

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 14, 2011

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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 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.

The Faith Of Moses

By Kevin Cauley

One can hardly begin thinking about the relationship of faith and Moses without considering the inspired penman's comments in Hebrews 11:23-28:

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

We learn from this passage that Moses' faith began with his parents who defied Pharaoh's command. That same defiance cropped up in Moses' own life as he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and when he finally forsook Egypt. These things were not done for defiance sake, however, as the inspired penman tells us. Moses did these things looking to "the recompense of the reward" and "as seeing him who is invisible." Moses was defiant toward Egypt because he believed in something greater than what Egypt had to offer; He believed in the existence of and the promises of God.

Nevertheless, Moses faith wasn't always perfect. We find, in fact, there were several occasions when his faith wavered. We wonder where his faith went when we witness his flight after the Israelites rejected him as their leader (Acts 7:23-29). We ponder how he could, in the presence of God, doubt himself even as God promises to be with him (Exodus 4:10-17). We pause when we see his noble visage wrinkled with anger at the children of Israel and in disobedience strikes the rock to which God had simply said speak (Numbers 20:1-13). Despite these failings, Moses' legacy is one of faithfulness. Let's notice a few things in that regard.

First, Moses faith was a faith that faltered. We mentioned some of the times when Moses faith was less than stellar. He had times in his life when he gave up, had self doubt, and even deliberately disobeyed God. Regardless, with God's encouragement, Moses found ways to return to the Lord. In Psalm 90, perhaps after the return of the 12 spies from the land of Canaan and God's wrath with the disappointing report they brought, Moses prayed, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations" (Psalm 90:1). Moses realized that even in times when our faith falters, that it is only to the Lord that we can turn for ultimate comfort and refuge. So he says, "Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants" (Psalm 90:13).

(Continued on page 2)



*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

Romans 12:11-13

(Continued from page 1)

Yes, on occasion Moses' faith faltered, but he always came back to God when he realized his wrong. We need to let the true spirit of penitence characterize our faith as well.

Second, Moses faith followed. From the time that God called Moses to bring His people out of the land of Egypt to the time that Moses' foot set down on top of mount Pisgah, he followed the Lord. We remember many of the trials Moses had to endure: the mocking of Pharaoh's magicians; the rejection of his message by Pharaoh; the complaints of the Hebrew people; the creation of the golden calf by Aaron; the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; the final lack of faith demonstrated by the 10 spies. In each of these times, Moses could have easily given up and thrown in the towel. Indeed at one point God Himself told Moses to just abandon the children of Israel and let Him make a nation from Moses Himself (Exodus 32:9,10). It was in precisely these times that Moses faith shined more brightly than ever when he dedicated Himself to following the path that God had laid out before Him. Under extreme trial, temptation, and trouble, Moses' faith came shining through like a beacon of hope among the fog of despair. What a tremendously faithful follower!

Finally, Moses faith was a faith that finished. While forbidden to enter into the Promised Land, Moses continued to serve God until such a time as his life was required. One can well imagine Moses walking up that rocky path to the top of Mount Pisgah and looking over into the land of Canaan. His time on earth was at an end and he had completed the task God had set before him. Yet his faith looked not finally upon an earthly plateau, but a heavenly one. We find Moses again in the gospel accounts speaking with Jesus about his death (Luke 9:31). We no longer see a Moses that is burdened by the cares of earthly life, but one who is triumphant over death and glorified, providing comfort and peace to One who would lead His people not out of a physical land of bondage, but a spiritual one. No doubt our Lord took comfort in this conversation when He

(Continued on page 3)

Facing Fear By Robert Hatfield

A fellow college student recently met his girlfriend's parents. Explaining his anxiety and fear he said, "These aren't ordinary parents; they are similar to mine!" My friend feared the first impression. From childish nightmares to adult worries, life is filled with anxiety and fear. Sometimes that fear is understandable (such the fear of losing a job), but other times fear simply over dramatizes an event or thing that is not so bad. For example, all of my friend's worry was unnecessary because his date's parents thought he was great!

