



Living By Faith

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

January 16, 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.

Motivation

By Bobby Liddell

In obedience to the Lord, Paul went with the gospel, the message from Christ, and the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), to foreign lands, even to the rulers in whose prisons he was bound (Eph. 6:20). As in Paul's day, taking the gospel to the lost is the greatest and most needed work in the world (Mark 16:15-16)! Doing so requires motivation—but how does one stay motivated?

With the task of evangelism, instructing others in the way of the Lord, comes weighty responsibility (James 3:1), and the demand for our most fervent labors (Rom. 1:15). Ever looming is the possibility of discouragement (which some have characterized as Satan's most effective device), the archenemy of motivation. How can we overcome discouragement, and maintain the motivation to keep on keeping on in this most important work? We need to understand and apply the internal, external, and eternal aspects of motivation, if we would live the Christian life and teach others the truth, in order that we and they might be saved (1 Tim. 4:16).

The internal aspect of motivation comes from the Christian's heart-felt concern for the salvation of souls (cf. Rom. 10:1). The saved should realize they are debtors (Rom. 1:14), and be motivated by the real obligation to help others be saved. God's children understand that the world is in sin, yet God has provided for salvation for all men through Christ (John 3:14-17), and that salvation is conditional upon the sinner's being taught the truth and obeying it (Matt. 28:18-20). The problem of sin requires a plan for salvation- God's plan (2 Tim. 2:2). Thus, hearts filled with compassion motivate those in Christ, who are forgiven, washed by His blood (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5), to do all they can, to teach all the truth they can, to all the people they can (cf. Mark 6:34). While God's commands (1 John 5:3), promote internal motivation, workers in the vineyard of the Lord also need encouragement from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

All need encouragement-especially those fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12)! In the local church, elders can help motivate by leading the flock in the paths of righteousness (Acts 20:28). Insuring that gospel preaching sounds forth from pulpit and classrooms is another way elders can help members get moving, and stay moving. The gospel will motivate (cf. Gal. 1:23-24). Likewise, when well planned, properly managed programs, with specific, challenging, yet attainable goals, are in place, members will be encouraged in their labors for the Savior. Clearly defined work which makes good use of the abilities (and time) of individuals provides a major impetus in motivation. Along with these, support for those who stand fast in the faith, joined with appreciation expressed for a job well done, will provide the external incentive which propels faithful workers.

(Continued on page 2)



*Blessed be the Lord,
who daily loadeth us with benefits,
even the God of our salvation.*

Psalm 68:19

(Continued from page 1)

The eternal aspect comes from the knowledge that instructing people in the Bible opens the door for them to enjoy the greatest life in this world, and in heaven after a while (John 10:10). Teaching one about Christ will make the greatest difference (from lost to saved), for the greatest "time" (eternity). Therefore, teaching the gospel to others fills the greatest need in the world. Knowing this makes our efforts a blessing, not a burden. The salvation of one soul makes all the time, energy, and resources expended, as well as all the problems faced, and difficulties encountered, worthwhile.

As we live the Christian life and teach others the truth, we are instructing minds with the doctrine of Christ, helping mold lives into what they should be, building up knowledge, giving purpose, instilling hope, and putting into place the principles to save souls that will live eternally (Ecc.12:7; Matt. 25:46). There is no more important job than changing lives for the better, giving them direction for both present and future living, strengthening the church, helping brethren to be better equipped for God's service, and preparing the present and future church for its task. Knowing this should help us stay on course, motivated to faithful service.

May God bless faithful brothers and sisters who are willing to give, to serve, and to be used in the Lord's service. Humble servants of God are not motivated by love for worldly acclaim, by just a compelling sense of duty, or by the desire to be in charge. They are motivated by love for souls and willingness to work for the Lord. They have grasped what many have missed—a correct view of eternity and the urgency of the present. Let us all work together to be properly motivated in the greatest work in the world.

A COLD, HARD LOOK IN THE MIRROR

By Brent Smith

One of the most difficult things in life is to see ourselves for who we really are. Someone has said, "If we could see ourselves as others see us we would probably deny it." This has been a challenge for religious people throughout time. Jesus was regularly in conflict with the Scribes and the Pharisees, and He called them "hypocrites." In Luke 18, Jesus told about a Pharisee and a Publican who prayed. One big difference between the two is the Publican was able to see himself for who he really was, while the Pharisee was in the same spiritual drought if not worse, yet he thought highly of himself and looked on the Publican with disgust. It's very difficult to see ourselves, know our own strengths and weaknesses, when we are constantly eyeing others. Thus Jesus talked about a hypocrite with a beam in his eye while trying to judge a brother who had only a speck in his eye.

I'm reminded of the following poem.

"The Insult"

A lady with one of her ears applied
To an open keyhole heard inside
Two female gossips in converse free
The subject enraging them was she.

"I think," said one, "and my husband thinks,
That she's a prying, spying, eavesdropping minx!"
As soon as no more of it she could bear,
The lady, indignant, removed her ear.
"I will not stay," she said with a pout,
"To hear my character lied about!"

I want to be able to look in the mirror and see self for who I really am. I need to know my weaknesses so that I can do better. I need to be aware of my own faults lest I too become a hypocrite. The apostle Paul, who by the way was constantly aware of his own shortcomings, said to the brethren at Corinth, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).



