

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



January 29, 2012

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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 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.

Beautiful Christian

By Ben Bailey

The wise King Solomon said, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:30). In a world where men and women are often judged by their physical beauty, it can be so easy to overlook the real beauty of life. We live in an era where Covergirl can make you the woman of your dreams, Metabolife can make you slim and trim and cosmetic surgery can make you look like anyone you want. But have we really forgotten what true beauty is? The principle Solomon stated is still valid for us. Both men and women are attractive in God's eyes based on what they are, not how they look physically. Let us turn our attention to the qualities of inner beauty that God desires in His children.

First, to be beautiful in God's sight we must possess a submissive, willing obedience to our Father. The beauty of obedience has always been that which attracted God to His people. For example, God destroyed the ungodly world in Noah's day, but of Noah it is said, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen 6:8). Likewise, our beautification will come through our obedience. The happy person is always the one who obeys God (Rev. 22:14). The person who wears the beautiful crown of salvation is the one who obeys God (Heb. 5:8-9). Truly, "to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams" (I Sam. 15:22). Are we beautiful to God by our obedience to his word, or are we stained with the ugliness of sin?

A second way in which we can be beautiful in God's sight is by possessing a quiet and gentle spirit or demeanor. By inspiration Peter said, "let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" (I Pet. 3:4). Although this is talking about the adorning beauty of women, it would obviously apply to all of God's children alike. Isn't it interesting what God calls beauty, we often think of as cowardice or timidity? God does not desire His people to be loud, overbearing chatterboxes. God says we will be beautiful if we are "Swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath" (James 1:19-20). Do we really possess a quiet and gentle spirit in the sight of God? Or, are we known for our harshness, desire to be heard by others and getting the last word in?

A third way that we become beautiful in God's sight is through our worship of Him. The Bible repeatedly says we are to "worship Him in the beauty of Holiness" (Ps. 29:2, 96:9). When we worship God in the "beauty of holiness", we ourselves begin to become beautiful. But, worship must be done in holiness. It must be done according to God's commands (Jn. 4:24). It must be done with our inner psyche (I Cor. 14:15). And, yes, it must be done with fervent emotion, excitement

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*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him,
and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught,
abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

Colossians 2:6-7

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and zeal (Jn. 4:24b). A child that adores, reverences and obeys his Father is always more beautiful than an irreverent child. Do we really look beautiful to God because of our reverent worship of Him? Or, are we unattractive to God in worship because our additions to His prescribed ways (Lev. 10:1ff)?

A final way in which we can become beautiful to God is through our attitude. A godly attitude is essential to becoming beautiful. Just as a woman who only puts on half of her makeup would not be fully beautiful, so Christians who do what God wants them to with a grudging and bad attitude are not completely beautiful to God. A preacher once said that to succeed in life you had to have the right AME (aim) Attitude, Motive and Emphasis. What is our attitude about God and living the Christian life? Do we obey God because we love Him (Jn. 14:15)? Do we worship God in the beauty of holiness because we are grateful for what He has done for us (Jn. 3:16). Do we attend worship service to grow closer to God, or do we attend because we have to? Is our heart right with God???

A wealthy elderly man seeking to find a beautiful companion made it known of his wealth and desire to find a wife. It wasn't very long until he had scores of candidates wanting to marry him. Eventually, he did choose a very beautiful young lady to be his bride. But something began to happen that he never dreamed of. As the old man began to realize that the only reason he had a beautiful wife was because of his money, the woman began to grow a little less attractive every day. It wasn't long until she was even repulsive for the man to look at. I wonder if this is sometimes how God sees us? Do we really have an inner beauty that is enduring? Or, did we marry God (Rom 7:1-4) for what He could do for us or because we did not have a choice. Remember, "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (I Sam. 16:7). Since "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" what do we look like to God? To see we will have to turn ourselves inside out!! The Old hymn says it best; "let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you."

I'm Just Not Feelin' It!

By Cody Westbrook

It is a sad-but-true fact that many of us have been infected with a terrible malady. Over time this problem has become progressively worse as it has overtaken us to the point of our own denial. This terrible affliction is known as emotionalism and it has caused incalculable damage to the minds of all of those whom it affects. The "if it feels good, do it!" mentality has permeated practically every aspect of our life. It is pumped into minds through television shows, movies, and the liberal media and has resulted in us viewing reality in a totally unrealistic way. When we view life from a purely emotional perspective, we can easily forget that emotion is not the basis upon which we should make our decisions, but that instead truth and commitment must be the factors behind what we decide and how we act.

The evidence of emotionalism is perhaps at its greatest height in the realm of religion. Scores of preachers are aware of this and do a wonderful job taking advantage of it! They play soft, soul-stirring music, and say just the right words to provoke an emotional response to do whatever it is they want their audience to do (which is usually to give them money!). On the other hand, there are the individuals who, though they are not preachers, still use their emotions to guide them into what they perceive to be truth. This is evinced by those who claim that they "just know they are saved" because they "feel it in their hearts." We see additional evidence of this kind of thinking in those who choose their place of worship based upon how the worship service makes them feel. Occasionally some people will leave religion altogether because of their feelings. Individuals like this will claim that their heart is just not in it anymore, or that they just do not feel that close connection with Jesus.

This problem has also found its way into our homes. Marriages frequently dissolve because one of the spouses does not feel in love anymore (or even, at times, because

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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)

Bible Study Schedule

Week 5

Genesis 25-30 & Matthew 9-10

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.

