



Living By Faith

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

December 19, 2010

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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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..... 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.

Calvary, Not Bethlehem

By Tom Wacaster

It happened almost 2,000 years ago, but the residual effect is still with us today. Every time we partake of the Lord's supper we are reminded of that moment in history when the sins of mankind were laid upon the back of our Savior, when the Son of God bled and suffered on Calvary that you and I might live.

For some reason, though, men have a desire to celebrate the birth of Christ rather than His death. We decorate our houses with glittering lights, wrap our presents in pretty paper, and sing holiday songs for approximately twenty-eight days. Then we go on our merry way wishing each other a Happy New Year until the next "black Friday" when the latest gadgets and electronic marvels hit the shelves of Best Buy and Walmart.

While the birth of Jesus is most certainly a significant historical event, it was not God's wish that we celebrate the birth of Jesus once a year, but that we remember His death once a week. Every time we break the bread and drink the cup we are reminded of Calvary! The late Johnny Ramsey so eloquently captured the idea:

On a hill far away that old rugged Cross beckons lost mankind to a nobler pursuit of life. Out of the depths of despair and ruin untold comes a clarion call from heaven that provides salvation for wayfaring men estranged from God to come back home to the Father who runs to meet the prodigals once enveloped in the pigpen of iniquity. The compelling love of the One who died for all (2 Corinthians 5:14) draws us to a richer, fuller, and purpose-filled life that responds to the suffering Savior in obedience, gratitude, and loyalty (The Words of Truth, April 25, 1997).

The real impact of Christianity is not found in a manger one cold December morning. In fact, evidence suggests that our Lord was born in the early to mid-spring rather than the dead of winter. The heralding angels, the shepherds, and the wise men all played a part in ushering the Lord and Savior into this world. We cannot, yea would not, diminish the importance of that moment when Mary gave birth to the incarnate Son of God. Without His birth there would have been no life; and without His sinless life there would have been no value in His death beyond that of ordinary mortal men.

However, it is not His birth but His death that provides hope. It is His death that unleashed the power of heaven to save men from their sins. It is Calvary, not Bethlehem, to which the eyes of lost humanity must turn for hope. It is Calvary, not Bethlehem, where Jesus paid the price for the sins of humanity. It is Calvary, not Bethlehem, where Jesus fulfilled God's law, satisfied divine wrath, and opened the fountain of life from whence has poured forth the cleansing blood of our Lord for twenty centuries.

Yes, all this happened at Calvary, not Bethlehem!

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." —Galatians 6:14



*See that none render evil for evil unto any man;
but ever follow that which is good,
both among yourselves, and to all men.*

1 Thessalonians 5:15

GIVING

By Johnny Ramsey

Christianity is based on the principle of giving. God gave His Son. Christ gave Himself. Early servants of the Lord gave their very lives in proclamation of the Gospel message. Every facet of truth reflects generosity, sacrifice and dedication. Those who are stingy with the cause of Christ have no right to expect abundant blessings. An old but vital message is found in the following words:

It's not what we earn that makes us rich
As riches are really known;
But how honest we are as we lay our hand
On what we call our own.
It is not what we keep that gives us peace
In an age when peace is rare,
But how honest we are, as we lay aside
Our own and the Master's share.

Sometimes, before the collection is taken on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) we sing a spiritual song that contrasts what the Lord gave us with how little we return. Sadly, the challenging message often falls on deaf ears and hardened hearts. L. O. Sanderson wrote of the boundless blessings from heaven:

All things bright and beautiful
Creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all...

When we honestly and humbly survey the overflowing love of God we are ashamed of how puny and petty our offerings really are.

"I have showed you all things how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

This was the oral message of Paul to the elders of Ephesus. In a written epistle to Corinth the great apostle embellished the same teaching: "Every man according as

he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Jesus went to Calvary as a maximum demonstration of what giving is all about. A brilliant poem captures the scene:

He borrowed a room on His way to the tomb
The Passover lamb to eat
They borrowed a cave for Him a grave
They borrowed a winding sheet
But the Crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own - the cross was His own!

We not only should reciprocate in love and money to the cause of Christ but also in the giving of our time, energy and talent in the kingdom of God's dear Son. We waste so much time in lesser matters; yes, in the pursuit of things that perish with the using. Politics, sports, entertainment and social graces occupy our days and waste our lives. We become so busy in secular concerns that we overlook the compassion Hebrews 13:1-2 demands: "Let brother love continue, Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

When we find precious little time for spiritual matters we may have an eternity to regret misplaced values!

We also must be careful to give good advice to those we meet along the road of life. We need to give the gospel to neighbors, friends and relatives who have never obeyed the will of God. Never forget: The heavenly Father so loved that He gave!

If the name of the Savior is precious to you
If His care has been constant and tender and true
If the light of His presence has brightened your way
O will you not tell of your gladness today?

