



Living By Faith

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

December 26, 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..... 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.

Thoughts For A New Year

By Michael D. Rankins

The beginning of a new year is, for me, always a time of reflection, of introspection, of careful consideration of the past and planning for the future. Such times often find me drawn to the words of Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes, the greatest treatise on the human condition ever written. As we embark upon yet another chapter in the ongoing history of humanity on earth, think about these things:

"For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18). Isn't it true that the more you see of life, the sadder it makes you? That's not a negative statement; just an observation. The longer one lives, the more evil one witnesses, the more injustice one sees, the more grief one endures. The more one knows, the more aware one is of how things ought to be, and the more conscious one becomes of how rarely things are that way.

"I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him" (Ecclesiastes 3:14). Men spend a lot of time trying to improve upon the work of God. It can't be done. We cannot make better what God has ordained, whether in nature or in spiritual things. We should learn merely to accept what God has created, and be grateful.

"That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; and God requires an account of what is past" (Ecclesiastes 3:15). Solomon said it simply back at Ecclesiastes 1:9: *"There is nothing new under the sun."* Every generation comes along seeking its own style, its means of differentiating itself from others who went before. It's a pointless, foolish and ultimately impossible task. Everything that can be done, has been done. We may improve the technology, but beneath the shiny new veneer, it's still the same old, same old. And we can never impress God with our innovations - He's "been there, seen that" innumerable times before.

"Better a handful with quietness than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind" (Ecclesiastes 4:6). There are many Scriptures that remind us to be content with what we have (cf. Proverbs 15:16-17; Philippians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8). Discontentment with our material lot is in reality rebellion against God, for to be discontented is to accuse God of not blessing us as He should. Solomon, who certainly had plenty of worldly goods, points out that it is better to have a few things and to enjoy them quietly rather than to have much and all of the grief that goes along with it.

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other" (Ecclesiastes 7:14) Be happy for the good times life brings you, but acknowledge that the bad times have their purpose as well. Sometimes we have to be brought low to better appreciate the highs. Sometimes God permits us to be tested, as Job was. That testing produces patience

(Continued on page 2)



...for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:13-14

"RIGHT AND GOOD IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD"

By Roger D. Campbell

When the children of Israel were located east of the Jordan River and were preparing to enter the land of Canaan, Moses charged them, saying, "And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers" (Deuteronomy 6:18). What was the path of safety and victory for the Israelites? To "do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord" (Compare similar statements in Deuteronomy 12:25,28; 13:18; 21:9).

We use the word "good" quite freely in our conversations about religious matters. Among other things we speak about "good people," "good ideas," "good works," "good congregations," "good books," "good speakers," and "good leaders."

The term "good" is frequently used in the Bible, so it is not at all out of place for us to use it in our time. There is, however, the need for great caution. Why? Because it is written, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20). The bottom line is this; if God considers something to be "good," then it is inappropriate for any person to call such "evil." On the other hand, if God calls something "evil," then it is not right for you, me, or anyone else to call it "good."

Sometimes due to emotions or personal feelings, folks mislabel activities or people, calling them "good" or "right" when the Lord doesn't see them that way at all. Remember His instruction, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). What looks or feels right or good to us may, in reality, be displeasing to God. Thus, we must not allow our feelings or emotions to cloud our thinking and cause us to overlook or disregard what Jehovah says about a given matter.

In both the Old and New Testament we frequently read God's instruction about what men must do with that which is good and evil. For instance:

- ◆ "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so the

Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken" (Amos 5:14,15).

- ◆ "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).
- ◆ "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21,22).
- ◆ "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good" (3 John 11).

Friends, in all matters that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) we must turn to God's word in order to see what our Lord labels as "good" and "evil." Let us give serious heed to what God told His people through Moses: "...do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:18).

Yes, it is extremely popular in our time for men to "call 'em like THEY see 'em" without regard to what God has to say. However God's children march to the beat of a different drum! Let us set our hearts to live and die by what Jehovah calls "right and good." Why? Because although our Lord has not promised Christians a literal land of Canaan as He did the Israelites, there is an eternal, heavenly rest that awaits those who do what is "right and good" in His sight.

(Continued from page 1)

in us, whereby we are made more perfect (James 1 :4).

"Do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others" (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22). Don't pay attention to the mean and cruel things people may say about you. How often have you said something cruel and mean about someone else without thinking, or really meaning it?

And finally, as we look back at the end of the year now past, this encouraging thought: *"The end of a thing is better than its beginning"* (Ecclesiastes 7:8). May it be that at the end of 2010, we will all be here to reflect upon it and to welcome the coming of another new year, if God so wills.

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday...Haggai 1-2; Revelation 17</p> <p>Monday...Zechariah 1-5; Revelation 18</p> <p>Tuesday...Zechariah 6-8; Revelation 19</p> <p>Wednesday..Zechariah 9-11; Rev. 20</p> <p>Thursday...Zechariah 12-14; Rev. 21</p> <p>Friday...Malachi 1-3; Revelation 22</p> <p>Saturday...Genesis 1-2; Mathew 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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></p>

News & Notes

Best Wishes for a New Year

Long ago John wrote, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2) and that is my wish for each of you as well. I pray that you will have a prosperous and healthy year but more than anything that your soul will prosper and thrive in 2011!

