



Living By Faith

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

December 5, 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

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

Blurring The Difference Between Right And Wrong

By Marvin L. Weir

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines “blur” as “to make indistinct and hazy in outline or appearance; obscure.” The devil is never happier than when people believe and argue that one cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. Wrong is **never** right, and to become convinced that it is will jeopardize one’s soul. There are two things that will guarantee a recipe for disaster. First, to believe that one cannot discern the difference between right and wrong will lead to eternal ruin. Second, to believe that right is whatever one believes it to be will damn one’s soul. The only person capable of defining what is right for all people is God.

The Holy Scriptures affirm that God’s people have always been told to “*hearken to the voice of Jehovah thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of Jehovah thy God*” (Deut. 13:18). One will observe that people are to do that which is right **in the eyes of God**. Man may believe an act or action to be right when the act or action is really wrong. Solomon warned, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Prov. 14:12). Man’s thoughts and ways cannot be compared to God’s thoughts and ways (Isa. 55:8-9). The Holy Scriptures remind us: “*The Rock, his work is perfect; For all his ways are justice: A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, Just and right is he*” (Deut. 32:4, *emph. MLW*).

Faithful spokesmen of God have always instructed people to do the **right** thing. Samuel told the people of his day, “*Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against Jehovah in ceasing to pray for you: but I will instruct you in the good and the right way*” (1 Sam. 12:23, *emph. MLW*). Today the faithful of God must continue to pray for those who refuse to obey the gospel and for those who have erred from the truth while continuing to instruct each group “*in the good and the right way.*”

First, let us observe that the world seeks to blur the difference between right and wrong. A lesson that most young people sorely need to learn is that the **majority** has never been right! In Genesis 6:5 God observed that “*the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Gen. 6:5). Only eight souls were saved **in** the ark (Gen. 7:13) when the universal flood destroyed all other flesh that moved upon the earth (Gen. 7:21). Lot escaped the wicked city of Sodom only with his

(Continued on page 2)



*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee.*

Isaiah 26:3

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two daughters (Gen. 19:15). His wife chose to do the **wrong** thing and look back; she became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). All other people were killed in Sodom, Gomorrah, and the surrounding cities of the “Plain” (Gen. 19:24-25).

Those who want to go to Heaven will come out from among people in the world (2 Cor. 6:17). The words of the Lord have never been more true than when He said, *“If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”* (John 15:18-19). One will either be a follower of the world or a follower of Christ. A person cannot *“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”* (Matt. 6:24). It is impossible to follow God and the world at the same time. Thus, this warning is given: *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15).

Second, Satan will try to blur the difference between right and wrong. There are those who loudly declare one cannot know right from wrong. They also advocate that either society, the situation, or the circumstances will determine the right thing to do. The Bible warns of false teachers in saying, *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works”* (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Third, Satan will attempt to get one to believe that he is entitled to interpret the Scriptures the way he sees them. The Bible reminds all who will hear *“that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Pet. 1:20-21). The origin of Scripture is Peter’s point – it came from God and not man! Man must understand the **will** of God and do it (Matt. 7:21). Man can understand God’s will for His Word instructs, *“Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5:17). Will you choose to do **right**?

Driving Away the Vultures When You Worship

by Neal Pollard

In Genesis 15, Abraham is offering a heifer, goat, ram, turtledove, and pigeon on an altar. This was the way you worshipped in Abraham’s day. As a matter of course, Abraham was cutting all but the birds in half in preparation to worship when the buzzards buzzed the sacrifices. Almost as a footnote, Moses writes, *“The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away”* (Gen. 15:11).

Have you ever had to do that when you worshipped? Maybe, you’ve prepared for worship and are actively engaged in it when the vultures try to descend. That bird of prey might be a noise in the auditorium, an uninvited thought, an action by another worshipper or a worship leader, the room temperature, some type of visual distraction, or almost any other sort of external or internal intrusion. But, these things can become the predators that pick at, sabotage, or consume our worship. Our thoughts and attitudes can be adversely affected to the point that we fail to offer God acceptable worship.

Sometimes, you have to shoo away those birds of prey. Swoop into action. Pray. Redouble your concentration. Give yourself a mental pep talk, reminding yourself why you are assembled. Do not let the vultures violate your veneration! Fight off the distractions, annoyances, and aggravations! You will be the better for that effort, and God will be pleased with what you offer.

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 45-46; 2 Peter 3
Monday...Ezekiel 47-48; 1 John 1
Tuesday...Daniel 1-2; 1 John 2
Wednesday...Daniel 3-4; 1 John 3
Thursday...Daniel 5-6; 1 John 4
Friday...Daniel 7-9; 1 John 5
Saturday...Daniel 10-12; 2 & 3 John
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

Protect Your House

By Richard Mansel

Adam and Eve found themselves in paradise, the likes of which we cannot imagine. They had everything they could possibly need.

God completed his work and deemed it "very good" (Genesis 1:31, NKJV). He then rested, leaving it up to man to enjoy or corrupt this extraordinary blessing.

