



Living By Faith

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

January 9, 2011

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.

THE FEAR OF JEHOVAH

By Tom Moore

In the long ago, Solomon declared, “The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; But the foolish despise wisdom and instruction” (Pro. 1:7). Here this wise king gives us one of the keys to faithfully living before God – “the fear of Jehovah.” To fear the Lord is to have the proper respect for Him. We are to have an attitude of reverence, honor, respect, and awe toward the Almighty! Today we can have reverence for God also by respecting Christ, the church, the Bible, and His name.

Solomon informs us that fearing the Lord “is the beginning of knowledge.” The word “beginning” comes from the Hebrew word *reshiyth*, and one idea that this word carries is “to be first in rank.” In Proverbs 4:7 the same Hebrews word is translated “the principle thing.” Thus, we see that “the fear of Jehovah” is the most important part – it is the starting point – in gaining true knowledge. Since it is the case that we can do no better than we know, it is easy to see why knowledge of God’s word is so important. Jesus said, “If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:31-32).

The Bible is filled with passages informing us of the need and importance of fearing God. “And now, Israel, what doth Jehovah thy God require of thee, but to fear Jehovah thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve Jehovah thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deut. 10:12). “Now therefore fear Jehovah, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River, and in Egypt; and serve ye Jehovah” (Jos. 24:14). “This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13). “Jehovah of hosts, him shall ye sanctify; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread” (Isa. 8:13). Jesus said, “And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mt. 10:28).

There are blessed promises made to those who will fear God. The Psalmist declared, “Oh how great is thy goodness, Which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, Which thou hast wrought for them that take refuge in thee, Before the sons of men!” (Psa. 31:19). Luke wrote, “And his mercy is unto generations and generations On them that fear him” (Lk. 1:50). “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:35). We must realize that “In the fear of Jehovah is strong confidence; And his children shall have a place of refuge” (Pro. 14:26) and “The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring forever” (Psa. 19:9).

(Continued on page 2)



*For what shall it profit a man,
if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?
Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Mark 8:36-37

On the other hand, Solomon informs us that those who do not fear the Most High are “fools” and “despise wisdom and instruction.” Many reject the fear of the Lord, and thus wisdom and instruction, because they fear man more than they do God (Mt. 10:28). Many simply love the world more than they love God (Phil. 3:18-19). Many are like those in the days of Jeremiah, “but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of Jehovah arose against his people, till there was no remedy” (2 Chr. 36:16). Why did the people despise the words of the prophet, and thus, the words of God? They did not fear the Lord!

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” (2 Cor. 5:11), because “our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29). Truly, “The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge.” Remember, fearing God is the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13)!

Diving Deep

By Bill Burk

The apostle Paul, as he prayed for the Colossians, wrote, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving" (Col. 2:6-7). In order to be rooted firmly in Christ it is necessary to deepen one's faith in the Lord. In regard to greater faith, diving deep involves...

1. **Greater Trust In Time Of Doubt:** Doubts arise from numerous areas. Some derive from the *Intellectual*; that is, they find their origin in academia, media and other venues of public thought. Anti-Supernaturalism is the norm on television and in the classroom. So some, because of a bombardment of humanistic propaganda, begin to doubt that God, His word, His Son and salvation are true. At times, doubts arise because of the *immoral*. Some people choose to doubt because they do not like the boundaries of God and His word (cf. Jer. 6:16). Finally, doubts arise at times because of the *incidental*. Folks begin to doubt God and His goodness due to life's difficulties or the existence of evil in the world. A steady diet of God's word (Rom. 10:17), a study of His world (Rom. 1:20) and the benefits of the Christian world-view goes a long way in battling doubt.
2. **Greater Love In Time Of Conflict:** Conflicts between men arose shortly after sin and death entered the world (Gen. 3:6; 4:8; cf. Rom. 5:12). Despite the on-going hatred and malice that characterizes the world, Christians must choose to love determinedly (John 13:34-35); fervently (1 Pet. 1:22); protectively (1 John 4:8); impartially (Mat. 5:44); and resolutely (Mat. 18:15ff.). Despite the conduct of carnal men, a deepening faith demands that we love others as Jesus did.
3. **Greater Joy In Time Of Sorrow:** A faith that's deep is one that finds things about which to rejoice even in time of great sorrow. The Bible commands God's people to rejoice (Phi. 4:4; 1 Thes. 5:16). No matter how troublesome times may be we can still find reasons to be happy if we will seek to count our blessings (1 Thes. 5:18); comfort others (2 Cor. 1:3-5); and remember that life is about cycles, whatever difficulty that arises the sun will once again break and the clouds will eventually dissipate. We must remember this phrase in time of trouble, "This too shall pass" (Psa. 30:5).
4. **Greater Peace In Time Of Uncertainty.** Life is uncertain (Jas. 4:13-14). None of us have any idea what will happen tomorrow (pro. 27:1). Sickness, loss, death, or disappointment may be around the corner (Job 3:26). At the same time, the peace Jesus gives can be ours (John 14:27). If we are at peace with God (Rom. 5:1), then we can enjoy the peace of God (Phi. 4:6-7) and thus be in a position to be at peace with others (Rom. 12:18-21). Diving deep in one's faith involves being at peace because of one's relationship with the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6; 26:3).

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
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	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)	Sunday... Genesis 21-22; Matthew 7 Monday... Genesis 23-24; Matthew 8 Tuesday... Genesis 25; Matthew 9:1-17 Wednesday.. Genesis 26-27; Matt. 9:18-38 Thursday... Genesis 28-29; Matt.10:1-15 Friday... Genesis 30; Matt.10:16-42 Saturday... Genesis 31-32; Matthew 11 <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

Pictorial Directory

Just a reminder to pick up your new directory if you have not already; there are still one or two available at the back of the auditorium and more can be printed if necessary.