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



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both of the spouses have begun to feel that way). This problem is praised and flaunted as normal in our popular culture. Scores of television shows and movies glamorize the idea of being a free spirit and fulfilling our sexual potential. This is only a small part of the effect of humanism on our culture. Abraham Maslow's doctrine of self actualization encourages us to follow our feelings and act upon them. If it feels good, do it!

If we allow emotion to be our guide, then we are the personification "blind leading the blind" (Matthew 15:14). Emotions can change from one moment to the next, and there are hundreds of factors that can cause those changes. Obviously that kind of foundation is just what Jesus had in mind when He described the foolish man who built his house upon the sand (Matthew 7:26). It is sinful for us to allow our emotions to draw us away from the commitments we have made to the Lord and to our families. Just because we may not be "feelin' it" does not mean we can forsake it!

In order for our decisions to be rational, they must be based upon truth. Jesus said that God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Instead of allowing truth to be guided by emotion, emotion must be guided by truth. For example, Paul said of love that it must "abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment" (Philippians 1:9). This means that love is not some indescribable feeling, but rather is an action that is to be cultivated and guided in the right direction. When we meditate on things that are holy (Philippians 4:8) and commit ourselves to the Lord, our thoughts and emotions will be established upon the correct foundation (Proverbs 16:3).

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 **33 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events:

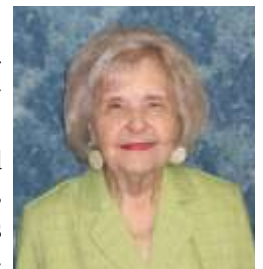
- ◆ **Bible Bowl...** today at 2 PM in Rising Star.
- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** meets each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school class room. Hope you can join us as we continue our study of the life of Christ.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting...** mark your calendar for May 20-23. This will be our spring meeting with Wayne Jones of San Marcos, TX and he will be speaking on the home and marriage.

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.



Peggy Luker (1930-2012)

Once again we have had to say goodbye to a dear sister in Christ as Peggy passed from this life last Wednesday. I know we will miss her smile and friendly attitude but we rejoice that as a faithful child of God, she now enters her eternal rest. May we be encouraged by her example to continue to the same end.



"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13)

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Kathy Burcham (3), Billie Jean Walters (5), Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Jan. 15, 2012	Jan. 22, 2012
Bible Class	49	48
AM Worship	67	73
PM Worship	47	45
Wednesday PM	39	34
Contribution	\$1493	\$1927

	This Week: 1/29/12	Next Week: 2/05/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Mike Bannister	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	January 2012 Make Announcements: Tom Wilcox Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey February 2012 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	Billy & Peggy Chism	Jack & Joyce Hill		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum	Gene Bannister*, Ken Maninger Allen Griffith, James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 1 Don Smith	February 8 Allen Griffith	February 15 Tom Wilcox	February 22 Garrett Barnum

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 January 29, 2012</i>	Sunday Class <i>Romans 7</i> Wednesday Class <i>OT History—Bible Timeline</i>
<p>Abraham, A Friend of God (Part 2 of 2)</p> <p>3. He Was One Who Offered</p> <p>a. A Tenth Of The Spoils (Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:1-2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Used material blessings for spiritual purposes. Do we have the same attitude (Eph. 4:28; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:5; 9:7). We can control material things or they can control us (Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:6-11, 17-19); it is clear Abraham trusted in God (Gen. 14:22-23), do we do the same (Phil. 4:13)? <p>b. The Hospitality of His Home (Gen. 18:1-8)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He was quick to abundantly provide for the needs of others. Are our own possessions hoarded or used in the service of God (Heb. 13:2; Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 5:10; Titus 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:9)? <p>c. The Son He Loved (Gen. 22:1-3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham was one who had worshiped God (Gen. 12:7, 8; 13:4, 18) and again he was ready to do as God instructed (22:5). Abraham showed nothing was greater than his love of God (Matt. 10:37; 22:37-38) but also an amazing faith, that somehow God would still work out His promises (Heb. 11:17-19; 1 Tim. 1:12; Acts 27:25). Maybe even more we learn about God who on this occasion stayed the hand of Abraham and provided an alternate sacrifice (22:8, 12-13), but He would not do the same in offering of His own Son (John 3:16). 	<p>Preaching Christ (Acts 8)</p> <p><i>When one looks at this record of the activities of the early church, we find them busy in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ; specifically this is spoken of as:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preaching the Word (v4) – this they did as they went about in their lives. Consider some qualities of the word they proclaimed (John 17:17; Luke 8:11; 1 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Pet. 2:25). Preaching Christ (v5) – this centers on the work of Philip who was one of those preaching the word (v4), thus he was not just telling them of the man Jesus, but proclaiming the whole of the gospel. He spoke, confirming with miracles (v6-7, 13; Heb. 2:3-4); he preached things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus (v12; Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 3:17); he taught them concerning salvation and baptism (v12); he preached the word of God (v14). Testifying and Preaching the Word of God and Preaching the Gospel (v25). They came speaking the word of the Lord (that which comes from God and testifies of Him) and preached the gospel of Christ (the good news of Christ and salvation). Peter and John proclaimed the same message Philip had. Preaching Jesus (v35) – Philip now preaches to the eunuch and obvious he teaches not just of who Jesus was but of the response that such knowledge should bring as the eunuch is baptized. Preaching (v40) – simply notes Philip preaches (evangelizes; proclaims good news), which is no doubt what he has been doing in the rest of this chapter. <p><i>Let us be active in doing the same today.</i></p>