peter 3  
Wednesday..Ezekiel 36-37; 1 Peter 4  
Thursday...Ezekiel 38-39; 1 Peter 5  
Friday...Ezekiel 40-41; 2 Peter 1  
Saturday...Ezekiel 42-44; 2 Peter 2  
*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

## *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

by Kyle Butt, M.A. Published by Apologetics Press

Who could forget God's promises to the "father of the faithful?" Not only would God bless all nations through Abraham and give his descendants the land upon which Abraham's feet had trod, but God also would cause Abraham's descendants to multiply so that they would be as countless as the stars of the sky. In Genesis 15:5, we read God's promise to His friend Abraham: "Then He [God] brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'" The prophet Jeremiah referred to a similar promise that God issued to David, in which He explained that the stars "cannot be numbered" (33:22). Indeed, that the stars are numberless comes as no surprise to those of us who have seen pictures taken from the Moon, or peered into other galaxies through million-dollar telescopes. Yet, the idea that the stars could conceivably be counted remained firmly planted in the minds of some all the way up until the early 1900s. In chapter 12 of his exciting book, *Why the Bible is Number One*, Kenny Barfield catalogs a host of ancient, and not-so-ancient, personalities who attempted to count the stars. One such Greek astronomer, Hipparchus, almost two centuries before Christ, went on record in multiple ancient sources with figures anywhere from 800 to 1,080 for the total number of stars. Barfield sites other ancient writers such as Chang Hing, who put the number around 2,500 "not including those which the sailors observe." The idea that there existed a fairly small number of stars conceivably countable by humans was quite a prevalent notion. It is humorous today to compare the actual estimated number of stars to those figures garnered from the ancients. With our modern knowledge we have estimated that there are over 25 sextillion stars (25 with 21 zeros after it)! Indeed, the Bible was correct when it commented that the stars "cannot be numbered." And, even though the promises to Abraham and David were not uttered with scientific information as their primary concern, it is true that whenever the Bible speaks on such matters, it always is scientifically accurate. What else would we expect from the "Father of lights?"

REFERENCES-Barfield, Kenny (1997), *Why the Bible is Number 1* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock).

### **Visitation Program**

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Last week **29 contacts** were made.

### **Ladies Bible Class**

The **Ladies Bible Class** will resume this Wednesday, December 1st at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Join them as they study the Life of Christ

### **Upcoming Events:**

- ◆ **Bible Search practice** today at 5:15 PM
- ◆ **Next Sunday (12/5): 1st Sunday Potluck** following the morning worship.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:**

**Remaining November Birthdays:** Xavier Martinez (28).

**December Birthdays:** James Womack (04), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

**November Anniversaries:** Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

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



	Recent Records	November 14, 2010	November 21, 2010
Bible Class		60	58
AM Worship		73	73
PM Worship		51	52
Wednesday PM		47	39
Contribution		\$1564	\$1580

Privileged to Serve	11/28/10 - AM	11/28/10 - PM	12/5/10 - AM	12/5/10 - PM
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		John Barnum 3 John 2-4		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 1 Michael Bickford	December 8 Allen Griffith	December 15 Jim Moore	December 22 Don Smith

**Studies For The Week of November 28th:**

Sunday Class ..... *2 Corinthians (Intro./Chap. 1)*

Wednesday Class ..... *Micah*

Against Lust (Matt. 5:27-30)	Premillennialism
<p><b>1. Forbids Lust (v27-28)</b></p> <p>a. The law of Moses forbid adultery (Ex. 20:14) and prescribed the penalty for such (Lev. 20:10).</p> <p>b. Jesus again goes deeper by forbidding looking upon another to lust after them – goes back to the initial stages of sin to prevent sinful action.</p> <p>i. <b>Conduct originates in the heart</b> (Matt. 12:34-35, Prov. 4:23; Phil. 4:8).</p> <p>ii. <b>Sin is progressive</b> – looking, desiring, and partaking (cf. Gen. 3:6; Josh. 7:21; 2 Sam. 11:2-4); temptation must be stopped before it turns to sin (James 1:13-15; 1 Thess. 5:21-22). This look of lust is one that only lacks opportunity.</p> <p>iii. <b>God looks on the heart</b> (Heb. 4:12; John 12:48; 1 Cor. 4:5).</p> <p><b>2. Calls For Restraint (v29-30)</b></p> <p>a. What is heaven worth giving up?</p> <p>b. The supposed pleasures of sin are not worth the cost (Heb. 10:25; Rom. 8:18; Matt. 16:26).</p> <p>c. Teaches self-denial (not maiming) showing it's better to be deprived of the things of life than miss eternity's rewards; give up/eliminate sources of temptation. (cf. Col. 3:5)</p>	<p><b>1. Flavorful</b> – full of variety. Basically a doctrine that Christ will return to the earth to gather His saints before beginning a literal, earthly, 1000 year reign as king in Jerusalem upon the throne of David.</p> <p><b>2. Fictional</b> – made in the minds of men. Revelation 20 is often used as "proof text" but it does not support the fanciful teachings that surround this doctrine. (cf. Isa. 8:20; 1 Pet. 4:11; Acts 17:11; Col. 3:17)</p> <p><b>3. False</b> –</p> <p>a. Contrary to the teachings of the Bible (Gal. 1:9; 1 John 4:1).</p> <p>b. Consider just some contradictions from Acts 2:</p> <p>i. v3-4 – The Kingdom is already in existence</p> <p>ii. v16 – These events fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (1 Pet .1:10-12).</p> <p>iii. v21 – Salvation was then available to all through the gospel (Eph. 2; Eph. 3:6; Gal. 3:28; Rom. 11:26)</p> <p>iv. v22-23 – Christ's death was part of God's plan, not an asurprise (Heb. 9:12; Eph. 3:10-11)</p> <p>v. v24, 31 – Christ is a powerful savior, not a failure (John 18:36; John 6:15)</p> <p>vi. v30, 32-33, 36 – Christ now reigns as king (Jer . 22:30, Matt. 1:11-12; 1 Tim. 6:15).</p>

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