



Living By Faith

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

March 13, 2011

4th & Stewart Church of Christ

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
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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.

GOD IS PLEASED WITH HIS DECREES

By David Harris

There is no guess work concerning God's desires. God is totally satisfied with what He has created and what He has decreed. At the conclusion of the sixth day of creation we read; "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day" (Gen.1:31). God did not create anything of an inferior nature, everything He made was not just good, but very good. Man has tried in vain to improve on what God has created, and has fallen short. Nothing in nature, that God has created, can be duplicated by man without using what God created first.

The Word that He has given man, is also "Very Good." His Word is not just good, but very good. Man has tried in vain to improve on what God has given in His Word, and has fallen short. Man cannot improve on all of the precepts and instructions concerning "life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3) that we have been given in God's inspired Word. Just as the priesthood given Christ is "unchangeable," so is His word (Heb.7:24).

This Word that God has given and preserved for us in the Bible will convict us and convert us (Jn.16:8-11). His Decrees will save us (Rom.1:16) and sanctify us (Jn.17:17). His inspired revelation gives life (Mt.4:4), and guides us through life (Lk.1:77-79). The New Testament Covenant will free us from sin (Jn.8:32) and teach us how to walk (2 Jn.4). It will purify us (1 Pet.1:22), cleanse us (Jn.15:3), and keep us from sin (Ps.119:11). This Word will accomplish God's Will for man on earth; "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isa.55:10-11).

The Lord Himself is recorded as being pleased with His Word: "The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honorable" (Isa.42:21). Regardless how many times God tells us in His Word that He is pleased with His revealed Will, still man will disregard it, dishonor it, and try to "improve" on what God says is very good.

One thing man has not learned in the last six thousand or so years, is that the Law of the Lord is Right, whether man agrees with it, obeys it, or not. We are reminded of this very thing in Romans 3:3-7; "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. But if our

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*As we said before, so say I now again,
If any man preach any other gospel unto you
than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

Galatians 1:9

This letter has circulated in various forms; this particular one was run in Bangs bulletin a few weeks ago...hopefully it will remind us of the reverence God has always expected by those who worship Him.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL FROM YOUR HUMBEL SERVANTS AND PRIESTS, NADAB AND ABIHU

Brethren,

It is with the utmost humility that we inform you of a change of worship practices. Be assured that we bring about this change only after much prayer and study. We have recently concluded an in-depth study of the Law and have decided to bring about a change in the type of fire used in worship. We are aware that there is a standing tradition of using only one source of fire, but we, as priests, do not feel obligated to blindly follow tradition.

Numerous polls indicate the overwhelming opinion that worshipers do not care where we get the fire. We are in agreement with the majority, as we cannot see how a change in fire will affect anything in the least about our sacrifices.

Besides all this, nowhere in the Law does the Lord forbid the use of what some detractors have referred to as “strange fire.” We feel that the lack of such a restriction was meant to give us freedom. Is there any place in the law that tells us we cannot do something the Lord has not seen fit to condemn? Where are other fires explicitly condemned?

Also, Israel is the only religious group that limits itself to one kind of fire. We have become a laughingstock and have been ridiculed openly by many groups.

We are in great danger of appearing distinctive. This self-righteous, ‘only-one-fire’ policy has alienated us from everyone else. We believe this change will open up many fellowship opportunities.

Now, to set the minds of some of you at ease, we will continue to offer a traditional service using the old fashioned fire as well as a progressive service with the new fire.

This approach will also make it possible to appeal to a younger audience as we discover more entertaining ways to “light the fire” of our assemblies. For those who still oppose the use of new fire, we ask you not to be judgmental.

We also hope you will not use this change as an excuse to divide our people or stir up trouble. We remind you that this has been well thought out and the majority of priests have signed on with us.

We are all very much looking forward to our first new fire service. God will be watching, and we anticipate that His joy over seeing His people take a great step toward throwing off the burden of binding tradition will be an electrifying experience. Our new contemporary worship service will no doubt make it easier for us to really be on fire for the Lord.

See you there. We think this new practice is going to spread like wildfire. Please come and enjoy what we know will be an illuminating experience for all of us.

Your faithful priests,
Nadab & Abihu

A few days later...

Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke saying:

By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.

So Aaron held his peace.

[editors note—the above peace (with some minor editing) was written by David Brassfield. It very accurately sums up what liberals have been doing for years. I have read multiple letters from liberal elderships and preachers that sound almost verbatim like this parody. On the topics of mechanical instruments, women in leadership roles, etc... God was not impressed then nor is He impressed now. We should re-read the article and let the message sink in. ML]

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... Num. 27-28; Mark 12:28-44

Monday... Num. 29-30; Mark 13:1-23

Tuesday... Numbers 31; Mark 13:24-37

Wednesday... Num. 32-33; Mark 14:1-21

Thursday... Num. 34-35; Mark 14:22-52

Friday... Numbers 36; Mark 14:53-72

Saturday... Deut. 1-2; Mark 15:1-20

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

DESERTERS

By Leroy Brownlow

"The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle." Psalms 78:9

The tribe of Ephraim was one of the large and leading tribes of Israel. They were well equipped and fully armed, but in the day of battle they turned back. The refused to stand with their brethren in the defense of the cause of the country. Favorably born, adequately armed, pledged to serve, yet when the day came to do battle they ran. What bravery in peace, what cowardice in war. What strength when it wasn't needed, what weakness when it was.

