

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



September 25, 2011

Contact Us:

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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
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Taking the Snap Out of Your Life

By Jeremy Sprouse

Snapping turtles have a reputation for being fierce and aggressive. When a snapping turtle is underwater, however, it is quite peaceful and mild-mannered, preferring to simply swim away from any disturbance. It is only when they are out of their natural element that they become snappish. How often we are like the snapping turtle? When life is running smoothly we are peaceful and easy to get along with, but sometimes we let the stress and trials of life make us churlish and snap out at others, inflicting painful bites. This is nothing new, though. Two-thousand years ago, James wrote his epistle to troubled churches. Christians were facing trials and oppression. The worst part, however, was they reacted by persecuting each other. James writes his letter to help them understand how to make it through the persecutions of life without persecuting others.

First, we need to consider the purpose and source of trials in our lives. When we can take a step back and look at the big picture, sometimes our momentary problems don't seem so bad. We can look beyond the suffering to see how these trials can make us and our faith stronger (James 1:2-12). We need to recognize, however, our largest trials come from ourselves and our lusts (1:13-18). Our anger, in particular, causes us great problems (cf. 1:19-20) and drives us away from God. If we are going to gain any benefit from these trials we must put aside filthiness and wickedness while turning to God's ways in attention and action (1:21-27).

Second, we need to focus on the good of others. Doing good for others lifts us up, while trying to put ourselves above others will contribute to feelings of guilt, shame, and remorse. Negative thinking must be stopped—no judging each other or showing partiality (2:1-13). True faith is that which produces mercy and compassion towards others that leads us to actually and physically help them (2:14-28). Instead of snapping at others, we need to show kindness to them.

Third, we need to watch our output and our input. What we say and what we listen to shapes how we react to life. We must be careful with our words (3:1-8). This is a difficult task, but an important one. We let words slip in the heat of the moment, but this is no excuse. We cannot serve God without controlling our tongues (3:9-12). In addition, the wisdom we pay attention to will shape our behavior and the course of our lives (3:13-18). Earthly wisdom will lead us to be jealous and selfishly ambitious. The wisdom from above will lead us to become pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, merciful, and live without hypocrisy. The path we have chosen will be reflected in our behavior and our deeds (3:13).

Fourth, we need to keep our place before God. Times of stress tend to lead us to either distance ourselves from God or draw nearer to Him. When we distance ourselves from God, worldliness begins to take over our lives. We focus on pleasing ourselves and making life more comfortable and pleasurable. This focus, however, takes us farther from these goals. It brings us strife and dissatisfaction in addition to

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The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9



Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.

Many Christians realize that their prayer lives do not measure up, but they do not know where to begin improving. Since this is a practical matter, the solution should also be practical. Therefore, consider these basic steps to improve your prayer life on a weekly basis.

First, determine right now that you will give thanks for your food every time you eat. Paul said, "God hath created [food] to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth" (1 Tim. 4:3). While this seems to be taken for granted by many, I have observed many situations when the evidence points against Christians praying before their meals. Crazy schedules, drive thru eating, and rare family meals around the table have all contributed to this problem, but, make no mistake, they are excuses-not valid reasons. Contrary to popular opinion, you do not have to say a long prayer each time. You do not even have to say it out loud. However, the shame is in not giving thanks rather than in bowing your head in public. It may take a while to make this "automatic," but nothing worthwhile comes easy.

Second, put a note on your bathroom mirror to remind you to pray in the morning. The psalmist declared, "But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You" (Ps. 88:13 NKJV). Each new day presents new and sometimes unique spiritual challenges. If you commute to work, surely a prayer asking for safety makes sense. If you face particular problems at work, ask God for strength at the beginning of the day to face these issues (and people). Pray with your children before they leave for school, asking God to keep them safe and give them strength to resist temptation and be examples to their friends. Prayer can help us to focus and give us confidence in facing them as we express these concerns to our God, as well as making us mindful of how we should handle them.

