



Living By Faith

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

January 30, 2011

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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..... 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 Glory-Land Way

By Rick Popejoy

The confidence expressed in this song is comforting to the one who possess it. Like David of old as he faced the giant (1 Sam. 17:26), here is a man that knows he is on that right path - not arrogance but a humble realization that he is doing what God has revealed. Herein lies trust that we, His children, would do things the way He has revealed them in the Good Book, “the holy scriptures” (2 Tim. 3:15). Anything else would be either ignorance or arrogance, both of which are condemned in Scripture (Heb. 5:11-14; 1 Pet. 5:5). May God bless our efforts as we travel the highway of holiness, the glory-land way.

As one reflects upon this song written by J.S. Torbett, he is able to see the willing obedience to the great commission, exhorting others to “listen” to “the gospel call” and urging “wand’rers” to “hasten to obey” and “come home”. Because he is on the glory-land way his heart of mercy (Mat. 5:7) also desires others to join him on this way of wisdom (Pro. 4:11).

Further reflection reveals the joy of the glory-land way. “Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard” (Pro. 11:35). The sweet singer of Israel spoke of the statutes of the Lord as “rejoicing the heart” and the commandment of the Lord as “enlightening the eyes” (Psa. 19:8). Even the apostles understood this, regardless of the harsh terrain (Acts 5:41). One should realize this whether he is just beginning on the narrow way (Acts 8:39; Mat. 7:14) or coming to the end of his journey (Heb. 3:6).

*I'm in the way, the bright and shining way
I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
Telling the world that Jesus saves today
Yes, I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)*

*Listen to the call, the gospel call today
Get in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
Wand'rers, come home, o hasten to obey
For I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)*

*Onward I go rejoicing in His love
I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
Soon I shall see Him in that home above
O, I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)
Heaven is nearer and the way groweth clearer
For I'm in the Glory Land way (Glory Land way)*

May God richly bless us as we continue to walk “in the way, the bright and shining way... The Glory-Land way.”



For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

3 John 3-4

Have you ever noticed how generic our prayers have become? In some ways, every prayer seems to sound very much like the previous prayer, and this may be true in private as well as in public. After all, most people learn how to pray in private by what they hear in the assembly. Perhaps this itself is part of the problem. The attention to saying things the right way has overtaken the responsibility to say what ought to be said (Mt. 6:7). However, if we will simply give greater thought to the specific situation we are in before we begin to pray—in public prayer, in prayers before meals, in prayers for individuals, in prayers with our family, and in prayers for ourselves—formula will automatically give way to variety because the needs are naturally different.

Building on this concept, we should learn to apply the principles of prayer, provided by Jesus (Mt. 6:9-13), in a very specific way. We should give praise to God, but we should spend more time expressing why we believe God is worthy of praise. The Psalms provide numerous examples of this very practice. God is worthy of praise from what He has done in creation to what He has done through Jesus to what He has done for us personally to this very day. We will never run out of reasons to give for praising God.

We should pray for the church as often as we can. We should pray for the church throughout the world in all that we face, for the congregation where we attend and the specific issues and challenges there, for the specific efforts being made locally, for what the congregation needs most at a given time, and for a congregation's members in all of their needs.

When we pray, we should think through and state our acceptance of God's will to specific matters that may not go as we would like (1 Jn. 5:14). We should want God's will to be done, even if that would mean that the answer is "No" to our specific request about someone's health or our desire for a particular job or anything else. This shows that our heart is in the right place as we pray (Jas. 4:3).

In prayer, we should express our thankfulness for all that we have been given (1 Th. 5:18). It is not too much to thank God for the specific food that you enjoy when you

Make Prayer Personal

By Kevin W. Rhodes

consider He could have just provided bread and water. It is not too much to thank God for our clothing, when we realize how poorly some people are clothed. Our homes, our friends, and our loved ones all provide multitudinous reasons to give God thanks. When we do so in one catch-all phrase, it lacks feeling and commitment—and we know it.

We rarely take the opportunity in prayer to address specific needs and problems we may have. We prefer to worry, complain, or call someone else, when we should take those needs to God, who can do far more than anyone else about it (Phil. 4:6). If you are having trouble at work, pray about it. If your child is having any kind of trouble at school, pray about it, and pray about it with him or her before and after school. If you are having trouble with your children, pray about it as a couple. If you are having trouble as a couple, still pray about it as a couple.

Going to God in prayer to ask for forgiveness is probably the most common reason for prayer, yet we tend to be generic about our sins even in our private prayers to God. We should change this and become specific about our sins—not because God does not know them, but because of how powerful it can be for our own benefit and how much greater meaning it is to God when the confession of sin is truly specific to the sin. If we do not name the sin because we feel it is too obvious, our heart should still express itself according to that sin, as David did in Psalm 51.

We should ask God for help in overcoming temptation and not be afraid to give specific problematic situations (1 Cor. 10:13). If you are battling with something personally, go to God about it. If a situation has developed in the congregation that has the potential to create problems, pray about it in public.

Does all of this require more thought? Sure. That's what makes it meaningful. The truth is that generic prayers reflect a generic relationship with a generic God. If we truly seek a personal relationship with a personal God, this will be reflected in the personal character of our prayers.

