



# Living By Faith

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

February 20, 2011

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

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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.

## “COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS”

By Mark Lindley

When Jesus was crucified there were some who mocked by challenging him to “come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:40). The chief priests, scribes, and elders scoffed at the Lord by saying that they would believe on him if he would “come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:42). Of course, Jesus had the power to accept their challenge. He could have called legions of angels to his rescue (Matthew 26:53). However, we should thank God and rejoice that Jesus did not accept the challenge to come down from the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no forgiveness of sins. Before Jesus went to the cross he said, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28). We could never be free from the guilt, shame, and damning consequences of sin if Jesus had come down from the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no church. Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). This verse makes it clear that the blood Jesus shed on the cross purchased the church. As previously noted, the blood Jesus shed on Calvary makes it possible for one to be saved from sin. This is simply another way of saying that the blood Jesus shed on Calvary makes it possible for one to become a member of the New Testament church. According to Scripture, every sinner who receives forgiveness is added, by God, to the New Testament church (Acts 2:37-47). This would not be possible without Jesus’ death on the cross.

If Jesus had come down from the cross there would be no reconciliation. Note Ephesians 2:16: “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” In the context, Paul is showing that Jews and Gentiles both have been reconciled to God in one body (the body is the church, Colossians 1:18) “by the cross.” To *reconcile* means “to bring back a former state of harmony.” Every person who has committed even one sin needs to be brought back to a former state of harmony with God. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). How can one be brought back to fellowship with God? Paul’s answer is “by the cross.” Reconciliation would not be possible without Jesus’ death on the cross.

Yes, we should rejoice that when the cruel mob at Calvary challenged the Lord to come down from the cross, his undying and matchless love for man kept him from accepting the challenge. If he had come down from the cross, how hopeless we would be!



*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

2 Timothy 1:12

## *Sermon on the Mount: Summary*

*We have come to the conclusion of our series on the Sermon on the Mount. I hope the series has been beneficial and I will try to briefly summarize some of the main points below for your reflection over all that we have covered. As we close, I want you to remember the word **challenge**. After all that is what this sermon should do for us every time we read and study it — challenge us to be more like the people God would have us to be!*

- ◆ **Beatitudes (5:1-12)** – These are attitudes and characteristics that one is to have in life; they must be present in the one seeking to know about God and His will, must continue in the life of a Christian seeking to please God and honor Him, and must be present in the one seeking to have an influence for good on others.
- ◆ **Christian Influence (5:13-16)** – Christians are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world; truly one that exhibits the characteristics of the beatitudes will have this kind of influence on the world.
- ◆ **Christ and the Law (5:17-20)** – We saw the respect that Jesus had for the law and how He did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it; He expects that we too honor God’s Word by putting it into action. He then said that our righteousness must exceed the hypocritical attitudes and actions of the scribes and Pharisees. Indeed, our service to God must be sincere and from the heart which will then show outwardly.
- ◆ **Against Anger (5:21-26)** – We saw that the Christian will not harbor anger in his heart. Also we began to see how our conduct begins in our hearts; therefore not just our actions are important but even the attitude of our hearts.
- ◆ **Against Lust (5:27-30)** – Even as hatred could build in one’s heart and lead to murder; lust could build in one’s heart and lead to adultery. As the Christian is to not harbor anger in his heart, neither should he allow such things as lust in his heart. Remember that God knows our hearts and also that is where our conduct begins.
- ◆ **Fidelity in Marriage (5:31-32)** – Jesus showed great honor for the marriage bond and expected fidelity in marriage. He went all the way back to the establishment of marriage in the Garden of Eden and reminds us that God instituted marriage as one man, one woman, for life. We should remember the sanctity of marriage and honor God’s plan.
- ◆ **Honesty in Speech (5:33-37)** – Just as our thoughts and actions are to be pure, so is our speech. He expects that one that is following Him will speak truly and can be trusted by his word. Remember that we are an example to the world and are to hold ourselves to a higher standard—the one Christ has set for us.
- ◆ **Response to Evil (5:38-42)** – The Christian is not to respond to evil with evil, but with love. Love is a powerful force and should guide our relationships with others, even our enemies.
- ◆ **Active Love (5:43-48)** – It is not enough just to refrain from responding with evil, we should go the extra step of showing active love—doing things in the best interests of others even when they are your enemies; in so doing the Christian imitates the Father.
- ◆ **Right Actions, Wrong Motives (6:1-18)** – Jesus also goes on to show us that we can do right things, but have the wrong motives. The Pharisees did a lot of right things but not for the right reason. We do not serve God for the attention of others, to praise ourselves, or to show off before God but to honor and serve Him. We are reminded that one of the hardest things we have to do as a Christian is to deny ourselves.
- ◆ **Christian Ambition (6:19-33)** – That raises the question of what is our ambition (desire or drive) as a Christian? We are forced to decide whether earthly concerns or heavenly concerns are the most important to us. We should be seeking to lay up treasures in heaven and to put God first in our lives. If our ambition is earthly treasures and concerns, we have misplaced our priorities. Jesus comforts and assures us that God is concerned with our physical needs and will watch over us.
- ◆ **Judging (7:1-6)** – Jesus warns all of his disciples that as they begin to put these things into action, they are not to judge others condemningly or hypocritically. We do not

