

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



November 6, 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 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

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

Who Reads the Labels, Anyway?

By Wayne Rodgers

How many have misread a label? How many have failed even to read the label on a product? There is a story of a lady who put super glue in her eyes thinking it was eye drops. Fortunately, she quickly received proper medical treatment and her eyes were saved. She attributed the mishap to "not reading the label."

Smart shoppers will always read labels and know how to get the most for their purchases. In making legal transactions, we should always read the contracts. When administering medicine to self or children, of course, we should read the labels, so as not to overdose or mix with another medicine that might be in the precaution lists.



Spiritually, let us notice some results of "reading" the Bible:

When Paul was on his second missionary journey from Antioch, he preached in a synagogue of the Jews at Berea. The Bereans were a receptive audience. Notice the commendation they receive by Luke: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11, emphasis W.R.). Their nobility was because of their paying attention to the detail and studying the Scriptures. This led many to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Just as with medicines, food labels, and contacts, spiritually, the apostle Paul explains how simple and important it is to "read the label: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may **understand** my **knowledge** in the mystery of Christ"(Ephesians 3:4). At closer look at the context around verse 4, we will notice that God revealed something that had previously been a mystery (hidden) in other ages. Now God, through Paul, was making known this mystery to all mankind. We have it written for us with the expectation that we would understand it and attain the proper knowledge from it.

Simply put, by reading the Bible, one may come to know everything which God has revealed and confirmed (2 Peter 1:3, 21-22). We should become accustomed to using the phrase, "What saith the scripture?" (Galatians 4:30). We can "read the label" and know exactly what God expects of us. As we read every fact, command, and promise of God, our faith is built and has a sure foundation (Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 2:19).

Christianity is a taught religion. We must have knowledge of the truth if it is to be obeyed (1 Peter 1:22). Let us resolve to learn the Word of God and live by its teachings. Read the label.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;

they sing praises to your name."

Psalm 66:3, 4



“Quit You Like Men”

By Sam Wilcut

Among the final directions from Paul in his first epistle to the church in Corinth is this interesting expression in the KJV and ASV. It is grouped among other admonitions in 1 Corinthians 16:13: “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*” This expression comes from a single Greek word that is only found once right here in our passage.

It actually means the very opposite of that which it sounds—Paul is encouraging these brethren to discharge their duties in true manly fashion. In other words, they were not to be cowards. They were not to be timid in their pursuit of godly things. They were not to allow their enemies to alarm them and create fear to the point of discouraging them from doing that which they knew was right. They were to be brave. In modern times, we would express it, “Be a man!” This expression, along with the others within 1 Corinthians 16:13, is a verse for soldiers and warriors!

Whenever we have difficulty understanding a Biblical expression, it is often helpful to research other translations to gain a better understanding. Note the following:

- “...act as men” (McCord).
- “...act like men” (NASV).
- “...have courage” (NCV).
- “...be men of courage” (NIV).
- “...be brave” (NKJV).
- “...be courageous” (RSV).
- “...acquit yourselves like men” (WNT).

It is interesting that while we do not find this word anywhere else in our Greek New Testaments, we do find this word in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament) a number of different times. Most

notably, we find this expression within the emphatic encouragement that God gave to Joshua as he took the reins of leadership following the death of his mentor, Moses: “*Be strong and of a good courage*” (Josh. 1:6-9), to which even several of the tribes of Israel responded assuredly in the same fashion (Josh. 1:18). David gave this same encouragement to his son, Solomon: “*Be strong and of good courage*” (1 Chron. 28:20). Hezekiah encouraged his captains concerning the invasion of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, with these same words: “*Be strong and courageous*” (2 Chron. 32:7). One may find this expression about nineteen other times in the Septuagint.

In addition, we can see the same expression translated in the same way in the Old Testament. For example, the Philistines rang their battle cry against the Israelites, “*Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight*” (1 Sam. 4:9). In similar fashion, Joab, captain of the Israelite army under King David, encouraged the troops when he said, “*Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth him good*” (2 Sam. 10:12).

By gaining a better grasp of this expression, it reminds us of what Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:14: “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...*” I cannot help but attach this with what he had written previously—“*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Thus, when Satan sends enemies to attack us and other saints within the church of our Lord, we do not flinch! We maintain our ground. We press forward and strike as good soldiers of the cross (cf. Ephesians 6:10-20). May we all resolve to become Christians who are brave in the face of moral danger!

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Daily Bible Reading Schedule
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	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)	“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2) Sun: Jer. 34-35 Titus 1 Mon Jer. 36-38 Titus 2 Tue: Jer. 39-41 Titus 3 Wed: Jer. 42-45 Philemon Thu: Jer. 46-48 Hebrews 1 Fri: Jeremiah 49 Hebrews 2 Sat. Jeremiah 50 Hebrews 3
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	



Respect For Our Spiritual Constitution

By Tom Moore

"If it be asked, What is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be, An inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws -- the first growing out of the last. ... A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government" (Alexander Hamilton, Essay in the American Daily Advertiser, 1794).

This is also true of our Spiritual Constitution – the Bible. Without proper respect for the word of God we will have no spiritual security (2 The. 1:7-9). The psalmist declared, “I will meditate on thy precepts, And have respect unto thy ways ... Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:15, 97). Respect and love for God’s word will be seen in how we react to its instructions and commands. In other words, there can be no respect without obedience. And think about this: if we do not respect God’s word then we have no respect for Him. This is why Jesus said, “If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments ... Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you” (Jn. 14:15; 15:14). Solomon declared, “This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear [reverence - respect] God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13).

