

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



December 25, 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
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.

"THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD"

By Roy J. Hearn

Many years ago Henry Drummond wrote a book by the above title. The apostle Paul wrote on the same subject, and antedated Drummond by about 1800 years. First Corinthians chapter 13 was an outgrowth of a discussion of spiritual gifts in chapters 12 through 14. There was considerable strife, envy, jealousies and divisions among the Corinthian saints. In chapter 12, Paul uses the physical body to illustrate the unity that ought to characterize the church. All the members should have the same care for each other, and there should be no schism in the body. As long as the physical body is healthy all members will be subject to the head, and every member will see to the good of every other. Likewise, Christ is the head of the church, and if every member will be subject to the Head there will never be division nor any evil among brethren.

Paul admitted that the working of miracles was great, but there was "a more excellent way" (I Cor. 12:31). That way is the way of love. Love is one of the greatest shortages in the church today. The love of God is to keep His commandments (I John 5:3). One of His commands is that there should be fervent love among Christians. If there were, nobody would seek to down anybody, but would seek interest in others (Rom. 12:9-10). Great will be the judgment of those who do not heed this charge.

"If I Have Not Love"

Paul said, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal." He is saying that without love one is simply a big noise, that he is valueless and empty. There is an old saying, "An empty wagon rattles loudest." Older people may remember log wagons going through the forests, or to the lumber mill. When empty they could be heard to rattle and echo through the woods, but when loaded hardly a sound could be heard.

Miracles are passed, but some today gloat over worldly accomplishments, and exalt themselves above others, and even seek to trod down those whom they think less than themselves. Performing miracles in the first century was no guarantee of salvation, and neither are high performances today. Judas was able to perform miracles, but went to his own place. Paul shows in I Corinthians 13:2 that though one had the greatest degree of faith and the greatest of spiritual gifts, but lacking love he was/is nothing. He has failed in God's design and purpose; there is nothing of value; all is lost. In verse two the apostle shows that though one makes the greatest sacrifices in benevolence or sacrifice as a martyr, though he have the praise of men (Matt. 6:1-4), he is nothing.

(Continued on page 2)



But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

What Love Does

1. "Love suffereth long." It causes one to be slow to anger, slow to judge or condemn others (Rom. 2:1-4), and show patient endurance toward others. Many saints hold to things that are inconsistent with love.
2. "Love is kind." It is gentle, and demonstrates tender affection. The Holy Spirit commands to "put on kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and longsuffering" (Col. 3:12).
3. "Rejoiceth with truth." God's word is truth and will make free (John 17:17; 8:32), hence one with love in his heart will rejoice to hear it preached. Love will rejoice over truth advanced and defended, regardless of who teaches it, and that others will be successful in good works. Paul set the example (Phil. 1:12-18).
4. "Beareth (or covereth) all things." Love hides or conceals the faults of others, and is patient and longsuffering and not disposed to revenges (See Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).
5. "Believeth all things." Ready to believe the best of everyone, and not have a tendency to look for flaws.
6. "Hopeth all things." That all things will turn out well, confidence that God will hear our prayers, and will give favorable answer, that wayward members will be restored, etc.
7. "Endureth all things." The Christian is called upon to endure sufferings as good soldiers, and not retaliate for wrong doing, or mistreatment, but to "pray for those who spitefully treat and persecute you."
8. "Taketh no account of evil." The saint is not to be disposed to find fault, but to put the best motive on the conduct of others, and not look only for points of criticism.
9. "Rejoiceth not in unrighteousness." Christians should not be delighted when others are guilty of sin or crime, or are avenged, or evil reports given, but rather grieve when a member is overtaken in sin. Too often one's

face lights up when he hears of evil about others.

What Love Does Not Do

1. "Love envieth not." One should not be zealous against another person, nor grieved because another has greater earthly or mental or spiritual blessings than he (Rom. 12:10).
2. "Vaunteth not itself." This is a common sin, more prevalent than it ought to be, and in fact it should never happen. A real Christian will never brag or boast of superiority over others, or treat others with contempt.
3. "Is not puffed up." One should not think more highly of himself than he ought to think (Rom. 12:3), nor be proud and vain, but rather imitate the Lord Jesus Christ in humility.
4. "Doth not behave itself unseemly." Great demonstrations of anger and displeasure, and improper and disgraceful conduct should be avoided. "Ye are the light of the world."
5. "Seeketh not its own." Such is selfish to seeks one's own good to the hurt of others. "My rights end where your rights begin."
6. "Is not provoked." The Christian should not be easily roused to anger, or given to wrath. Some are prone to do so when their conduct is questioned.

Love Is Specifically Commanded

First Peter 1:22 demands that Christians love one another fervently. First John 3:14-20 teaches that one should not love in word only, but in deed, and that one who does not love his brother abides in death. (Brethren, let us all try to make ourselves more lovable!) Love is eternal, hence, **IT IS THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD.**

This time of year is celebrated as a time when greater love is shown among mankind...as Christians, let's make sure this love continues all year long! ~Ryan

Let brotherly love continue. (Hebrews 13:1)

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: Zephaniah 1-3 Rev. 15-16 Mon: Haggai 1-2 Revelation 17 Tue: Zechariah 1-5 Revelation 18 Wed: Zechariah 6-8 Revelation 19 Thu: Zech. 9-11 Revelation 20 Fri: Zech. 12-14 Revelation 21 Sat. Malachi 1-4 Revelation 22
Radio Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	



Do You Work for Rest?