Third, each evening, before you go to bed, address particular concerns to God in prayer. To improve your focus, emphasize certain needs on certain days. Besides encouraging you to mention specific concerns, this approach also helps to avoid vain repetition. As just a suggestion, on Sunday evening you could focus on intercession for others (1

Improving Your Prayer Life

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Tim. 2:1). Taking notes during the announcements (or just paying attention) you should be more aware

of the needs of people this day, and repeating them will help you remember them through the week. On Monday, pray for the country and its leaders so that we might enjoy a peaceful situation in which to worship and spread the gospel (1 Tim. 2:2) and that God's message might provoke greater righteousness in the nation (Prov. 14:35). This will be most appropriate the evening before elections. On Tuesday, pray with an emphasis on forgiveness (Acts 8:22). While we should always recognize the need for forgiveness, we rarely take the time to address specific temptations or problems that plague us (Ps. 51: 1-4). Greater reflection on our need for forgiveness creates a healthy perspective on life and in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. On Wednesday, after coming home from Bible study, pray for the church, the elders, the deacons, the preacher, the Bible class teachers, and all who are working in the kingdom (Jn. 17:20). They need your prayers, and your prayers will remind you more of why you need them too. On Thursday, pray with a focus on your family (Mt. 19:13). Pray about their problems, give thanks for each family member, and ask God for wisdom as husbands, wives, parents, and children to bring glory to Him by all that you do-together and for each other. On Friday, pray for the lost. Pray for opportunities to reach them, and ask for wisdom to guide them toward the truth as you talk with them (Col. 4:2-5; Lk. 23:34; Jas. 1 :5-8). Saturday evening is the perfect time to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for all He has done (Dan. 2:23; Gen. 1:1; In. 3:16). Indeed, there are few things that will prepare your mind better for worship on Sunday than a heart of thankfulness on Saturday night. Now, is this order important? Probably not, but it can be helpful.

Finally, take five to ten minutes to prepare each evening for this prayer, or, better yet, keep a list throughout the week of matters to pray about. Remember to make them personal prayers each and every time as much as possible. However, personal does not mean casual. No matter where we are praying, we are coming before the throne of God Almighty, and He deserves our reverence at all times (Ps. 111 :9).

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: Prov. 26-28 2 Cor. 10
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: Prov. 29-31 2 Cor. 11
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Tue: Eccl. 1-3 2 Cor. 12
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Wed: Eccl. 4-6 2 Cor. 13
	Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	Thu: Eccl. 7-9 Galatians 1
		Fri: Eccl. 10-12 Galatians 2
		Sat: Song 1-4 Galatians 3



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separating us from God (4:1-5). Those who will draw near to God with humility, however, will be exalted (4:6-10). A humble person is not one who is quick to speak against or judge his or her brother (4:11-12)—these are the actions of the arrogant. A humble person recognizes God’s will in his life and is willing to entrust his or her future to God come what may (4:12-17).

Fifth, we need to be in it for the long haul. James points out that nothing on earth has any true or lasting value (5:1-6). Since there is nothing on earth that will truly help us, we need to be patient and look to God’s plan. We need to show patience by quietly enduring our suffering rather than complaining about others and blaming them for our troubles (5:7-11). Also, we show patience by fervently praying to God instead of swearing and trying to solve our problems through earthly means (5:12-20).

Our natural inclination when we are stressed is to snap out at others. We blame them, we criticize them, and we hurt them, but we don’t have to. By following God’s ways we can take charge of our lives and respond as we know we ought to instead of simply reacting to what life throws at us. Trials and stress are no excuse for bad behavior. Remember, if we know the right thing to do, but do not do it, it is sin—even if our failure is due to anger or stress (cf. James 4:17).

(Jeremy is the new preacher at the Patrick Street church of Christ in Dublin, TX. He and his family begin their work there next week. We pray all goes well for the congregation there and with Jeremy and his family in this new work.)

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 **36 contacts** were made.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember Ladies Bible Class each Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the high school class room. The ladies are continuing their study of the Life of Christ...hope you can be there. Also this **Wednesday they plan to eat together after class...**see Linda for details.

Mark Your Calendars...

- ◆ **Bible Search today** at Bangs @ 2 PM.
- ◆ Remember our **Fall Meeting with Jason Rollo** is coming up October 23rd through 26th. Flyers available in the auditorium.

New Materials Available

New editions of House to House are available at the back of the auditorium. Please use these materials for your own study and also consider passing them along to others who will benefit from them as well.