Do you truly respect the word of God?

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 **29 contacts** were made.

Mark Your Calendars...

- ◆ November 6-9—Gospel Meeting at Rising Star with Darwin Hunter; flyer on back bulletin board.
- ◆ November 13—Bible Search at 5th & Grape in Abilene at 2 PM

A Proverb For The Day by Jeremy Sprouse

“He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit” (Proverbs 12:17 NASU).

From our English translations, this Proverb seems rather unimpressive; a mere statement of the obvious. This is because it has lost some of the poetry of the original language. Fortunately for us, this is not common, but in this instance the original language adds much more meaning to this verse. Rendered literally, this would read “He who breathes out truth reveals justice, but a false witness [breathes out] deceit” (*A Handbook on Proverbs*). Speaking truth or deceit can become something as natural as breathing: it happens without even thinking. Jesus warned that evil speech and actions come from our hearts, Mark 7:20-23. This is why we need to watch our hearts and what proceeds from them diligently (cf. Proverbs 4:23). In addition, we must understand the harm of deceit, it hides justice and makes inequality. Fairness, justice, and equality are not found with those who lie or those willing to accept lies.

Records	Oct. 23, 2011	Oct. 30, 2011
Bible Class	52	53
AM Worship	82	74
PM Worship	69	52
Monday PM	63	NA
Tuesday PM	77	NA
Wed. Class	33	NA
Wednesday PM	50	38
Contribution	\$1841	\$1346

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Linda Jimenez (08), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), Xavier Martinez (28).

November Anniversaries: Barbara & Gene Bannister (06), Bennie & Charles White (19).



Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...

		This Week: 11/06/11	Next Week: 11/06/11	
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Gene Bannister	
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum		Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum	
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford		Hank Wheeler	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Ken Makuta		Billy Chism	
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum <i>Matthew 9:35-38</i>		Michael Fuller	
Communion	Hank Wheeler		Jim Moore	
Closing Prayer	James Fuller		Tom Wilcox	
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 9 Don Smith	November 16 Allen Griffith	November 23 Tom Wilcox	November 30 Garrett Barnum

November 2011
Make Announcements:
 James Fuller
Prepare Communion:
 Ryan & Priscilla Smithey
Clean Building:
 Jim & Peg Moore
Keep Grounds:
 Ryan Smithey

December 2011
Make Announcements:
 Don Smith
Prepare Communion:
 Tom & Carol Wilcox
Clean Building:
 Jessica Stultz
Keep Grounds:
 Tom Wilcox

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)

<i>Studies for the week of November 6, 2011</i>	Sunday ClassRomans 1:18-32; Next Chap. 2 Wednesday Class.....Zechariah 12-14
<p>Psalm 23: Satisfying Shepherd (v2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficiency of the Shepherd – shows they are well supplied <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Picture of contentedness because their needs are met. We are well equipped as God’s people (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:10-11) Diligence of the Shepherd – Such contentedness comes by great care and attention from the shepherd so that his flock is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Free from Fear – Peace in the presence of their shepherd as their defender (John 10:11-13; Heb. 13:6; Matt. 10:28; Phil. 4:9; 1 John 2:1; 2 Tim. 1:7) Free from Friction (tension) – Sheep will fight for rank in the flock; but the presence of the shepherd can put them at ease (Phil. 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:6; Matt. 6:20; Gal. 3:28; Mark 9:34-35; 10:42-45; Gal. 1:10; 2 Tim. 2:4) Free from Flies (aggravations) – This shepherd is attentive to their needs and cares for them just as God is to ours (Deut. 2:7; 8:2-4; 29:5; Matt. 6:32; 1 Pet. 5:7; 3:12; Heb. 13:5; 1 Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:6-7; James 5:16). Free from Foraging (abundance)- This is a well fed flock that can now rest in peace, they are satisfied (Matt. 5:6; 1 Pet. 2:2; Luke 15:17; John 4:14; 6:35). Invitation of the Shepherd - Calls all to follow Him <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Imagery here is not of a forceful shepherd but one that is gentle and leading (Matt. 11:28-30; John 10:9; Rev. 22:17). Yet sadly still many will not follow and rather eat out of impoverished fields and filthy wells (Jer. 2:13; Matt. 9:36; John 4:13; 6:51, 53, 66) 	<p>Nehemiah’s Success</p> <p>When Nehemiah and the Jews finished the wall of Jerusalem, even their enemies could recognize “that this work was wrought of our God” (Neh. 6:16). Consider a few of the keys to His success as a leader and encourager of God’s people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Burden Of His Heart <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nehemiah was personally interested in this work and its success – not just someone else’s problem. He cared for God’s people and their reputation (1:4, 2:1-3) and this interest moved him to leave his luxury and do this hard work. Wisdom Of His Mind <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As a wise leader he made proper plans (2:5, 7-10), investigated the work (2:12-16), sought cooperation (2:17, 18), included God (2:18). Nehemiah serves as a great example of one that counted the cost (Lk. 14:28-30) and determined not to turn back from his work. Determination Of His Will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nehemiah shows his determination to finish this good work even in the face of opposition (2:19-20), mocking (4:1-3), physical threats (4:8), internal weakness and burnout (4:10; 6:17-19). These things just seemed to make him work harder (4:21, 23). Helping him in this was the fact that he was a man of prayer (1:4; 2:4; 4:4, 9; 6:14; etc.) and one that trusted in God (2:18, 20; 4:14, 20).