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... Genesis 33-34; Matt. 12:1-8
Monday... Genesis 35-36; Matt. 12:9-32
Tuesday... Gen. 37-38; Matt. 12:33-50
Wednesday.. Genesis 39-40; Matt. 13:1-23
Thursday... Genesis 41-42; Matt.13:24-46
Friday... Genesis 43-44; Matt.13:47-58
Saturday... Genesis 45-46; Matthew 14
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

CD Recordings

- ◆ An error occurred in processing the audio recording for last Sunday's PM sermon that affected the CDs made as well as the audio on the website. The file has been corrected on the website and the CDs re-recorded. If you already picked your CD up, there is another one waiting for you with the corrected recording; if you had not gotten it, your CD has been replaced with a corrected copy.
- ◆ Also let me remind you that the sermons are recorded every week and made available free of charge to whoever will use them. Recordings are also made available in MP3 format on the website. If you want a CD just indicate that desire on your attendance card or let Ryan know and we will get that to you—recordings of previous weeks are available too if you will make that request.

WHAT IS THE HOME WITHOUT A BIBLE?

By J.A. McNutt

"What is home without a Bible"? Tis a home where daily bread for the body is provided, but the soul of man is never fed. America is fast becoming a nation of well fed bodies and starved souls. We provide food for our children's bodies but neglect to feed their souls. Many parents provide the highest secular education for their children but let them grow up as spiritual ignoramuses in this atomic age. Remember Jesus said, "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God," (Mt. 4:4). Is the Bible revered and respected? Is it read in your home, and above all is it obeyed by you and your family? Do you and your family attend Bible school and church each Lord's day? If not, why not? What is home without a Bible? Tis a family out at sea, compass lost and rudder broken, drifting, drifting thoughtlessly. You need a compass friend, in order to sail the seas of life. Think it over!



Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Last week **32 contacts** were made.

Thank You...

Both **Peggy Luker** and **Paul McClung** called this week wishing to express appreciation for all that has been done for them during the past few weeks as each of them have been ill. Your cards, calls, visits, prayers, and other acts of kindness are greatly appreciated.

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:
 - ◆ 2:00 PM: **Bible Search at DeLeon**. If you need a ride, we will leave from the building right at 1:00 PM. and should be back about 5:00 PM.
 - ◆ 3:30 PM: **Vicksburg Devotional**
 - ◆ 3rd Sunday **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	January 2, 2011	January 9, 2011
Bible Class		54	53
AM Worship		76	67
PM Worship		45	47
Wednesday PM		47	45
Contribution		\$1819	\$1584

Privileged to Serve	01/16/11 - AM	01/16/11 - PM	01/23/11 - AM	01/23/11 - PM
Greeters	John Barnum Family		Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum 1 Timothy 4:12-16		Michael Fuller
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum	Jim Moore
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	January 19 Allen Griffith	January 26 Jim Moore	February 2 Don Smith	February 9 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of January 16th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 5-6)*

Wednesday Class *Micah (Chap. 6-7)*

Judging (Matt. 7:1-5)

1. We Are Not To Judge Condemningly (v1-2)

- This judging is not simply discerning between right and wrong but involves using our own standards to try, convict, and pass sentence on another.
- Jesus did not even do this while on earth (John 12:47) but He did rebuke many for wrong-doing and urge them to do right.
- We are commanded to make some judgments (as in v6; Rom. 16:17; Eph. 5:1; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 10) – but these are examples of discerning truth by the standard of God’s Word.
- Passing of sentences is left to God (1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10).

2. We Are Not To Judge Hypocritically (v3-5)

- It is wrong to try to correct error in others while overlooking it in our own lives.
- We are not told not to help others, but first apply the truth to ourselves – something the Pharisees and the Jews were rebuked for not doing (Matt. 23:2-4; Rom. 2:1, 3, 21-23).

3. We Are To Judge Righteously

- For it to be just it must be according to God’s Word, the standard by which all will be judged (John 7:24; 17:17; 12:47-48; Rom. 2:16).
- Not with a fault-finding attitude (James 2:13; 1:19; 1 Cor 13:7)
- Requires seeking the right results, one’s salvation (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).

Benefits Of Being With God’s People (Num. 10:29-32)

We need to be reminded that everyone has something to gain and something to offer by being faithful to the Lord!

1. We Will Do Thee Good (v29, 32)

- Moses encouraged Hobab to go with them because God would bless Israel and in turn they would bless him.
- In the church today we have great spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3) that are open to all who would follow Christ (Matt. 11:28-30).
- Some of these blessings that come from being in the church, the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), include fellowship (1 John 1:3-4), forgiveness (1 John 1:7-9; Eph. 1:7), family/love (Eph. 2:19; John 15:12; Heb. 10:24; Rom. 12:15), and eternal life (John 10:27-28, 14:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:7-8).

2. You Will Do Us Good (v31)

- Moses also pleaded with Hobab on the basis that he would be useful to Israel.
- We need to encourage people to do all they can for the church each with their own talents (1 Cor. 12:12-27; 1 Cor. 3:9).
- Some of the things each can do: bring glory to God (Matt. 5:16); encourage others (Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:24); Be an example (Phil. 2:14-16; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:12); save others (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:15-16; James 5:19-20).

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Return Service Requested