We never know our fiber until the crisis arises. The storm tests the structure and the zero hour the person.

To turn back when the going is rough, however, does not assign one to the role of a deserter forever. Peter is an example. Sometimes we rise above ourselves, other times we drop below our normal stance. This is largely what history is all about - those who fell below or climbed above, not those who stayed within the norm.

Our world is a battlefield. The war is one of ideas, morals and spiritual principles; and, like it or not, you are a soldier. Now this personal question: What kind are you? Like a child of Ephraim "who turned back in the day of battle?" Or like David who went out to meet the giant? You know the kind you should be. To run, then Truth is attacked, is treason to humanity."

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** evening worship services; last week 29 contacts were made.

Ladies Bible Class

The **Ladies Bible Class will meet this week.** We are continuing our study of the Life of Christ; please join us in the High School Classroom at 10:00 AM Wednesday.

Mark The Date... There will be a Baby Shower honoring the Barnum Family as they prepare to welcome Ian Wayne. It will be in the fellowship room on April 10th at 3 PM. Invitation with more details is on the bulletin board.



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unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?"

God's Word is always right; "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness" (Ps.119:172).

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mt.24:35). These very righteous Words will be at the judgment. May we never be guilty of trying to change God's unchangeable Word.

Upcoming Events... (check bulletin board for flyers)

- ◆ March 20—Vicksburg devotional at 3:30 PM
- ◆ March 27—Bible Search at Hamilton at 2:30 PM
- ◆ March 20-24—Meeting at Bangs with Ronnie Hayes.
- ◆ March 27-30—Meeting at Rising Star with Darwin Hunter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

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).

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



	Recent Records	February 27, 2011	March 6, 2011
Bible Class		59	57
AM Worship		75	80
PM Worship		47	53
Wednesday PM		48	32
Contribution		\$1611	\$1908

Privileged to Serve	03/13/11 - AM	03/13/11 - PM	03/20/11 - AM	03/20/11 - PM
Greeters	Michael & Diana Bickford		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Scripture Reader Scripture Reading		Garrett Barnum 1 John 2:1-6		Michael Bickford
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism
Wait on Table	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler	James Fuller*, John Barnum James Thomas, Michael Fuller	James Fuller
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	Ken Makuta
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
Wednesday Devotionals	March 16 Don Smith	March 23 James Fuller	March 30 Ken Makuta	April 6 Michael Bickford

Studies For The Week of March 13th:

Sunday Class *2 Corinthians (Chap. 10-11)*

Wednesday Class *Nahum*

<p align="center">The God of My Salvation (Isaiah 12)</p> <p align="center"><i>We considered last week that we are the church, the called out; now consider what such a realization should drive us to do...</i></p> <p>1. The Salvation of God</p> <p>a. Salvation made possible by God (Ex. 15:2; Eph. 1:7, 1 John 1:7; John 3:16).</p> <p>b. We see His faithfulness and forgiveness (2 Pet. 3:9; 2 Cor. 1:20; Heb. 10:16-22; 1 Cor. 6:11).</p> <p>c. We place our trust in Him (Heb. 3:19-4:2; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 13:5-6).</p> <p>d. The abundant salvation brings joy (Phil. 4:4; John 4:10, 13-14; 7:37-38).</p> <p>2. Will Bring About Worship</p> <p>a. The redeemed of God should say so (Ps. 107:1-3)</p> <p>b. Praise God – give thanks to Him (Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:6).</p> <p>c. Call upon His name (Ps. 50:15; Rom. 10:13).</p> <p>d. Sing unto Him (Isa. 42:10; Rev. 5:9-10)</p> <p>3. And Inspire Us To Work</p> <p>a. Desire to spread this news (Isa. 6:8)</p> <p>b. Declare His doings (John 4:39-42; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4)</p> <p>c. Proclaim that his name is exalted (Ps. 111:9; Acts 17:23ff)</p> <p>d. Cry/shout out for joy (Heb. 12:22, 28; 1 Pet. 3:15; Ps. 105:1-4)</p>	<p align="center">Occasions of Sin</p> <p>1. When we violate our conscience (Romans 14:23).</p> <p>a. An action done without conviction of its approval by God.</p> <p>b. If we do so we show a disregard for God’s Will (Col. 3:17).</p> <p>c. Remember the conscience must be trained by God’s Will (Acts 24:16; John 16:2; 1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 10:22).</p> <p>2. When we know to do good, and do it not (James 4:17).</p> <p>a. Can’t simply refrain from doing wrong.</p> <p>b. When we know right, we have an obligation to do it (Luke 12:47-48; John 13:17, 15:22; Luke 6:46; Eze. 3:17-19).</p> <p>3. When we violate God’s law (1 John 3:4).</p> <p>a. That which is against the law; lawlessness; going against, doing that which is contrary to God’s law (examples: doing those things in 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:17-21, etc.).</p> <p>b. Expresses a refusal to be governed by God’s law; sets our will against God’s (contrast Matt. 26:39, 42 – “thy will be done”).</p> <p>4. When we fail to keep God’s law (1 John 5:17).</p> <p>a. Similar to 1 John 3:4; but while it addresses doing what God forbids, this address leaving off what God commands. It is doing that which is unrighteous, the opposite of 1 John 3:7.</p> <p>b. We have to be doers of that which is good (James 1:22; Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14; Acts 1:1, 10:38; Luke 11:24-25).</p> <p>c. The lost pictured in Matthew 25 were those who failed to do what they ought.</p>
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Return Service Requested