

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



August 7, 2011

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 On Break
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
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
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.

Building Fellowship at Fellowship Meals

By Kevin W. Rhodes

A group of kindergarten students gathered in a circle for the day's most important event: Show and Tell. The assignment? For each student to bring something that represented his religious heritage. The first student stepped forward and displayed some beads, explaining, "I am a Catholic, and this is my rosary." Another student then took his turn, saying, "I am a Muslim, and this is my prayer mat." Then a third student stepped forward and said, "My parents are members of the church of Christ, and this is a casserole!" I know it is an old joke, reworked in a number of ways, but it does illustrate the impact of eating together as an important way to bond together as a people.

In the first century, Christians regularly enjoyed fellowship meals (or love-feasts). They represented the sense of community that the church felt as a whole based upon their spiritual unity. Indeed, God intends for us to link these ideas. In fact, Peter warned against allowing false teachers influence in a congregation and referred to the fellowship meal as the place where this deception often began. "Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you" (2 Pet 2:13b). Jude also spoke of this problem where the common love Christians were to share in a fellowship meal was interrupted by people with impure motives (Jude 1:12a). This privilege of eating together in full fellowship was so significant in the first century that Paul used it to emphasize the change in relationship that must occur when a person continues in sin and thus makes spiritual fellowship impossible (1 Cor. 5:11). Thus, meals shared together as Christians serve both a spiritual and symbolic role.

Unfortunately, perhaps because of these negative examples, we have failed to appreciate the full purpose of such gatherings as designed by God. Fellowship meals are not purely social events, though certainly this is part of their design. Early Christians gathered together and shared meals as part of the expression of their spiritual fellowship and as a means to further that spiritual fellowship. They were "feasts of charity" because enjoying the food was secondary to enjoying the love of the brethren (Jn. 13:34-35). This they enjoyed both following times they had worshiped together (Acts 20:11) and on a daily basis. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46-47). Regardless of the environment and whatever the size of the gathering, the purpose was true fellowship. Regarding the apostle Paul, Luke writes, "When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed" (Acts 20:11). Notice

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Let love be without dissimulation.

*Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
in honour preferring one another;*

Romans 12:9-10



A Dash Between Two Dates?

By Gary Colley

All are familiar with the words of the apostle Paul to the Philippians concerning the prize of life still being before him (Phil. 3:13-14). He counted not himself to have obtained the crown until life was finished and the race had been run. There were things in his past life which could have weighed him down and impeded his progress as a Christian. But he pushed back the things of the past, such as the hardships and suffering, and pressed on. He did not carry the baggage of earthly gain any longer, as he had once done, but centered his thoughts on pleasing the Captain of his salvation.

Same Attitude

Christians today must have the same thoughts and desires if we plan to finish and receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10). We must add to our faith moral courage, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, more reverence and respect for God and sacred things, kindness toward brethren, and love for all men (II Pet. 1:5-11). Only by this manner of life can we press on toward the crown and expect to produce the fruits of the Spirit in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23).

Make Life Meaningful

"Make your life mean more than merely a dash between two dates," suggests one insightful writer. In some lives it seems about the most important day is the day of birth. These are not growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:18). These care not for their own souls by obeying the Gospel by which they can be saved (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). They never seem to get any larger in their abilities to serve because they spend no time in development. There seems to be no depth of appreciation, or thankfulness to God for their abounding blessings. Such a life is a mere dash between two dates!

Easily Led Astray

Though some obey the Gospel, they fail to press as

Paul did toward perfection in Christ. The false lights of "change agents" may easily catch their attention and lure them away from the faith (Jude 3). As Paul marveled at the change of the Galatians, so we are amazed today at those who once faithfully served but have now departed from the faith (Gal. 1:6-9; I Tim. 4:1). These were not anchored in the Gospel and wasted the opportunities that were afforded them to be great in the church (cf. Heb. 6:10, 19)! The poet correctly wrote:

We are not here to play, to dream, to drift,
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift.
Shun not the struggle; face it 'Tis God's gift.
Be Strong!

Say not the days are evil. Who's to blame?
And fold the hands and acquiesce. O shame!
Stand up, speak out and bravely, in God's name.
Be Strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes; the day how long.
Faint not, fight on! Tomorrow comes the song.
Be Strong!

Remember

We should always keep before our thoughts that in Christ we have God's final appeal to man! The message of salvation in the Gospel is God's farewell sermon! "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh" (Heb. 12:25). Make your life more than a dash between two dates!

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:
but this one thing I do,
forgetting those things which are behind,
and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
I press toward the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13-14*

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Daily Bible Reading Schedule
The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB	Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).	"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)
In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB	Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)	Sun: Job 41-42 Romans 1:1-17
Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org	Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)	Mon: Psalms 1-6 Rom. 1:18-32
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Tue: Psalms 7-12 Romans 2
Radio	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Wed: Psalms 13-17 Romans 3
Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	Thu: Psalms 18-21 Romans 4
		Fri: Psalms 22-24 Romans 5
		Sat: Psalms 25-29 Romans 6



Hope you can join us today for our 1st Sunday Fellowship Meal following the morning worship assembly.

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Please join us each time. Last week 28 contacts were made.

Address Change

Please note the new address for Michael Bickford:

Summer Youth Series

Please remember that we will be hosting the last Summer Youth Series session at 7 PM Tuesday night. Kevin Rhodes from Cleburne will be speaking on being "Humble like the Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:17-18). Also remember we will be serving hamburgers following the meeting. Please sign-up today for what you are planning on bringing and then make sure it gets here Tuesday. Also help will be needed before, during, and after with set-up, serving, and cleaning up. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Back-To-School Party

Rising Star is hosting a party at the Comanche park on Saturday, August 13 beginning at 4 till whenever you want to go home. More details on the bulletin board.

