

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



May 6, 2012

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:

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.

“Speaking the Truth in Love”

by Ben Bailey, David Fanning I, Kevin Pendergrass

When people in religious error are confronted with the truth, they usually begin to make excuses in an attempt to ignore plain Bible teaching (Luke 14:18). One such excuse is found in the popular phrase “it’s not what you said, but how you said it.” In an effort to understand what it really means to “speak the truth in love,” we must put preconceived ideas behind us and examine the Scriptures with a good and honest heart (Luke 8:15; Acts 17:11; 1 Peter 4:11).

The Scriptures command Christians to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). What does it mean to speak the truth in love? Does it mean you always have to have a smile on your face? Absolutely not! When Paul rebuked Elymas and identified him as a “son of the devil,” Paul had an intent look as he was speaking the truth in love (Acts 13:9). Does it mean you must always speak with a soft tone in your voice? Most assuredly not! John, Jesus and Paul all “cried out (yelled)” at certain times when they taught the truth in love (John 1:15; 7:28, 37; Acts 23:6). What then does “speaking the truth in love” mean? “Speaking the truth in love” means we boldly proclaim the truth because we love the souls we are teaching (1 Corinthians 16:14; Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:6). Speaking the truth “in love” is not teaching us the method in which to speak the truth, rather it is teaching us the motivation in which we speak the truth. For example, did Jesus speak the truth in love when He “name-called” (Matthew 23; etc.), turned the tables twice (1st time: John 2:13-22; 2nd time: Matthew 21:12-17) and constantly preached the truth that eventually offended many and “ran people away” (John 6:60-68; Matthew 13:57; Mark 6:3; Matthew 15:12; Matthew 11:6; Mark 10:17-22)? Sure He did; otherwise, Jesus would have been in violation of the Scriptures and would have ceased to be the sinless Son of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Also, John the Immerser spoke the truth in love when he sharply rebuked the Jews for being a “brood of vipers” and commanded them to repent (Luke 3:7-18). With these examples in mind, it is clear that “speaking the truth in love” is not about the method in which you speak the truth, but the motivation in which you speak the truth. For many people who have a wrong view of “love,” this is a hard truth to accept (Galatians 4:16). Thus, some have tried to come up with excuses like “that was Jesus, and He could do that.” Do we understand that this excuse is not a reason to get out of “speaking the truth” but rather a positive example commanding us to do the same? Yes, that was Jesus and He is our ultimate example to follow. In fact, we are to follow the example of all of God’s faithful (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1). At times that means we must speak passionately on offensive truths

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*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it;
but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's,
the same shall save it.*

Mark 8:35



(Continued from page 1)

that people do not want to hear but desperately need to understand (John 6:60-68; 2 Timothy 4:2; Jeremiah 6:14-16; Acts 20:27).

Another excuse that is often made is based on a false view of what it means to have our “speech seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6). Concerning this passage some say, “Every time we speak, it must leave a good taste in the hearer’s mouth.” This could not be further from the truth! Truth is going to “taste” and “smell” differently to people depending on their heart and motivation for listening (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). Having our speech seasoned with salt and knowing how we must answer each person is all about the content of what is said. Even in cooking, salt is never a part of the presentation in food, but rather the content of the food. When we speak, we need to make sure our content is scriptural (1 Peter 3:15; Titus 2:1; Ephesians 4:29). In fact, have you ever considered that if salt “were” the flavor of our speech, it could just as likely be implying the negative as it would the positive? For example, it has been rightly observed that salt does not feel good when poured on wounds (Hebrews 12:11).

What is the real problem with many today? Too many people are looking for an opportunity to get offended. These people are looking for an opportunity to let their emotions run wild and claim their feelings were hurt instead of taking heed how they hear (Luke 8:18; Hebrews 2:1; Mark 4:24). Even leaders in the church, rather than back the truth, will go and “pity” those in sin. Sometimes, even without realizing it, the leaders or members of the congregation justify the “offended” member’s sin (Proverbs 17:15). Instead of coddling the sinner who heard the truth and got mad (Galatians 4:16), faithful Christians should “speak the truth in love” by exhorting them with a view toward the repentance and restoration of those who have forsaken the way (Proverbs 15:10; 27:5).