Satan knocked on their door with smooth, flattering words and Adam and Eve fell for his lies, allowing evil to enter (Genesis 3:1-19). Instead of protecting their house, sin moved in and they were expelled from the Garden (Genesis 3:22-24).

In the 1980 film, "The Gods Must Be Crazy" a peaceful African tribe finds trouble when a Coke bottle falls from a plane. Initially astonished that the "gods" have given them this gift, they soon realize it is a curse as the bottle sparks fights, anger and pain.

The tribal leader throws the bottle away, only to see someone retrieve it. To protect his house, he takes the Coke bottle many miles away, so it will no longer threaten their peace.

Adam and Eve should have chosen the same path, instead of accepting Satan's lies.

What will we do to protect our house, our spiritual abode? Will we accept the lies and bring evil into our midst? Paul wrote, "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints" (Ephesians 5:3). In other words, we say no to Satan's sales pitch and slam the door in his sneering face.

We teach our children that sin is not welcome in our lives. We protect our hearts with the pure gospel of Christ. "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8).

We do not allow the sins of the flesh to enter our homes (Galatians 5:16-21). We do not slip them in and hide them in a corner so no one will see them (Ephesians 4:1).

How much sin is acceptable in our lives? A woman puts a glass in front of her beloved child. Someone asks her how much poison she will allow in her child's glass. She will shout none!

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). God provides all that we need, so we must fill our homes with his bountiful blessings.

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Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Last week **21 contacts** were made.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the **Ladies Bible Class** each Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. Join them as they study the Life of Christ.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **1st Sunday Potluck** following the morning worship.
- ◆ **Bible Search practice** today at 5:15 PM
- ◆ **Sunday, December 12: Bible Search** at Stephenville.

Thank you... Priscilla and I appreciate so much the expressions of love and concern you all have shown us this past month regarding her dad. I have been especially thankful for the elders and your patience in allowing me to travel and help them as necessary in trying to get him the care he needs. ~Ryan Smithey

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

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).

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

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



	Recent Records	November 21, 2010	November 28, 2010
Bible Class		58	43
AM Worship		73	62
PM Worship		52	44
Wednesday PM		39	48
Contribution		\$1580	\$1487

Privileged to Serve	12/5/10 - AM	12/5/10 - PM	12/12/10 - AM	12/12/10 - PM
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Ken Makuta, Hank Wheeler & Peggy Luker	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum Romans 11:33-36		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	James Fuller*, John Barnum James Thomas, Michael Fuller	James Fuller
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 8 Allen Griffith	December 15 Jim Moore	December 22 Don Smith	December 29 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of December 5th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 1-2)*

Wednesday Class *Micah*

Fidelity in Marriage (Matt. 5:31-32)

As well as thoughts/attitude, Jesus also expects one to control his actions. Both here and in Matt. 19:3-9 we see He stresses fidelity in marriage, a sacred relationship instituted by God (cf. Heb. 13:4).

- 1. Jesus stresses marriage, not divorce.**
 - a. He speaks of the sanctity of marriage rather than severing it by going all the way back to the first marriage of Adam and Eve and shows that God intended marriage to be one man and one woman for life.
 - b. We are reminded that God hates divorce (Mat. 2:14-16) and that the marriage bond is for life (Rom. 7:2-3).
 - c. Indeed marriage is not a frivolous matter in God's sight.
- 2. Jesus says divorce was a concession, not a command.**
 - a. They showed an altered view of what Moses instructed.
 - b. Divorce was addressed by Moses (Deut. 24:1-4) but as a concession, not a command
 - c. Jesus goes back and stresses and upholds the original, divine intention design for marriage.
- 3. Jesus took divorce seriously.**
 - a. He only gives one exception to God's intention that would make divorce and remarriage acceptable and that is due to fornication.
 - b. Marriage is a union in the sight of God that man cannot sever, regardless of what man's law says.

Think!

God created us with the amazing ability to think and reason... let us remember He expects us to put that ability to use!

- 1. He Has Always Called Upon His People To Reason (Isa. 1:18)**
 - a. God is pictured as calling upon Israel to think, to reason.
 - b. They were not thinking and had turned from God (v3-4), He wants them to realize this was the cause of their punishment (v7) and they could turn back to him (v10, 16-18).
 - c. This was a logical decision they needed to make.
 - d. Many other examples could be given of God calling upon His people to think and choose what is right (ie Josh. 24:15)
- 2. The Gospel Is A Message of Reason (Acts 24:25)**
 - a. Paul was doing the same thing we should do today: preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20) and persuading people (Acts 19:8; 28:23) by use of reason (Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4, 19).
 - b. He did not call upon others to blindly follow Him but to have true faith that convicts and acts (Heb. 11:1ff; 4:2).
- 3. The Logical Conclusion Is We Should Serve God (Rom. 12:1)**
 - a. Paul praises God (Rom. 11:33-36) and goes on to show based on that, we should serve God (12:1).
 - b. When one thinks about, examines, and reasons concerning the scriptures, the logical conclusion is to serve God.
 - c. Let us still today realize we must think, use our minds, and the conclusion will be to serve God according to His Will.

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Return Service Requested