Opportunity to Help

The Park Heights congregation in Hamilton is currently gathering donations to be delivered to the Bastrop, TX area on September 27th to help those who have been affected by recent wildfires. If you would like to contribute to this effort they are accepting paper goods, sheets, blankets, hygiene items, sleeping bags, and money (please no clothing items as they already have plenty). If you wish to help, please try to have items here by 1:15 PM TODAY so people from Hamilton can take them back with them from the Bible Search in Bangs. Please see Ryan if you have any questions or need to bring items later.

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: James Fuller (06), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Bilie Ford (17), Clarence Ford (17), Marie White (18), Matthew Ochoa (20), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Jimmy Seale (29).

September Anniversaries: Joyce & Jack Hill (10).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Sept. 11, 2011	Sept. 18, 2011
Bible Class	53	57
AM Worship	74	80
PM Worship	51	51
Wednesday PM	47	41
Contribution	\$1460	\$2440

	Next Week: 9/25/11	Next Week: 10/02/11		
Sunday AM:			September 2011 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox October 2011 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	The Maninger Family	Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler		
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Ken Makuta, Ken Maninger	James Fuller*, John Barnum James Thomas, Michael Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum Genesis 2:19-24	Michael Bickford		
Communion	Hank Wheeler	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Makuta		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 28 Allen Griffith	October 5 Tom Wilcox	October 12 Garrett Barnum	October 19 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 September 25, 2011	Sunday ClassRomans (1:1-7.; Next: 1:8-17) Wednesday Class..... Zechariah (Chap. 9-10)
<p>Showing The Wisdom Of God (Eph. 3:10) Paul rejoices in the fact that he can proclaim the gospel of Christ, the good news of salvation that unites all the saved into one body, the church. As he marvels in this message he reminds us that the church (the fulfillment of God's plan) shows the very wisdom of God...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ...by listening to God's Will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul proclaimed that what he had written to them was the revelation of God (v3-7). This was the message Paul proclaimed, not one of man's wisdom (1 Cor. 1:17-25; 2:1-5; Gal. 1:11-12). It was and still is God's Word that all need to hear (Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 4:2-4). We can only be the church of God's wisdom today if we listen to God's wisdom as revealed in His word. ...by following God's Will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Likewise we can only be the church of God's wisdom if we follow God's will. Paul is writing to Christians, the saints, the faithful in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:1) – they have heard it and followed it – he is writing of the boldness and confidence they could have as a result (Eph. 3:11-12). The gospel message was one that was to be acted upon (Matt. 7:24-27; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:40-41; etc.); hearing of God's great plan and doing nothing would not benefit them (James 1:22; Heb. 4:2) ...by proclaiming God's Will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As the church of God's wisdom, we have an obligation to proclaim His will. Paul rejoiced in being able to proclaim the gospel (Eph. 3:7-8), shouldn't we as well? (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 1:14-16; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2; 2:2; Rev. 22:17). <p><i>When we hear and follow and proclaim God's will, we will show the wisdom of God in the church.</i></p> 	<p>Attitudes That Will Kill A Marriage There are many dangers and threats to marriage today but the biggest threat to our own marriages come from our attitudes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gladware Attitude – marriage is disposable <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to accept God's authority and wisdom concerning marriage (Col. 3:17; Jer. 10:23). Understand God's design for the marriage has not changed from the beginning (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31), it is still to be held in honor (Matt 19:4-6; Rom. 7:3-4; Mal. 2:16) Mirror Attitude – considers only yourself <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Displays selfishness and fails to follow God's plan in becoming one flesh (Eph. 5:31, 33) As Christians we are often reminded not to think only of ourselves and this is certainly true in our marriage (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Phil. 2:2-5; 1 Pet. 1:22). Grazing Attitude – the grass is greener on the other side <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to honor our commitment to our spouse and places us at greater risk of adultery (Matt. 5:27-28; Rom. 7:2-3). Our commitment to Christ is a daily, life-long commitment (Lk. 9:23, 62) and Paul parallels this with marriage (Eph. 5:22ff); I would say the only commitment stronger than this is our commitment to God (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 7:10-11, 15) Revolving Door Attitude – you just fall in and out of love <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We fail to honor the role God set out for us and we accepted. A spark may have left the marriage but it may be because one or both stopped being the spouse God instructed (Eph. 5:22ff). <p><i>All of these attitudes reflect a failure on our part to cleave unto our spouse as God commanded...how's the glue in your marriage?</i></p>