



# Living By Faith

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

February 13, 2011

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
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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.

## Covetousness

By Glenn Colley

Covetousness is a mindset found in the Old and New Testaments and is listed as one of the blackest sins. Just what is covetousness?

There are various shades of meaning in Scripture. The general meaning is "the inordinate desire to have more things than one possesses." I usually say covetousness is when a man's desire for *things* outruns his desire to please God. For example, Luke 12:16-21 is the account of the man who, when abundantly blessed by God, could only think of himself. He had the ability to help others, but let material things make him selfish.

Sometimes it means, "A calculated effort to acquire gain through dishonest, unfair, and unscrupulous means." Paul was thinking of this when he penned, "For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness" (1 Thess.2:5). I would put gambling in this category, wherein a man would try to take another man's possessions by a game of chance. The man never hopes to lose his possessions, and gambles in hopes of acquiring another's possessions without working for them. Covetousness is behind it all.

Sometimes covetousness is just loving money too much. The Pharisees were covetous (Lk. 16:14). Paul wrote that ". . . in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous. . . ," and he used the word covetousness in this way when he wrote, "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel" (Acts 20:33).

Desire is natural, but covetousness is unnatural. When my desire for money and things is stronger than my desire to be honest, charitable, or to show kindness or genuine sympathy to others, I'm guilty of the sin of covetousness. Is it serious to be guilty of this? Yes: "... Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses" (Lk. 12:15). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater. . . with such an one not to eat" (I Cor. 5:11). "Mortify therefore your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness. . . and covetousness which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5).

The truth about covetousness makes it so important that I attend worship services faithfully. I need to be constantly exposed to good people and to the teaching of God's word in order to keep my perspective clear. What really matters in life is not things-it's people and their relationship to God. True success can only be defined one way ultimately: Living your life and going to heaven.



*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

*Hebrews 9:27-28*

# When Is A Good Time To Pray?

By Allen Webster



The bible refers to Jesus and His prayer life sixty-two times. Closer examination reveals twenty-two separate prayers recorded in the life of Christ. If We study Christ's prayers, we find that they cover the breadth of prayers Christians today might pray. Let us examine these twenty-two prayers and learn to pray like Jesus.

## Jesus Prayed...

**When He came out of the waters of baptism** (Luke 3:21). We should begin praying immediately after our conversion and never stop.

**When His soul was troubled** (John 12:27). Prayer mad do more than a doctor's pill or a counselor's bill.

**When He was alone** (Luke 9:18). Quiet times are rare for some, and constant for others. Either way, take advantage of solace of prayer.

**When He would soon be in God's presence** (Luke 9:28). Saturday night is a good time to pray about Sunday morning.

**When He was busy** (Luke 5:16). Too busy to take time for prayer? Re-prioritize.

**On ordinary days** (Mark 1:35). We set our alarms for work, ball games, golf, shopping, and recreation. Jesus set His to pray. Our daily autobiography needs both the prologue and epilogue of prayer.

**When He was about to suffer** (Matthew 26:41).

**For children** (Matthew 19:13). In a world of temptations, dangers, and opportunities, our children and grandchildren need us to wrap them in the mantle of prayer. Too, take time to pray for those who don't have parents who pray.

**When He completed a work** (John 19:30).

**When He had to make a big decision** (Luke 6:12-13). Choosing a companion, college, congregation, or career? Pray first.

**When He faced the death of a loved one** (John 11:41). Death hurts; prayer helps.

**When He received blessing** (Luke 24:30-32).

**In frustration over soul-winning** (Matthew 11:25). Every soul winner feels discouraged at times. Pray for wisdom, patience, and opportunity. Pray for God to spare the person long enough for a change to be made.

**When He was facing death** (Luke 23:46).

**When He was happy** (Luke 10:21). Share joy with the One who brings it.

**In the presence of others** (Luke 11:1). What could be more appropriate?

**When He was sad** (Matthew 14:23). Nothing calms our troubled hearts like prayer.

**For His enemies** (Luke 23:34-35).

**Before accomplishing His greatest feats** (Matthew 14:19; 15:36). We should pray before competitions, elections, career choices, and promotion opportunities. Too, a good prayer life helps us accomplish more when we did not anticipate great opportunities.

**In worship** (Matthew 26:27). Pray with the one leading, just as you sing with the song leader.

**When He was concerned over His disciples** (John 17). Prayer makes a difference in others.

*This article is available in tract form in the rack by the main entrance but reprinted here for everyone to read and benefit from.*

### 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...Leviticus 1-4; Matt. 26:36-56  
Monday...Leviticus 5-6; Matt. 26:57-75  
Tuesday...Leviticus 7-8; Matt. 27:1-26  
Wednesday..Leviticus 9-10; Matt 27:27-56  
Thursday...Lev. 11-12; Matt. 27:57-66  
Friday...Leviticus 13; Matthew 28  
Saturday...Leviticus 14-15; Mark 1:1-28  
*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

## THE FAITH THAT AVAILS

By J.A. McNutt

The Bible is filled with glorious examples of faith in action. It is faith that gives purpose to the lives of God's children, and inspiration for the heroic deeds of the martyrs who have died for the cause of Christ. In fact it is the motivating principle back of every act of acceptable obedience, and Christian service. Why did some reject the word of Christ? They did not believe in Him. Why did others love, obey and serve Him? They believed in Him with all their heart and soul. Faith that is too weak to lead one to obey God is worthless. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love," (Gal. 5:6).