Spiritual health of course starts with a proper respect for God and His Word. Let us **dedicate ourselves to spending time with God this year in prayer and in study of His Word.** This will not happen accidentally but we, like Daniel (Dan. 1:8), must **purpose in our hearts to accomplish this.** As one of the articles this week reminds us, God's Word is the only proper standard of what is good and right, so as we study it, **determine to put it into action.**

Saturday (January 1, 2011) starts over on our daily Bible reading schedule on page two. Why not even now determine to follow this schedule or some other to read through the Bible (for understanding/knowledge/application, not just to check off a schedule, of course) and include in this daily time of listening to God time to also speak to Him in prayer?

~Ryan Smithey

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18)

Top 10 Predictions for 2011

With all the problems the world is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today, I will share with you ten predictions that are true!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers (2 Peter 1:3).
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth (Ephesians 3:20).
3. The Holy Spirit will still work through His Word (Ephesians 6:11).
4. God will still honor the praises of His people (John 4:24).
5. There will still be powerful preaching (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18).
6. There will still be singing of praise to God (Ephesians 5:19).
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people (Psalm 116:12).
8. There will still be room at the cross (Matthew 11:28).
9. Jesus will still love you (John 15:13).
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him (Luke 19:10).

Isn't it great to remember who really is in control, and that "the word of the Lord endureth forever"? (1 Peter 1:25).

From house to house

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Last week **41 contacts** were made.

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.

Thank You...to everyone who had some hand in preparing the Holiday Gift Bags from the Congregation. Many helped in providing items for the bags, "stuffing" them, and delivering them. I know that everyone who was to receive one will greatly appreciate all of your work and your thoughts for them.

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ Fri. Dec 31—**New Year's Party** in the fellowship hall beginning at 6 PM till whenever...bring games, food, etc.
- ◆ Sun. Jan 2—**1st Sunday fellowship meal.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

January Birthdays: Kathy Burcham (03), Billie Jean Walters (05), Debbie Perkins (11), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Lily Martinez (22), Charlie Perkins (22), Mattison Churchwell (25).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



	Recent Records	December 12, 2010	December 19, 2010
Bible Class		47	57
AM Worship		71	73
PM Worship		51	53
Wednesday PM		45	56
Contribution		\$1465	\$1584

Privileged to Serve	12/26/10 - AM	12/26/10 - PM	01/02/11 - AM	01/02/11 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler 2 Peter 1:12-15		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Don Smith*, Michael Fuller John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Don Smith	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	December 29 James Fuller	January 5 Ken Makuta	January 12 Michael Bickford	January 19 Allen Griffith

Studies For The Week of December 26th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 3)*

Wednesday Class *Micah (Chap. 4-5)*

Active Love (Matt. 5:43-48)	A Year in Review
<p align="center"><i>Jesus goes further in his teaching on dealing with others by instructing not just to refrain from returning evil, but actually to love our enemies.</i></p> <p>1. What? (v43)</p> <p>a. The message of the OT had been perverted to command hating one's enemies (Lev. 19:17-18; Ex. 23:4-5; Prov. 25:21; Ps. 139:19-24)</p> <p>b. But Jesus said to love even our enemies.</p> <p>2. How? (v44)</p> <p>a. With agape love that seeks their best interest.</p> <p>b. Jesus taught our neighbor could be anyone in need (Lk. 10:29-37), even those who we don't know or may seek our harm (Lk. 10:25-37; Lk. 23:34; 1 Sam. 24, 26).</p> <p>c. This love is active in blessing, doing good, and praying even for our enemies.</p> <p>3. Why? (v45-47)</p> <p>a. Not for earthy reward or repayment (Lk 6:35).</p> <p>b. But to be less like the world, and more like God (Eph. 5:1; Phil. 2:15-16).</p> <p>4. To What Extent? (v48)</p> <p>a. To be perfect (complete) like God.</p> <p>b. He has an encompassing love that is extended to those who love Him and those who do not (Rom. 5:10; John 3:16).</p>	<p>The approach of a new year gives us opportunity to reflect back over some things that we have learned and experienced in 2010. Some of these things made us rejoice, others made us weep, hopefully all taught us valuable lessons that have helped us grow as we look forward to 2011!</p> <p>I will give a few highlights I thought of and make spiritual application; maybe you can list of your own as well:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We said hello to dear friends—does it challenge us to help them and to seek more? (Matt. 11:18-20) 2. We said goodbye to dear friends—does it make us appreciate time more? Have our lives changed as a result? (James 4:14) 3. We struggled with physical and spiritual problems—have they destroyed us or made us stronger? (James 1:2-4) 4. We studied the word of God—did we listen, did we grow? did we change? (Hebrews 5:12; 2 Timothy 2:12; Josh. 1:8) 5. We faced opportunities and challenges—did we use them, did they help us grow? (Galatians 6:10; Eccl. 9:10) <p>Others/Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

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Return Service Requested