God's Word provides insight concerning a fear that is much more impacting than a first impression with a date's parents. Revelation 21:8 lists several sinful actions and condemns participants of such sin to "their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Interestingly enough, the sinful group mentioned first is "the fearful." The greek word behind "fearful" comes from a word which means dread; literally it refers to those who are faithless.

The fear referred to by John in Revelation 21:8 can be a major obstruction to a Christian's reward. Could fear keep one from evangelizing the lost? It can — and does! Could it cause people to give into peer pressure because "everyone else is doing it?" Fear often plagues young people from this perspective!

When Christians fall into this state of being fearful, they indicate about themselves a lack of study and prayer, a lack of confidence and conviction, and an unguarded faith. Christians need not be faithless because God has given assurance throughout scripture. God told Abram, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Gen. 15:1). The angel assured the virgin Mary, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God" (Luke 1:30). Those who are righteous in God's sight need not fear! Jesus admonished us not to fear those who can physically kill us, but rather we are to fear those with the power to destroy our eternal souls (Mat. 10:28).

A faithless, fearful attitude is not of God, for He has given unto man a spirit of "power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7-8). Persecution may be great and faith may be weak, but Jesus gives hope to the faithful: "Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore" (Rev. 1:17-18).

Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way
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)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)

Sun: Psalms 30-33 Romans 7

Mon Psalms 34-36 Romans 8:1-17

Tue: Psalms 37-38 Rom. 8:18-39

Wed: Psalms 39-43 Romans 9

Thu: Psalms 44-47 Romans 10

Fri: Psalms 48-51 Rom. 11:1-21

Sat. Psalms 52-56 Rom. 11:22-36



(Continued from page 2)

declared upon the cross, "It is finished." Like Moses, he laid down His burdens of physical existence to take up a glorious heavenly one. Moses faith was a faith that finished.

What joys and comforts the faith of Moses brings to the faithful child of God. Moses' example gives us much to contemplate. Let us take up his banner of faith in our lives each day as we may falter, follow, and seek to finish the path of faith we each have before us.

Pure Water

By Tom Moore

Some time ago I saw a travelogue on television concerning a group of explorers who were searching in Africa for a vanishing tribe. In the course of their travels they came across some natives who for centuries had made their home on the banks of this one particular river. This in itself did not cause wonder, until they were showed the polluted stream. It was filled with dirt and every contamination imaginable. The natives had developed a method of swishing over the top of the water to get the bigger chunks out before scooping it up to drink.

One of the explorers took his canteen and poured out a large cup of crystal-clear water and handed it to one of the aged women of the tribe, whose face was as wrinkled as a prune. She took the cup, pressed it to her lips, and didn't put it down until she had drained it. Then through an interpreter she said that she had never dreamed that there was anything in this world as sweet and wonderful as that.

Spiritually speaking, this is much like our world – a world without Christ. They too drink from polluted streams of materialism and denominationalism - just swishing the "chunks" out of the way because they have never known anything better. However, when they finally taste the crystal clear waters available in Christ and His church (Jn. 4:14), they proclaim that they never before realized there was anything so sweet and wonderful. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). That old woman was forced to go back to her polluted waters. But, thank God, we who have partaken of the "living waters" of salvation need never go back. Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto to me and drink" (Jn. 7:37).

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.

Thank You...

for the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls while I was in the hospital. ~Peggy Chism.

Summer Youth Series...

Thanks again for everyone's help that made the Summer Youth Series we hosted here this past Tuesday was a great success and a wonderful end to the summer long series. I feel confident we had 200-210 people here that night. It was wonderful seeing the overflowing crowd worship together. If you want a CD of the sermon from that night, indicate such on your attendance card today.

Bible Search...

will resume in September and it is time to begin studying now. The topic this year will be an "Old Testament Survey"; if you want to participate or have questions, please see Ryan.

