



Living By Faith

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

February 27, 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.

“WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

by Rick Popejoy

October 2, 1981 is a date forever etched in my mind. Upon this day, almost twenty-four years ago, a young lady gave up her family name and freely took upon herself the name Popejoy, no longer to be called Mona Kay Sipe “till death due us part.” As my bride she wears my name. I remember the words of the preacher, Hoyt Thatcher, to the crowd of witnesses, “I present to you, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Popejoy” and from that day forward we would be known as the Rick Popejoy Family. Suppose my beautiful bride to be, some twenty-four years ago, had whispered in my ear, before the ceremony that she wanted to take the name of the best man, Todd Collins. Now, it is because of the wonderful influence of the Collins family (as well as others in the Tuttle community) that I am a member of the Lord’s church today. No doubt it is a good name (Pro. 22:1) but it is not my name! Mona was not becoming his bride but mine. It would be an insult to me and to our relationship for my bride to wear her own name, the name of another, or for her to wear a hyphenated name such as Mona Kay Collins-Popejoy.

Now, you might be asking, “What’s in a name?” many things indeed for I speak concerning Christ and the church (Eph. 5:32). As the bride of Christ,¹ the church bears His name. Individually we bear the name Christian while collectively we bear the name churches of Christ. Each of these designations clearly distinguishes the relationship we bear to Jesus Christ (cf. Eph. 5:23-33). For example, Even though the Father is the great architect of the church (Eph. 3:9-11) and the Holy Spirit is the wonderful organizer thereof (2 Pet. 1:21) never do we find the expression, within Scripture, church of the Father or church of the Holy Spirit. You will find the generic church of God found on many occasions in the same sense that you find the word God. Used in this sense, the term God refers to deity without distinguishing a person. Jesus Christ on the other hand was the executor of the will of the Father. Jesus Christ was the one who came in the flesh and suffered the limitations and temptations of the flesh (Jho. 1:14; Mat. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:12-13; 1 Jho. 2:15-17), died on the cross for the redemption of man (1 Tim. 1:15), built the church (Mat. 16:16) and gave Himself for it (Acts 20:28).

Now there are those who want to take that blood-bought institution and make it into a sect or a denomination, thus dividing the body and hyphenating the name of the bride of Christ. It is a travesty for us to call ourselves by the name of mere men, even if those men are good men (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13). There are even those who after many years of wearing the name of Christ who are seeking to be loosed from that name. If you loose yourself from that name you must also loose yourself from the relationship that goes with it. What is wrong with the name Christ (Acts 4:12)? What is wrong with the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16)? What is wrong with the name Christian (1 Pet. 4:16)?

¹ This article is only dealing with the spiritual inscription of “the bride of Christ” and no other.



*Hold fast the form of sound words,
which thou hast heard of me,
in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 1:13

People With A Past

By Kris Groda

Sounds kind of shady doesn't it? There are many people who have a checkered record. Somehow, somewhere along the way, someone made poor choices and they have a public record or a bad reputation. The problem is so intense in our society that many businesses and non-profit organizations require background checks for people seeking a position of labor. Church camps and youth organization, in order to be in compliance with the law, can only use people who pass the test of background references. Sex offenders are marked people and they live with the stigma of their past. Many, in some states, have great difficulty in finding jobs and housing. In fact, the government sends out public notices every time they move. Can you imagine the humiliation and regret?

While some sins are obviously more grievous than others, having greater consequences, we must be reminded that each of us has a past! We are all guilty before God in that, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Every Christian, elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, church staff, worship leaders—each person who has been obedient to the Gospel—has been, 'delivered from the power of darkness', and 'translated into the kingdom of his dear Son' (Colossians 1:13).

Many great men and women of faith had a past. Rahab the Harlot had a past (Joshua 2). The woman at the well had a past (John 4:17-18). The woman taken in adultery had a past (John 8:3-11). Zacchaeus had a past (Luke 19). The Corinthians had a past. Paul said,

"Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV).

The Ephesians had a past. They

"were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Eph 2:1-3 ESV).

Paul the apostle, had a past. After his conversion,

"Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus." (Acts 9:26-27). Barnabas had to vouch that Paul was truly a changed man.

Paul explained to the churches of Galatia:

"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:.... But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. (Gal. 1:13-23)

If we aren't careful, Satan will use our past to haunt

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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>Sunday...Numbers 1-2; Mark 5:21-43</p> <p>Monday...Numbers 3-4; Mark 6:1-29</p> <p>Tuesday...Numbers 5-6; Mark 6:30-56</p> <p>Wednesday...Numbers 7; Mark 7:1-23</p> <p>Thursday...Numbers 8; Mark 7:24-37</p> <p>Friday...Numbers 9-10; Mark 8:1-21</p> <p>Saturday...Numbers 11-13; Mark 8:22-38</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</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><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)

and hinder us from becoming the person God wants us to be. Paul was determined not to let that happen. He knew there were going to be challenges. He knew that He would have to prove that he was a changed man. Paul also preached that *if he* could be changed, anyone could. For he stated, *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"* (1 Tim 1:15).