Also there is an **addition for you to add**, the page for Jessica Stultz was not ready at the time of printing but is now at the back of the auditorium. Make sure you pick up her page and add it to your directory.

Search for an Honest Man

I love this story from an old issue of *Sports Illustrated* (unknown date):

The game was played in Wellington, Florida. In it, a seven-year-old first baseman, Tanner Munsey, fielded a ground ball and tried to tag a runner going from first to second base.

The umpire, Laura Benson, called the runner out, but young Tanner immediately ran to her side and said, "Ma'am, I didn't tag the runner." Umpire Benson reversed herself, sent the runner to second base, and Tanner's coach gave him the game ball for his honesty.

Two weeks later, Laura Benson was again the umpire and Tanner was playing shortstop when a similar play occurred. This time Benson ruled that Tanner had missed the tag on a runner going to third base, and she called the runner safe. Tanner looked at Benson and without saying a word, tossed the ball to the catcher and returned to his position.

Benson sensed something was wrong. "Did you tag the runner?" She asked Tanner.

His reply: "Yes."

Benson then called the runner out. The opposing coaches protested until she explained what had happened two weeks earlier. "If a kid is that honest," she said, "I have to give it to him."

It may be that no Christian characteristic has suffered more in our society than honesty. It's lacking in the workplace, it's lacking in many of our marriages, it's lacking in our government, and sometimes it's even lacking in our churches. Like Diogenes of ancient Greece, we sometimes feel the urge to take our lantern and begin our search for an honest man.

There is something about Christians that should stand out like a neon sign on a dark night. Jesus wants His people to be known as a people of truth. We should establish a reputation, like Tanner, for speaking the truth even when it would benefit us to do otherwise. Then, and only then, will those around us trust what we say without hesitation, without wondering whether or not we really mean what we say.

*"Wherefore putting away lying,
speak every man truth with his neighbour:
for we are members one of another" (Ephesians 4:25).*

Glad Tidings of Good Things; Jacksonville church of Christ, AL

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting** following the evening worship services. Last week **27 contacts** were made.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the **Ladies Bible Class** each Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. We are studying the Life of Christ.

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ Today at 5:15 PM: **Bible Search Practice**
- ◆ Next Sunday, 1/16:
 - ◆ **Bible Search** at DeLeon at 2:30 PM. This test will cover Acts 13-16.
 - ◆ **Vicksburg devotional** at 3:30 PM.
 - ◆ **Finger food supper** following the visitation meeting after the evening worship.

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 26, 2010	January 2, 2011
Bible Class		49	54
AM Worship		60	76
PM Worship		47	45
Wednesday PM		46	47
Contribution		\$1520	\$1819

Privileged to Serve	01/09/11 - AM	01/09/11 - PM	01/16/11 - AM	01/16/11 - PM
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kalich		John Barnum Family	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		James Fuller 2 Thess. 2:13-17		Garrett Barnum
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Don Smith	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta
Wait on Table	Ken Makuta*, Michal Bickford Allen Griffith, Matthew Churchwell	Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	James Fuller
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	January 12 Michael Bickford	January 19 Allen Griffith	January 26 Jim Moore	February 2 Don Smith

Studies For The Week of January 9th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 4-5)*

Wednesday Class *Micah (Chap. 5-6)*

Christian Ambition (Matt. 6:19-34)

1. Choose Between Contrasts (v19-24)

- Earthy treasures vs Heavenly treasures – one lasts one is uncertain and temporary (Lk. 12:20)
- Single eye vs evil eye – one is focused and steady, the other is blurred and dark (James 1:8; Col. 3:-12)
- God vs mammon as master – one spiritual and wants what is best, the other is earthly and will destroy (1 Tim. 6:10-11, 19).
- We have to make as choice between these things (Josh. 24:15).

2. Consider Your Concerns (v25-30)

- Your choice is shown in what concerns you; do earthly matters consume and control your thoughts?
- Take no thought for earthly concerns (be not overly anxious for them; cf. 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8; Phil. 4:6-7) for your life is more than these things (Lk. 12:15).
- God cares for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, will He not care for you too? (1 Pet. 5:8).

3. Comforting Charge (v31-34)

- God cares for you and knows your needs; therefore you put first His kingdom and righteousness.
- Requires actively, diligently seeking after the things of His kingdom and those things that are right (Matt. 5:6).
- What do we put first? Shows shows what is most important to us—earthly or heavenly things, things of tomorrow or eternity.

Standing With God

1. Standing Behind God

- Following Him – not our own way or trying to direct Him.
- This is a lesson Peter had to learn (Matt. 16:21-24).
- We must be servants of God (1 Pet. 1:14-15; 4:1-2; Rom. 6:13, 17, 22; Col. 3:16; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 3:5-7; etc.).

2. Standing Beside God

- Willing to stand with Him, even when it is difficult; not being ashamed to own Him.
- Again, Peter once thought he was ready to do so but was not (Matt. 26:31-35, 56, 69-75).
- Persecution will drive many away (Matt. 13:20-21); will it us (Matt. 10:32-33)?
- We are encouraged to faithfully stand by Him for it is well worth it (Rom. 1:16; Rev. 2:10; Rom. 8:18; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Tim. 4:10).

3. Standing Before God

- Stand up for God and for righteousness; go and call others to turn to God (Eze. 22:30; Ps. 106:23; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 4:2ff).
- One who will take orders from God and go boldly as a messenger/servant to do the orders of a commander (Gal. 1:10;; 2 Tim. 2:1-4; Eph. 6:10-20)

Only by standing with God in life, will we be ready to stand before Him in judgment (2 Cor. 5:10).

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