### FAITH ALONE IS NEVER SUFFICIENT

1. Faith without love is worthless (1 Cor. 13:2). Such was true of the miraculous faith that could move mountains, and it is just as true of the common faith today.
2. Faith without confession will result in our denial (John. 12:42; Mt. 10:32).
3. Faith without turning cannot save (Acts 11:21).
4. Faith without works is dead, being alone (Jas. 2:24).
5. Faith without repentance and baptism does not result in salvation and remission of sins (Mk. 16: 16; Acts 2:38).
6. Christ gives the believer power to become a son of God, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on Him" (John. 1:12).

### Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** the evening worship services. Also, next week we will have our 3rd Sunday fellowship meal following the meeting.

### Ladies Bible Class

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

**Thank You...** Peggy Chism wishes to thank everyone for the wonderful birthday cards and calls she recently received.

### Directory Notes

- ◆ Please correct the anniversary date for Pam & Terry Teague on their directory page as well as the anniversary list to August 16th.
- ◆ Also please let Ryan know if you have not yet gotten a new directory and we will get that printed for you.

### Teachers Meeting

We will have a teachers meeting on Sunday February 27th at 5 PM. This is for all current teachers as well those who have an interest in teaching or helping teach any age group. Please make plans to attend or let one of the elders know if you cannot but have in interest in helping with our Bible Classes.

### Upcoming Events...

- ◆ February 20:
  - ◆ Bible Search at Hico covering Acts 17-20.
  - ◆ Vicksburg Devotional at 3:30 PM.
  - ◆ Evening fellowship meal following visitation meeting.
- ◆ February 27: Teachers Meeting at 5 PM.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for some upcoming meetings:
  - ◆ March 20-24 at Bangs with Ronnie Hayes
  - ◆ March 27-30 at Stephenville with HD Simmons
  - ◆ March 27-30 at Rising Star with Darwin Hunter
  - ◆ April 8-10 at Hamilton with Brad Harrub
  - ◆ April 9 Ladies Day at DeLeon
  - ◆ May 1-4 our own meeting with Tyler Young

### 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 30, 2011	February 6, 2011
Bible Class		52	53
AM Worship		70	76
PM Worship		51	49
Wednesday PM		Canceled	29
Contribution		\$1665	\$1600

Privileged to Serve	02/13/11 - AM	02/13/11 - PM	02/20/11 - AM	02/20/11 - PM
Greeters	The Maningers		Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler 1 Peter 3:14-17		James Fuller
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Jim Moore	Garrett Barnum	Michael Bickford
Wait on Table	Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Ken Maninger	James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	February 16 Ken Makuta	February 23 Michael Bickford	March 2 Allen Griffith	March 9 Jim Moore

### Studies For The Week of February 13th:

Sunday Class ..... *2 Corinthians (Chap. 6-7)*

Wednesday Class ..... *Zephaniah (Intro./Ch. 1)*

#### Caution, Ostacles Ahead! (Matthew 7:15-23)

1. **Warning** – *There Are False Prophets (v15)*
  - a. *Warnings remind us to take caution; Jesus reminds us some would detract us from the right way (2 Cor. 11:13-14; 1 Pet. 5:8).*
  - b. *Many other warnings abound (cf. Acts 20:28-30; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 1 John 4:1).*
2. **Help** – *Know What To Look For (v16-20)*
  - a. *If we don't know what to look for, confusion follows; but we have a standard (John 17:17, 12:48).*
  - b. *Jesus says to be fruit inspectors—we can't look at one's motives but we can see their actions which will lead them and those who follow to destruction.*
  - c. *We can compare what they teach with the word of God (Acts 20:27, 31-32; Gal. 1:9; 1 Tim. 4:6-7, 11, 13, 15-16; 2 Tim. 3:15-17, 4:2, 2:15, 1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7-11).*
3. **Importance** – *They will be judged and so will we (v21-23)*
  - a. *There are dangerous consequences for ignoring warnings.*
  - b. *Reminds us that all will be judged and so need to follow what is right (2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:11, 2 Tim. 2:15).*
  - c. *Some will be surprised but such does not have to be the case (Rom. 10:2; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 John 5:3).*

*Take care that you are not distracted from the strait and narrow!*

#### Dealing With Criticism

1. People WILL find fault with you (Matt. 11:16-19).
2. People criticized Jesus, a sinless man...
  - a. He associated with the wrong people (Matt. 9:11)
  - b. He was too common (Matt. 13:55)
  - c. He did not come from a good community (John 1:46)
  - d. He carried for sinners (Luke 7:36-39)
  - e. He healed on the Sabbath (John 5:1-6)
  - f. He broke their traditions (Mark 7:2-3, 6-7)
3. Reactions To Criticism
  - a. Don't invite it (1 Pet. 4:12, 15).
  - b. Live above it (1 Pet. 2:11-12)
  - c. Suffer/Endure it (1 Pet. 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:20)
  - d. Weigh it based on its merit (2 Cor. 13:5)
  - e. Don't cease doing right (Prov. 23:23; Matt. 13:21; Gal. 1:10; Matt. 4:10, 5:10-12).
4. A Word to the Critical
  - a. Look to yourself first (Matt. 7:3-5)
  - b. Think about what we say (James 1:19)
  - c. Let love guide in speaking the truth (Eph. 4:15; 1 Cor. 13)

“Be sure you are right and go ahead”

~Benjamin Franklin

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