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>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday...Exodus 13-14; Matt. 20:1-16</p> <p>Monday...Exod. 15-16; Matt. 20:17-34</p> <p>Tuesday...Exodus 17-19; Matt. 21:1-27</p> <p>Wednesday..Exod. 20-21; Matt. 21:28-46</p> <p>Thursday...Exodus 22-23; Matt.22:1-22</p> <p>Friday...Exodus 24-25; Matt.22:23-46</p> <p>Saturday...Exodus 26-27; Matt. 23:1-22</p> <p><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>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		

News & Notes

The Futility of Opposing God

By Leroy Brownlow

*Why do the heathen rage,
and the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD, and against his anointed,
saying, Let us break their bands asunder,
and cast away their cords from us. —Psalm 2:1-3*

The Second Psalm deals with conflict: Messianic power and sinner's rebellion.

In the rebels' rebellion they rage, imagine, set themselves, take counsel against the Lord and say what they shouldn't. Evil men have always felt that God's rule is too restrictive; so as these sinners chafe and gall in their ill-fated desire for uninhibited living, they say, "Let us break their [God and His Anointed] bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" (ver. 3). No bands. No cords. No controls. What a terrible picture.

However, their evil imaginations are vain, to no avail. They are left defeated and crushed. The Lord shall laugh at their foolishness. Hold them in derision. "Vex them in his sore displeasure." And "break them with a rod of iron." God is merciful but firm. How silly for man to think he can win in opposing God. God's rule cannot be overthrown. Every attack against Him rebounds against the attacker. Against Him, you face defeat. With Him you are a sure winner.

*He always wins who sides with God,
To him no chance is lost;
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at his cost.*

Fredrick William Faber

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 at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. We are studying the Life of Christ.

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ February 6: 1st Sunday potluck following morning worship.
- ◆ February 20: Bible Search at Hico covering Acts 17-20.

Thank You...

- ◆ Dear Christian Family, thanks so much for all the beautiful birthday cards. ~Love you, Anita Boyd
- ◆ To our brother & sisters in Christ at 4th & Stewart, we wanted to let you know how much we appreciate all that you did during Lon's illness and passing. The prayers, thoughts, calls, and cards meant more to us than you know. We love you all! ~The Family of Lon Cox (Smitheys)



New Materials Available

New editions of the Spiritual Sword and House to House publications were received this week. They are available at the back of the auditorium. Please use these materials for your own study and also consider passing them along to others who will benefit from them.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

February Birthdays: Peggy Chism (03), Carol Wilcox (5), Lunday Maninger (08), James Nolen (10), Conner Vara (13), Patti Bannister (14), Jonathan Fuller (28).

February Anniversaries: Mariah & Steven Martinez (04), Zelma & Lloyd Leslie (09), Debbie & Charlie Perkins (11), Peggy & Billy Chism (26).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Recent Records	January 16, 2011	January 23, 2011
Bible Class	51	54
AM Worship	66	75
PM Worship	40	49
Wednesday PM	40	44
Contribution	N/C	\$1463

Privileged to Serve	01/30/11 - AM	01/30/11 - PM	02/06/11 - AM	02/06/11 - PM
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Billy & Peggy Chism	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Bickford 1 Peter 3:12-16		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith	James Thomas	Matthew Churchwell
Wait on Table	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford	Don Smith
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	February 2 Don Smith	February 9 James Fuller	February 16 Ken Makuta	February 23 Michael Bickford

Studies For The Week of January 30th:

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

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

Walking Worthy of The Gospel (Matthew 7:6-12)

- 1) **Some Will Not (v6)**
 - a) Some will show disdain or ignore the things of God.
 - b) God desires to richly bless us and has made such available to us (v9-11; cf. James 1:17; Matt. 5:45; Mark 16:15; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; Eph. 1:3; Matt. 7:21).
 - c) Such actions shows that He has counted us worthy of eternal life, but we can choose to reject it (Rom. 5:8; Ps. 8:4; Heb. 9:12; Acts 13:46; Heb. 10:29; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).
- 2) **Some Will (v7-8)**
 - a) Paul often encouraged Christians to guard their walk (Eph. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:12; Col. 1:9-10ff).
 - b) The difference here is one who values and longs after the things of God.
 - c) The words used indicate continual action on our part to **ask** (desire of God according to His will; James 1:5-6; 1 John 5:14; James 1:6-7, 4:3); **seek** (enquire after; strive for with the intent to find; Matt. 6:33; Acts 17:27-28); and **knock** (implore at the door provided; Luke 18:7; John 10:9).
 - d) Jesus also gives assurance that God can and will give good things to those who do so (Heb. 11:6).
- 3) **Do Good To Others (v12)** – This way of living will be evident in our actions as we do good to others even as God does to us (Eph. 5:1).

Guest Speaker, Michael Light

We are very fortunate in this area to have a group of sound congregations that work closely with one another in various works. This includes supporting one another in gospel meetings and other campaigns, radio programs, a monthly preacher's meeting where various works of the congregations are discussed and encouraged, the area-wide Bible Search program, the summer youth series, and of course the camp sessions at Cisco each summer overseen by the Bangs congregation. Indeed this cooperation is a rare treat in many places where the church exists, one that my family greatly appreciates and I hope that you do as well and will take advantage of. It was recently suggested that it would be nice for the area congregations to get to know some of the other preachers that work with the various congregations and for the preachers to get to know the other congregations as well. To this end, with the approval of the elders, on the 5th Sunday nights (usually 4 times a year) area preachers will be "trading places"; this will give you an opportunity to hear some other preachers (some of whom are new to this area in the past 2 years or so) and for them to meet you a little more as well. I hope you find this an enjoyable and encouraging time. This month Michael Light from Bangs will be preaching here tonight and I will be at Bangs.

Living by Faith is published weekly by the
4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 4th St.
Brownwood, TX 76801

Return Service Requested