



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
Gospel Broadcast Network
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.

Are We “Plugged In”?

By Jason Hilburn

One day when I was planning on heading out of the house, I checked my cell phone to see if it was charging. I saw the charging cable plugged into the phone and continued getting ready to go. When it was time to leave, I unplugged the cable from my phone, only to realize that the other end of the cable had not been plugged into the wall outlet! Although I had assumed that my battery was fully charged, the truth was that my battery was completely dead.



I am afraid that many times this same sort of thing happens with people’s “spiritual batteries.” Some brethren seem like they are only halfway plugged in, or not plugged in at all, to the Word of God or their Christian duties. Whether they realize it or not, their neglectful attitudes are causing their spiritual batteries to be very weak, or possibly even dead. The following questions are posed for our self-examination:

Are we only halfway plugged in? Perhaps we habitually show up late for services when we could have left earlier and arrived on time. Such actions show a lack of respect for God and our brethren, and it likely signifies a lack of desire to be present. Maybe we habitually leave before services are dismissed—not because of anything urgent, but rather so we can beat the crowd out of the parking lot, get to our favorite restaurant quicker, or because of some other worldly reasoning. Maybe we arrive on time and stay until services are dismissed, but we are only “halfway there,” with our minds on worldly things, lacking interest in what is taking place. Perhaps we only attend on Sunday mornings, or maybe we never study the Bible outside of the church’s building. If so, then we are only halfway plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering. Perhaps we are completely plugged in for normal services, but when it comes to other activities of the church, we are totally unplugged. Where are we when the congregation is holding a Gospel meeting on weeknights? Where are we when the congregation is having Vacation Bible School? Where are we when the congregation is door knocking as a group, visiting a nursing home, or doing other good works collectively? If we are physically able to be present and active, why are we not plugged in to these activities? If we are present for normal services, but choose to be absent from these other activities, then we are only half-way plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering because of

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*Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.
Lead me in thy truth, and teach me:
for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
Psalm 25:4-5*

Homosexual Homecoming

As gay activists capture a generation, are we equipping our kids to stand?

by Tyler Young

“Sometimes you have to stand up for what you believe in, despite what you’ve been told all your life.” So said Taylor Hunter, a senior at Patrick Henry High School in San Diego. In November of this year Taylor’s school crowned a lesbian couple homecoming “king” and queen, and Taylor was explaining why he voted for them. He crudely but proudly declared he “stood up” for the homosexual couple because they were “hot” and added, “I believe that young people are our future, and we have the power to change things for the better.”

Especially disturbing about this story is that Taylor claims he was raised in an “evangelical Christian” home, and one of the homosexual girls wore a cross over her homecoming court sash and thanked Jesus “for making all this possible.” This is all revealing—and alarming. To more and more young people who profess to be Christians, Christ and Christianity are simply about acceptance and affirmation of all people, regardless of their behavior. A considerable segment of those who call themselves Christian believes that all Jesus really wants is for us to feel good about ourselves no matter what we do—short of horrible things like murder and such—and that the hallmark of following Christ is refraining from passing judgment on others.

Meanwhile, a recent episode of Fox’s hit show *Glee* titled “The First Time” romanticized two high school couples deciding to surrender their virginity to each other. One of the couples was homosexual. Tim Stack of *Entertainment Weekly* gushed, “It’s all handled very delicately and is incredibly moving. I can’t think of another network series that’s taken a teenage gay relationship so far or been so progressive.”

Taylor Hunter’s point about young people turning from “what you’ve been told all your life” to “change things” is something the supporters of an anti-Christian

agenda understand well. Those who are promoting perversity are using entertainment media to shape the thinking of a generation of kids and promote our descent into the abyss of moral relativism and rank hedonism. But especially disturbing is that many of these kids who are joining the crusade against Christ believe they are doing so *for the sake of Christ*, and thanking Him for the opportunity.

Are we insulating our kids in the Lord’s church against these troubling trends? Do they understand they must love all men and reach out with compassion to those in the captivity of sin, while simultaneously standing firmly and without fear against all wickedness, including homosexuality (Rom. 1:18-27)? Are we equipping and encouraging them to speak out, with kindness, boldness, and without compromise? Taylor Hunter believes it’s important to “stand up for what you believe in” (the nobility of which depends, of course, on just what it is one believes in). At the risk of being shunned as radical, castigated as intolerant, hated for being “hateful” (Mat. 10:22), will our kids put on the whole armor of God to “stand against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11)? Are they ready and willing to do battle for truth and souls? Do they even know there’s a war going on, or—when it comes to issues like this one—which side they’re on? Will they feel compelled—because we have failed to fortify their faith—to yield to the currents of culture despite, to paraphrase Mr. Hunter, what they’ve been told all their lives?

These changing times require due vigilance to equip a generation of soldiers in the Lord’s army with genuine conviction—knowing not only *what* to believe, but *why they ought to believe it*—for the Lord and His truth. Only then is it right for them to “stand up for what they believe in.” Only then will they, as instruments in the hands of God, “have the power to change things for the better.”

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: Daniel 10-12 2 & 3 John
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: Hosea 1-3 Jude
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)	Tue: Hosea 4-7 Revelation 1
	Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Wed: Hosea 8-11 Revelation 2
	Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	Thu: Hosea 12-14 Revelation 3
Radio		Fri: Joel 1-3 Revelation 4-5
Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		Sat: Amos 1-5 Revelation 6



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it. Not only that, but our brethren's batteries are suffering from it as well. Have we considered that it is very discouraging to those who put forth effort when many in the congregation refuse to help or participate in things we are all supposed to be doing together as a family? Have we considered that our actions can drain the congregation's spiritual batteries instead of charging them? We need to be careful that we do not deceive ourselves into thinking we are completely plugged in, when we really are not: *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* (James 1:22; cf. Matthew 25).