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that a lot of conversation took place! Now, we do not have a record of the conversation, but, from what we know from Paul's epistles, it surely covered spiritual discussion, practical exchanges, and many expressions of care for one another.

Today, practices run the gamut from avoiding fellowship meals altogether to an emphasis on the social to the exclusion of the spiritual. Some people do not have any interest in sharing a meal with their fellow Christians; some Christians seem unable to enjoy a spiritual discussion over a meal. Both of these attitudes need to change. However, instead of just reacting to these things, we should make our times of fellowship more and more meaningful. This should include conversations about recent Bible classes and sermons. It should involve biblical questions and spiritual discussion. It should range from serious, thoughtful interaction to joyful laughter. It should have a loving tone and caring concern. It should include not only organized meals for the whole congregation but also Christians choosing to share a meal together and enjoy further fellowship.

Few things lend themselves to meaningful conversation as much as sharing a meal together, and few things help us get to know one another and grow in our love for another better than meaningful conversation. There are some who wish to eliminate all social aspects from any contact with the church, and this is sad. God designed the church to be a society, a community, joined together by spiritual matters and intertwined with one another in life upon this earth in preparation for eternal life together in heaven. We do not develop this type of closeness by sitting in the same auditorium a few times a week but only by extensive interaction on a personal level, and that extends even to the social.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
Hebrews 10:24

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29)..

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Darlene & Don Smith (29), Pam & Terry Teague (16).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	July 24, 2011	July 31, 2011
Bible Class	55	55
AM Worship	72	76
PM Worship	56	55
Wednesday PM	54	52
Contribution	\$1705	\$1373

This Week: 8/07/11		Next Week: 8/14/11		August 2011	
Sunday AM:				Make Announcements:	
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Garrett Barnum	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum		Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith	
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler		Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
Sunday PM:				Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism		Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Michael Fuller Hebrews 12:1-2		Michael Bickford		
Communion	Jim Moore		Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox		Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 10 Allen Griffith	August 17 Ryan Smithey	August 24 Tom Wilcox	August 31 Garrett Barnum	
				Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
				September 2011	
				Make Announcements: John Barnum	
				Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore	
				Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey	
				Keep Grounds: Allen Griffith	

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of August 7, 2011		Sunday Class Galatians (Chap. 5-6)	Wednesday Class Zechariah (Chap. 5-6)
<p>I Am The Way, The Truth, and The Life (John 14:6) <i>Jesus is preparing His disciples for events about to transpire concerning His death and ascension to heaven and so speaks this statement of:</i></p> <p>1) Exclusion – He is the ONE and ONLY ONE</p> <p>a) Only He could make this claim and offer eternal life, it limited access to the Father only through Him (John 10:9; Matt. 7:13-14, 24-25); no other way would work.</p> <p>b) The apostles would also show this exclusion (Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:4-6).</p> <p>2) Conclusion – His statement forever settled the matter</p> <p>a) No need to ever look for anything else (John 1:1,14; Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2).</p> <p>b) His Word is just as conclusive in His commands (ex. Mark 16:16) and His promises (ex. John 14:1-4).</p> <p>c) These Words would always stand (John 12:48).</p> <p>3) Direction – He is the one to follow</p> <p>a) They were not left to wander but given explicit directions.</p> <p>b) He was the way to follow as a shepherd and example (John 10:3-4; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:21).</p> <p>c) He was the truth to follow as He spoke God's Word (John 1:14, 12:49, 17:17, 14:26, 8:31-32).</p> <p>d) He was the source of eternal life, the end result (John 11:25-26, 14:6, 12; 3:16).</p> <p>4) Decision – Up to each one to decide what to do</p> <p>a) The truth is before you, what will you do?</p> <p>b) Accept and follow Him or reject Him?</p>		<p>Philip: An Active Servant</p> <p>1. Already in the Lord's Work (Acts 6)</p> <p>a. His character aligns with the description of v3 and it was witnessed by the church because he was chosen by them.</p> <p>b. Realize this was a man that was trusted and well spoken of, he had proved himself (cf. 1 Tim. 3:10), before this official service was given to him.</p> <p>c. We need to be people that are about the Lord's work regardless of our official position; be people of service, initiative, and faithfulness (cf. Jesus- Luke 2:49; Timothy- Acts 16:2, 1 Cor. 15:10, Phil. 2:19-23, 1 Tim. 4:12-16, 2 Tim. 1:5-6; Thessalonians-1 Thess. 1:7-10, 2 Thess. 3:4).</p> <p>2. About The Lord's Work (Acts 8)</p> <p>a. He stayed busy in the Lord's Work! (v4, 5-6, 12-13, 35).</p> <p>b. He did what he could (Mark 14:8) - He was ready to seize opportunities before Him.</p> <p>c. Are we about the Lord's Work? Are we equipping ourselves (1 Tim. 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:15, 1 Pet. 3:15, 1 Pet. 2:2), looking for opportunities (1 Cor. 15:58, Eph. 2:10), and involving ourselves in the work (Heb. 10:24; Acts 9:20, Phil. 1:27, 1 Cor. 12:12ff)?</p> <p>3. An Example in the Lord's Work (Acts 21:8-9)</p> <p>a. No doubt influenced the faithfulness of his daughters as well as impacting many throughout his years of service.</p> <p>b. What about us, do we leave a similar legacy (1 Tim. 4:12, 16; Phil. 2:15-16, 3:17)?</p>	