It may be that we invite people to come to the assembly but because they know how someone "use to be" they offer objections. Christians are not to become discouraged by the statements of unbelievers. We must, like the apostles, boldly defend the truth, preach the power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16) and not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord (2 Tim 1:8). We ring out the message of the power to live a changed life. We are *"new creatures"* in Christ. *"Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Cor 5:17). Christ made it possible that even the most wretched person in the world can be righteous. Remember that, *"I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind but now I see"*.

*Seeing ye have purified your souls
in obeying the truth through the Spirit
unto unfeigned love of the brethren,
see that ye love one another
with a pure heart fervently:*

1 Peter 1:22

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** evening worship services; last week 25 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.

Teachers Meeting Today

Anyone who is currently teaching or is interested in teaching or helping in the classrooms, please join us tonight at 5 PM to discuss various items concerning our teaching program.

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ March 6-9 at Stephenville with HD Simmons (please note this is a changed date; flyer on board).
- ◆ March 20-24 at Bangs with Ronnie Hayes
- ◆ March 27-30 at Rising Star with Darwin Hunter

"Give up money, give up fame, give up science, give the earth itself and all it contains rather than do an immoral act. And never suppose that in any possible situation, or under any circumstances, it is best for you to do a dishonorable thing, however slightly so it may appear to you... From the practice of the purest virtue, you may be assured you will derive the most sublime comforts in every moment of life, and in the moment of death."

--Thomas Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, 1785

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

1 Peter 2:11-12

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

Remaining February Birthdays: Jonathan Fuller (28).

March Birthdays: Ken Maninger (04), John Green (07), Wayne Kahlich (09), Susan Ford (17), Howard King (18), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), Micahel Bickford (23), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29).

March Anniversaries: Cindy & James Fuller (02), Billie & Clarence Ford (11), Carol & Tom Wilcox (23).



	Recent Records	February 13, 2011	February 20, 2011
Bible Class		59	58
AM Worship		73	80
PM Worship		41	54
Wednesday PM		48	46
Contribution		\$1821	\$1680

Privileged to Serve	02/27/11 - AM	02/27/11 - PM	03/06/11 - AM	03/06/11 - PM
Greeters	Jim Moore & Peggy Luker		James & Cindy Fuller	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Michael Fuller Eph. 5:25-27		John Barnum
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism	Jim Moore	Don Smith
Wait on Table	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller	Ken Makuta
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	March 2 Allen Griffith	March 9 Jim Moore	March 16 Don Smith	March 23 James Fuller

Studies For The Week of February 27th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 8-9)*

Wednesday Class *Zephaniah (Chap. 2)*

Rejecting The Truth (Acts)

Different reasons why people rejected the gospel are found in Acts; many are still used today, even in our own lives if we are not careful.

1. Financial Gain

- Consider Acts 16:16-22 and 19:23-27
- Sadly many prefer material things over truth (1 Tim. 6:10).
- Consider Simon as a counter-example (Acts 8:9-13)

2. Pride and Jealousy

- Prov. 16:18; Acts 5:16-18; 13:44-45; 17:5; 13:8.
- Consider Paul as a counter-example: he was willing to admit fault (1 Tim. 1:15); willing to be corrected (Acts 26:19); and willing to give up status (Phil. 3:4-7)

3. Preconceived Ideas and Misguided Zeal

- They were sure they were right and blinded themselves to hearing the truth (Acts 4:2, 14-18; Acts 7:51, 54; Acts 17:32; Acts 22:21-22; Rom. 10:2-3).
- Even Paul did this ignorantly (Acts 22:3-4, 9-11; 1 Tim. 1:13).
- Our attitude must be that of the Bereans (Acts 17:11).

4. Stubbornness and Unbelief

- Many just don't want to change and close off their minds to reason (Acts 14:2; 19:9; 24:25-26; 26:28).
- Isaiah, Jesus, and Paul all said the same thing of them – they did it to themselves (Acts 28:26-27).
- Fortunately many did and obey (Acts 2:41, etc.); will you?

Word Pictures of Sin

If we could see sin for what it really is, would we not abhor it? Consider how God describes sin:

- Putrefying Disease** from which we must be cleansed at great cost (Isa 53:5; Isa 1:6; Hosea 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 13:15; Psa 41:4); it is like leprosy that eats away at the soul.
- Heavy Burden** (Ps. 38:4-6; Isa 24:20; Gal. 6:1) that we don't have to bear (Matt. 11:28-30).
- Hard Taskmaster** that we don't have to serve (John 8:34; Rom. 6:6, 16-18; 2 Pet. 2:19; cf. Ex. 1:11-14)
- Foolish Insanity** (Ps. 38:4-5; Num. 12:11; 1 Sam. 13:13; 2 Sam. 24:10; Luke 15:17)
- Defiling Filth** (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Titus 1:15; Matt. 15:19-20) from which we must be washed (2 Cor. 7:1; James 1:21; Rev. 3:4; Rev. 7:13-14; Rev 21:27)
- Binding Debt** (Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Luke 11:4; Matt. 18:23-35)
- Blemishing Stain** (Psa 51:1-2, 7; Isa 1:18; Jude 1:23) that must be removed (Eph. 5:25-27; James 1:27; 2 Pet. 3:14)
- Impenetrable Darkness** from which we have been called (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Matt. 8:12; 1 Jn 1:6; 2:9, 11; John 8:12; John 3:19; 1 Thess 5:4-5)

Instead of walking in sin, let us:

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

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