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB	Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).	Sunday...Obadiah; Revelation 8
In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB	Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)	Monday...Jonah 1-4; Revelation 9
Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org	Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)	Tuesday...Micah 1-4; Revelation 10-11
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Wednesday...Micah 5-7; Revelation 12
Radio	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Thursday...Nahum 1-3; Revelation 13
Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		Friday...Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 14
		Saturday...Zephaniah 1-3; Rev. 15-16
		<i>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)</i>

News & Notes

Opportunities to Serve

- ◆ You all do a great job but make sure you regularly **check the back page for areas you may be assigned to serve** each week. These lists are being updated based on the recent surveys you completed indicating areas you were willing to help in.
- ◆ We need someone one or a group of people that would be willing to help transport Billie Jean to and from services on Sunday morning. She lives near the bottom of Bangs Hill across from Northwest Elementary and needs someone that has an easily accessible vehicle and can help with her walker. If you can help please see Ryan.

Pictorial Directory

The new directories are finally available at the back of the auditorium! Make sure you pick up one for your family and if we should run out, more will be printed as needed. Please re-use your current binder if possible but if you have never received a directory or your binder is worn out, some are available as well. Thank you all for your patience as we worked on getting these out and especially to those who helped in various ways.

Where Is Our God?

By Glenn Colley

1. He is above us, watching over us. "Hide me under the shadow of thy wings" (Psa. 17:8).
2. He is underneath, to uphold us. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." (Deut. 33:27).
3. He is in front of us. "He will be our guide, even unto death" (Psa. 48:14). "If the Lord be God, follow Him!" (I Kings 18:21).
4. He is behind us, to encourage us. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isa.30:21).
5. He is on our right hand, as our strength and stay. "I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psa. 16:8).
6. He is round about us, our protection. "As with the mountains around Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever" (Ps. 125:2).

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Last week **36 contacts** were made. Also remember tonight is the 3rd Sunday and so we will have a finger-food dinner following our meeting.

Ladies Bible Class

The **Ladies Bible Class** is on break through the end of the year. We will resume our study of the Life of Christ on January 5th.

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	December 5, 2010	December 12, 2010
Bible Class	50	47
AM Worship	78	71
PM Worship	46	51
Wednesday PM	38	45
Contribution	\$1953	\$1465

Privileged to Serve	12/19/10 - AM	12/19/10 - PM	12/26/10 - AM	12/26/10 - PM
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Michael & Diana Bickford	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller 2 Corinthians 8:1-5		Hank Wheeler
Opening Prayer	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Garrett Barnum, Michael Bickford	Allen Griffith	Don Smith*, Michael Fuller John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister	James Thomas
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 22 Don Smith	December 29 James Fuller	January 5 Ken Makuta	January 12 Michael Bickford

Studies For The Week of December 19th:

Sunday Class2 Corinthians (Chap. 2-3)

Wednesday ClassMicah (Chap. 3-4)

<p align="center">Response to Evil (Matt. 5:38-42) <i>Jesus challenges us to resist the mentality of getting even and instead to responding in love.</i></p> <p>1. Resist Not Evil</p> <p>a. What was taught was once again partially right (Ex. 21:2-25, Deut. 19:16-21); such legislation was not necessarily new and was for the protection of the victim and the offender.</p> <p>b. But those judgments were not for personal vengeance but to be determined by the judges (Lev. 19:18).</p> <p>c. Jesus instead taught not to resist evil, or the one who did evil.</p> <p>i. There are things we should resist (James 4:7; Eph. 5:11).</p> <p>ii. But we should not meet evil with evil (Rom. 12:17, 19).</p> <p>iii. This is how Jesus lived His life (1 Peter 2:20:24).</p> <p>2. Meet Evil With Love</p> <p>a. How then do we respond to evil – with good (Rom. 12:21).</p> <p>b. Jesus gives four examples in which He tells us to respond not with evil but in love when one would treat us wrongly or seek what is ours; in most of the cases He even says give more than what is asked for!</p> <p>c. Love seeks what is best and so goes “the second mile” to win the other over with good (Rom. 12:14-21).</p> <p>d. Such a response has far greater strength than retaliation (Prov. 16:32; 1 Pet. 2:12, 3:1) and shows the true character of love that seeks to do what is best for others (1 Cor. 13:4-7).</p>	<p align="center">The Joy of Giving (2 Cor. 9:6-15) <i>How do we look at giving? We should do it with joy, knowing:</i></p> <p>1. We benefit from giving (v6)</p> <p>a. Giving is not one-sided, the one who gives, receives as well.</p> <p>b. It follows the common law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; 19:17; Eccl. 11:1; Luke 6:38).</p> <p>c. Receiving does not become the aim of our giving but it is a part of the joy in giving (Acts 20:35).</p> <p>2. Giving should be done cheerfully (v7)</p> <p>a. Yes, it was to be done as prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2) but not of compulsion, rather cheerfully and willingly.</p> <p>b. This mindset is aided by remembering:</p> <p>i. The sacrifices of Jesus (2 Cor. 8:9).</p> <p>ii. All things are from God and we are His stewards (James 1:17; Eph. 4:28).</p> <p>iii. Proper Priorities (Matt. 6:33).</p> <p>iv. We are giving to God.</p> <p>3. Giving allows us to see the sufficiency of God (v8-15)</p> <p>a. We have to rely on God and not ourselves. This was the problem Malachi addressed (Mal. 3:8-10).</p> <p>b. Paul also says God will provide for them in their good works.</p> <p>c. This thought brings praise to God as Paul considers all God is accomplishing (support of Jews by Gentiles, the praise by Jews for the Gentiles, and God’s grace that made it possible)!</p>
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