*(Continued on page 3)*

<b>Television</b>	<b>God’s Plan for Redeeming Man</b>	<b>Bible Reading Schedule</b>
<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;"><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>Sunday...Lev. 16-17; Mark 1:29-45</p> <p>Monday...Leviticus 18-19; Mark 2</p> <p>Tuesday...Leviticus 20-22; Mark 3:1-19</p> <p>Wednesday..Leviticus 23; Mark 3:20-35</p> <p>Thursday...Lev. 24-25; Mark 4:1-25</p> <p>Friday...Leviticus 26; Mark 4:26-41</p> <p>Saturday...Leviticus 27; Mark 5:1-20</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

(Continued from page 2)

know the hearts of others, we are not the judge of others and will not decide their sentence, nor are we to correct others while we overlook sins in our own lives. However, the Christian can make distinctions based on God's Word (i.e. we can know whether a person is teaching the truth by comparing what they say with God's Word)—then we are judging righteously.

- ◆ **Walking Worth of The Gospel (7:7-12)** – We asked the question whether we were worthy of the gospel, not in the sense that we earned it or deserved it but whether we lived our lives in obedience to it. Some counted themselves unworthy of eternal life by rejecting it. God gave the gospel to us, how will we respond to it? We also considered how God has shown us His love in the gospel and so as Christians we should show love to others by treating them as we would want to be treated.
  - ◆ **Road Map to Heaven (7:13-14)** – Jesus then tells us that all accountable people are on one of two paths—we have entered in by a strait gate onto a narrow way that leads to life eternal OR we have entered in by a wide gate onto a broad way that leads to eternal destruction. We decide which road we are on by whether or not we obey the gospel and are faithful to God.
  - ◆ **Caution, Obstacles Ahead (7:15-23)** – As Christians, we have decided to enter the strait gate and follow the narrow way to eternal life; however, there are obstacles on this road of which we must be aware. He warns us that there are false teachers that would detract us from that narrow way but helps us identify them by comparing their works with the truth of the gospel. We must recognize false teachers and avoid them. Those that teach falsely will be judged by their actions, but so will we—therefore make sure that we continue walking down the right path that we have chosen, that is doing the will of the Father which is in heaven.
  - ◆ **What Choice will YOU Make? (7:24-27)** – This is the question that comes to each of us at the conclusion of the sermon. Some will be wise in choosing to hear and obey the instructions of Christ. They are like a builder whose house will stand when tested. However, those that reject Christ base their foundation on something else and it is sure to fail. This is an individual choice that we have to make, what will it be? Make sure that your foundation is upon Christ and faithfulness to God's Word!
- Let us continue to learn from God's Word and always seek to put it into action in our lives! ~Ryan Smithey

## Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** evening worship services; last week 31 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. Plus, the ladies who can are going out to lunch following class this coming Wednesday; make plans to join them for both.