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 31, 2011	August 7, 2011
Bible Class	55	57
AM Worship	76	79
PM Worship	55	53
Wednesday PM	52	46
Contribution	\$1373	\$1772

This Week: 8/14/11		Next Week: 8/21/11		August 2011	
Sunday AM:				Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Jim Moore September 2011 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey Keep Grounds: Allen Griffith	
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kalich			
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	James Thomas			
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox			
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Michael Bickford			
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey			
Sunday PM:					
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Matthew Churchweel			
Scripture Reading	Michael Bickford Luke 14:26-33	Hank Wheeler			
Communion	Ken Maninger	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Don Smith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 17 Ryan Smithey	August 24 Tom Wilcox	August 31 Garrett Barnum	September 7 James Fuller	

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 14, 2011		Sunday Class Galatians (Chap. 5-6)	Wednesday Class Zechariah (Chap. 6-7)
<p>I Am The Vine (John 15:1-8) <i>Jesus exhorts His disciples to continue faithfully with Him.</i></p> <p>1. As the vine, He has a special relationship to the Father</p> <p>a. He and the Father are One (John 10:30).</p> <p>b. The husbandman would care for the vine and thus also for the branches on the vine.</p> <p>c. They trusted in God (John 14:1), now he calls on them to trust and follow Him as well.</p> <p>2. As the vine, He provides life for the branches.</p> <p>a. He has already presented Himself as the only source of life (John 11:25, 14:6).</p> <p>b. Being attached to the vine is necessary for life and fruit-bearing (v4-5); yet some see no need for abiding in the vine (Matt. 7:21-23) and others have accepted substitutes (Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4-6).</p> <p>c. We must abide in the vine by initial and continued obedience to His will (Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:47; Jn 8:31, 15:7-10).</p> <p>3. As the vine, He is the source of fruit-bearing.</p> <p>a. Bearing fruit is a necessity of the Christian life (v2) and brings glory to the Father (v8).</p> <p>b. Again this requires being in the vine and all who do not bear fruit are cut off (v2).</p> <p>c. The fruit of the christian life ought to be evident in all (Matt. 5:16; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-8).</p> <p><i>John wants us to see and to know Jesus (John 20:30-31); Jesus invites us to come and know Him, learn who He really is, and He ends with the invitation to abide with Him! Will you?</i></p>		<p>Predictable Righteousness <i>Abraham (Gen. 18:19; Heb. 11:8ff) and Job (Job 1:1, 8) are two great examples of people that God expressed confidence in that they would be faithful, He could count on them.</i> <i>But they were not the only ones that showed such steadfastness:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Amos was going to preach (Amos 7:12-15) ◆ Jeremiah was going to speak (Jeremiah 20:9) ◆ Daniel was going to pray (Daniel 6:10) ◆ John was going to speak up (Mark 6:18) ◆ Paul was going to speak out (Romans 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:2), like the other apostles (Acts 4:20, 5:29). <p><i>But what about ourselves? Can we be depended on?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Will we be steadfast in our service (1 Cor. 15:58)? ◆ Will we be steady in our aim (Col. 3:1-3)? ◆ Will we be constant in example (1 Tim. 4:12; Matt. 5:16)? ◆ Will we increase in maturity (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:11-14; Gal.5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:4-8)? ◆ Will we abound in support of the kingdom (2 Cor. 8:7), love (1 Thess. 3:12, 4:9), and righteousness (1 Thess. 4:1). ◆ Will we continue in prayer (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17)? ◆ Will we be vigilant in resisting sin (1 Pet. 5:8-9)? ◆ Will we carry our cross, having counted the cost, not looking back (Luke 14:26-33, 9:62; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 4:11, 10:23)? ◆ Will we be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10), resisting even to blood (Heb. 12:1, 4)? <p><i>Can God and others count on us doing the right thing?</i></p>	