By Adam Cozort

There are many reasons people work in this world. Some work to obtain money, others work to put food on the table, while still others work to fulfill their ambitions or responsibilities. Though there are many different reasons to work, have you ever worked so that you could rest? Though the concept may seem funny, most of us have probably done so at various times. You work extra hard on one day so that you can have a day off another day. Most people understand this concept of work to obtain rest in the physical world, but do we carry that principle over into the spiritual realm?

Hebrews 4:11 states, "Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." The rest being referenced is the ultimate rest of Heaven (Vs. 9-10). For us to enter into that rest requires labor (work). One does not need rest when no work has been done. It is the fulfilling of the labors of life that gives the need of rest. Likewise it is the labors of the commands of God that qualifies and prepares mankind for the rest that is made available to the righteous.

In chapters three and four, the writer is comparing the children of Israel, who came out of Egypt, to his Christian audience. The Israelites quit their responsibilities, rebelled against God, and refused to do what he commanded them. Because of this, they were not allowed entry into the promised land (Num. 14:30; Heb. 3:18).

The warning being issued is that we must ensure we do not become as the Israelites of Moses' day. We must continue to work and strive to fulfill the law of God so that we might enter into the rest prepared for the righteous. A lazy person or a quitter will not receive that rest. Only one who fulfills his obligations of work on this earth in service to God will inherit that wonderful blessing. Are you working for that rest?

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 **48 contacts** were made.

Thanks...we appreciate all who helped put together and distribute the gift bags to the shut-ins/widows/etc. Everyone is always very thankful for being remembered and I am sure they will enjoy the goodies. Any notes we receive will be posted on the bulletin board.

New Year's Party...Join us Saturday, December 31st starting at 6 PM at the Smithey's house...bring games, finger foods, etc. and enjoy a good time together (just probably not till midnight!).

Bible Study Plan...parting from our regular daily Bible reading schedule, next year I am going to be encouraging you to join us in the *Bible Study Program* written by Jason Rollo which guides you in a 2.5 year study of the Bible. Look for more details next week...

Join Us For Lunch...don't have plans for lunch today?

We would love for you to stay and be our guest following this morning's worship.

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

	Dec. 11, 2011	Dec. 18, 2011
Bible Class	49	49
AM Worship	75	70
PM Worship	52	53
Wednesday PM	33	40
Contribution	\$1937	\$2251

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 12/25/11		Next Week: 1/1/12		December 2011	
Sunday AM:				Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Jim Moore		Clean Building: Jessica Stultz	
Communion	James Fuller*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, Ken Makuta	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Garrett Barnum, Ken Maninger		Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	James Fuller		January 2012	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Make Announcements: Tom Wilcox	
Sunday PM:				Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Psalm 107:21-22</i>	Garrett Barnum		Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Communion	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler			
Closing Prayer	Matthew Churchwell	Don Smith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 27 Allen Griffith	January 4 Tom Wilcox	January 11 Garrett Barnum	January 18 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 December 25, 2011		Sunday Class Romans 4-5	Wednesday Class Malachi (Chap. 1-2)
<p align="center">Redemption's Story</p> <p><i>The Bible is an inspired account of history, specifically from beginning to end it tells the story of God's love for man and His desire for man's redemption. It is a story that Peter summarizes in 1 Pet. 2:24, a story that revolves around:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Person—Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:21). He alone was qualified to be our savior (Rev. 5:1-5, 12-14; Heb. 1:1—9). The OT points forward to Him (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 53; etc.), the gospel accounts tell of His coming (Matt. 1:21; Matt. 3:17; John 1:14, 29, 36), the epistles speak of the life we should live because He has come and will come again (Col. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:11-12), and Revelation assures us of victory when He comes again (2 Thess. 1:7, 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 1:8, 22:3-5). A Plan—His Sacrificial Offering (1 Pet. 2:21, 23-25; Heb. 10:12). According to God's eternal plan (Eph. 3:10-11; Rev. 13:8; Acts 2:22-24) Christ suffered (Isa. 53:5-6), paying a price (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20) for us (1 Pet. 2:22, 24-25; Deut. 21:22-23; Lev. 24:14-16) and this He did willingly (1 Pet. 2:21, 23-24; John 10:11, 18; Phil. 2:6-8). A Purpose—Man's Redemption (1 Pet. 2:24-25; Matt. 13:15). He did all this that we might benefit (John 10:10; Lk 19:10). Specifically in Christ we can be justified and restored to God (Heb. 13:12; Isa. 53:11; Matt. 26:28; 1 John 2:1-2; John 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Rom. 6:23). <p><i>Let us learn of, rejoice in, and tell to others redemptions story!</i></p>	<p align="center">Gifts I Am Thankful For</p> <p><i>At a time of year especially known for thankfulness, loving-kindness, and the giving of gifts, I want to reflect on some things that I have been particularly thankful for in this past year with an emphasis on encouraging them even more in the New Year...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Many Blessings of God (James 1:17; Eph. 1:3). Let us always be mindful of the graciousness of God and express that gratitude to Him (Col. 4:2). ♦ Area congregations and the works we do together (Gospel Meetings, Bible Search, Camp, Summer Youth Series; etc.). (1 Pet. 2:17; Phil. 1:3-5; 4::3; 3 John 2-4). ♦ Work of the congregation (faithful elders, laboring deacons, dedicated teachers, active members, and the works we are involved in) (1 Thess 1:6-8; 1 Cor 15:58; Gal. 6:9). ♦ Humble Hearts challenged and directed by God's Word (Col. 3:17; James 1:22; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:3-4) ♦ Loving family of brothers & sisters in Christ (support, love, encouragement shown to one another) (Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 3:12; Heb. 10:24; 1 Pet. 1:22; etc.) <p align="center"><i>Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.</i></p> <p align="right"><i>1 Thessalonians 4:1</i></p>		