Are we completely unplugged? There are some who have completely unplugged themselves from the assemblies of the saints, and in doing so, have unplugged themselves from Christ. Their spiritual batteries are dead, and their poor example and lost condition drains potential power from the entire congregation. We are commanded to assemble—not just to worship God and study His Word, but also to lovingly exhort one another to be faithful: *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:24-25; cf. Ephesians 4:16). When our brothers and sisters fail to assemble, their batteries die, and they also fail to help "charge up" their brethren. Imagine how much more "power" a congregation would have to do good if all the brethren who have unplugged themselves would plug themselves back in!

To keep our spiritual batteries from dying, we must be active, faithful members of Christ's church, always remaining "plugged in" to Christ through the "Power Source" He has given us—His Word (Romans 1:16; 10:17; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12). If we remain connected to Christ through adherence to His Word, our spiritual batteries will be recharged day by day: *"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day"* (2 Corinthians 4:16; cf. Philippians 4:13).

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 **31 contacts** were made. Remember too that next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday finger foods following the meeting—hope you can join us.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the Ladies Bible Class each Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the High School Classroom as they study the Life of Christ; hope you can be there. This will be the last class before they break for the holidays and those interested will be going to lunch after.

Why Eat Alone?

Noticed that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year? If you don't have plans, why not join us for lunch in the fellowship hall following the morning worship that day? We plan on doing a traditional Christmas dinner potluck style but need an idea of who all would like to come. There is a sign-up sheet at the back the auditorium for you to indicate that you will be there and either now or sometime before then you can indicate what you are planning on bringing so we make sure it all gets covered. If you have any questions let me know. ~Ryan

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: James Womack (04), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

December Anniversaries: Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Nov. 27, 2011	Dec. 4, 2011
Bible Class	47	39
AM Worship	66	50
PM Worship	41	42
Wednesday PM	42	46
Contribution	\$1424	\$1607

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 12/11/11		Next Week: 12/18/11		December 2011 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox January 2012 Make Announcements: Tom Wilcox Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannisterr Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Charles & Bennie White		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Ken Makuta	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Michael Bickford	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller <i>Psalms 133</i>	Michael Fuller		
Communion	James Thomas	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Matthew Churchwell	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 14 Jim Moore	December 21 Don Smith	December 27 Allen Griffith	January 4 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)

Studies for the week of December 11, 2011		Sunday Class Romans 4	Wednesday Class Malachi (Intro/Chap. 1)
<p>Points on Prayer (James 5:13-18)</p> <p><i>James is a very practical book on living the Christian life; it should come as no surprise then that he speaks of prayer. Specifically in this section we can learn that we should pray:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individually (v13) - Prayer is a chance for us to commune with God; all of us should seek opportunity to go to God alone in prayer (Matt. 6:5-6) as did Jesus (Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 6:12). Collectively (v14) - But we should also seek opportunity to pray together and for one another as did the first century church (v16; Acts 2:42; 4:23-31; 12:12; Phil. 1:3; 2 Thess. 3:1). Believingly (v15) - Necessary to believe in the power of prayer (James 1:5-8; Mark 11:20-24; 1 Kings 18:41-45). Fervently (v16) - The supplication of a man doing God's will has great power. Not a time of thoughtless recitation but of focused petition before God (Matt. 6:7; Heb. 4:16); notice also the example of Elijah who prayed fervently (v17). Specifically (v17) - Prayed with a specific thought and purpose in mind and it achieved his desired results. We too need to pray not only generally but specifically (Acts 12:5; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thess. 1:2; Philemon 1:4). Repeatedly (V18) - Not just once or occasionally, but a repetitive part of our lives. (Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2 2 Thess. 1:3; Phil 4:6). 	<p>Fellowship (1 John 3-10)</p> <p><i>John presents fellowship as something that is desirable and attainable; he wants fellowship with them and this is part of his reason for writing. In this section, he speaks of the:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation of Fellowship (v3) - they could have fellowship together only by having fellowship with God based upon following apostolic doctrine, not what he created but what he had seen and heard (cf. Acts 2:42; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Thess. 2:13). Limits of Fellowship (v6-7) - there were those who would claim to have fellowship with God but such would be a lie if they do not practice the truth. Therefore the condition of fellowship is walking in the light/truth (1 Jn 2:5-6; 2 Jn 6, 9; 3 Jn 3-4). This limit is set by God and cannot be changed by man (2 Tim. 3:16; Gal. 1:6-9). Obstacles to Fellowship (v6-10) - some things that can stand in the way of fellowship include the attitude that sin does not matter (v6; 1 Cor. 5:1-2), the belief that sin does not exist of that one is sinless (v8; Mark 2:17; Matt. 23:27), and the mindset that redefines sin as something else (v10; Isa. 5:20). Such attitudes can be seen in the older brother of Luke 15 (v25-32) and they hindered his fellowship with the younger brother and the father. Blessing of Fellowship (v3) - when we enjoy this fellowship we have a Father that loves us (1 Jn 3:1; 4:8-10), a Lord that pleads for us and leads us (1 Jn 2:1; 1:7; 2:6), brethren who encourage us (1 Jn 3:11; 3 Jn 3-4; Acts 4:32). 		