**Teachers Meeting**...next 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.

**Clothing**...there are some clothes from Priscilla's dad in the fellowship hall for any that can use them; otherwise they will be donated somewhere else soon.

## Upcoming Events...

- ◆ February 20:
  - ◆ Bible Search at Hico covering Acts 17-20; it starts at 2 PM so we will leave the building by 12:30.
  - ◆ Vicksburg Devotional at 3:30 PM.
  - ◆ Evening Fellowship Meal after visitation meeting.
- ◆ February 27: Teachers Meeting at 5 PM.

## 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	February 6, 2011	February 13, 2011
Bible Class		53	59
AM Worship		76	73
PM Worship		49	41
Wednesday PM		29	48
Contribution		\$1600	\$1821

Privileged to Serve	02/20/11 - AM	02/20/11 - PM	02/20/11 - AM	02/20/11 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Ken Makuta & Hank Wheeler		Jim Moore & Peggy Luker	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		James Fuller Heb. 6:17-20		Michael Fuller
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Garrett Barnum	Michael Bickford	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism
<b>Wait on Table</b>	James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	February 23 Michael Bickford	March 2 Allen Griffith	March 9 Jim Moore	March 16 Don Smith

### Studies For The Week of February 20th:

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

Wednesday Class ..... *Zephaniah (Chap. 1)*

<b>What Choice Will You Make? (Matthew 7:24-27)</b>	<b>Because He Lives</b>
<p><b>1. We Are All Builders</b></p> <p>a. Each is building a spiritual house that is seen by man (2 Cor. 3:2) and God (Rev. 2-3; Rom. 2:16).</p> <p>b. The question is where and how am I building?</p> <p>i. Building on the rock takes effort (Luke 6:48).</p> <p>ii. Foolish people are careless about where they build (Matt. 13:15; James 1:22, 2:20; Luke 6:46).</p> <p>iii. But wise builders will put forth the effort and have the determination to anchor to the rock, Jesus Christ and His teachings (1 Cor. 3:11; Luke 14:28-30).</p> <p><b>2. Our Work Will be Tested</b></p> <p>a. The test is the same for both houses; we are tested in life (2 Tim. 3:12; James 1:2-3; 1 Cor. 10:13) and in the judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). What is different is their response to the storm.</p> <p>b. The time of testing is in the storm, not the calm; therefore the time of calm is the time of preparation (Dan. 1:8).</p> <p><b>3. Christ Has The Authority To Speak On These Things</b></p> <p>a. He was different from the teachers they had heard because He spoke with authority and He spoke words we need to heed (Matt. 28:18; John 8:28, 10:30; John 12:48).</p> <p>b. What will we do with His Words? Build on them, or accept whatever we happen to find?  <i>"...he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:17)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>When I consider the life, death, burial, and especially the resurrection of Jesus:</i></p> <p><b>1. V1: I am assured of my Savior</b></p> <p>a. Reminded of Christ as my Savior (John 1:14, 29, 3:17; Lk 19:10).</p> <p>b. He lived and died for us (1 Pet. 2:21-24; Eph. 1:7; Matt. 26:27-28; Acts 20:28).</p> <p>c. Though crucified, He lives again (Matt. 28:5-6; Rom. 1:3-4).</p> <p><b>2. V2: I am assured of comfort</b></p> <p>a. The birth of a child is a wonderful but anxious time.</p> <p>b. I know he faces uncertain days (Job 14:1; 2 Tim. 3:12; Rom. 3:23).</p> <p>c. But I also know he has hope (Matt. 11:28-30; Mark 16:15-16).</p> <p><b>3. V3: I am assured of a home in heaven</b></p> <p>a. Reminds me that this life is temporary (James 4:14; John 5:28-29).</p> <p>b. But I know I have a glorious home waiting (John 14:1-3, 9; 1 Thess. 4:16-18).</p> <p><b>4. Chorus: I am assured life is worth the living</b></p> <p>a. This life is worth living because I know who is in control (Rom. 8:18; Dan. 4:25; 2 Tim. 1:12).</p> <p>b. Without Christ's resurrection, none of this would be possible (1 Cor. 15:19-20; Rev. 1:17-18).</p>

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Return Service Requested