Christianity is not a religion of hate where we threaten and physically beat one into submission (1 Corinthians 4:21; Luke 9:54-55). Rather, Christianity is a religion of love for God and love for one another (Matthew 22:37-39; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 2:17; Galatians 5:15). Do you love others enough to rebuke them, hold them accountable and correct them? Are you humble enough to repent when corrected and rebuked by others (2 Chronicles 7:14)? The Bible states that we are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12). If you were lost in sin and on the road to hell, would you want someone to look the other way because they were afraid of offending you? If you were on the road to hell, it would not matter if they smiled or frowned, yelled or whispered, looked happy or sad—all you would care about is hearing the truth about salvation (Luke 16:27-28).

No two situations are going to be exactly the same in teaching and rebuking (Jude 22-23). Every individual, based upon their personality, will speak and talk differently. The “way” that something is done is very subjective. If the action/doctrine is scriptural, then we must get away from this false doctrine of “it’s not what you said, but how you said it.” Are there those who have the wrong intent in preaching the truth and in rebuking? Yes, Paul addressed such persons in Philippians 1:18. However, I would rather have someone correct me with the wrong intent than someone who ignores my sin who claims to have the “right intent.” Not once in the Scriptures is there a single time when one of God’s faithful apologized for preaching the truth or apologized for “how he said it.” If one’s actions are correct and scriptural, let us abstain from making unrighteous judgments about the intent of the speaker when only God can know the secret things of the heart (Psalm 44:21; 1 Corinthians 2:11).

<http://www.thegospelofchrist.com/newsletter/2012/article/1206-2012-03-13-article.html>

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord’s Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>Week 19</p> <p>Leviticus 19-24 & Mark 9-10</p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p> <p><i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



A Little Effort

by Tom Moore

Apathy is the opposite of Faith: Some years ago in South America, a crew of Peruvian Sailors, headed up the Amazon River came upon a strange sight. It was like a scene from "The Twilight Zone." A Spanish ship was anchored off the coast and all the sailors were stretched out weakly on the deck of the ship. As the Peruvians drew closer, they saw that the Spaniards were in terrible physical condition. They looked the picture of death itself, their lips parched and swollen. They were literally dying of thirst.

"Can we help you?" shouted the Peruvians.

The Spaniards cried out, "Water! Water! We need fresh water!"

The Peruvian sailors, surprised at this request, told them to lower their buckets and help themselves.

The Spaniards, fearing they'd been misunderstood cried back, "No, no we need FRESH water!"

But they received the same reply from the Peruvians to lower their buckets and help themselves. They finally did lower their buckets into the ocean waters and when they brought the buckets on deck they discovered to their amazement fresh water. They had quit trying. There at the mouth of the Amazon river, anchored for days, too far from land to see the coast, but not too far from the mouth of the River, they had fresh water in abundance.

Apathy had over taken them and they had quit. They were resigned to die when all that was needed was to lower their bucket. A small effort would have made all the difference.

How many today have given up thinking there is no hope, when only a little more effort would have made all the difference in the world? Many times the solution to our problems is right before us if we will just "lower our buckets." A little more effort may be all that is needed. Beloved, "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

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 **22 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Remember our own meeting starts in just 2 weeks on May 20th with Wayne Jones...please be keeping this effort in your prayers, mark your calendar, and invite friends, relatives, etc. **Flyers are now out at the back of the auditorium.**
- ◆ In conjunction with our meeting, on Sunday, May 20th we will have a potluck lunch following the morning worship in place of our normal 3rd Sunday finger food dinner. Also on Wednesday, May 23 we will have a class at 11 AM followed by a baked potato and salad lunch.



Cherokee Day

Thank you to all who donated items to the Cherokee Home for Children. I know they will appreciate these items as they care for the kids there.

Seek Ye First

The new edition of Seek Ye First is available at the back of the auditorium. This issue deals with Para-church organizations. Also almost all of the issues of this publication from 1997 to present are now online if you have web access, they can be found at www.syfirst.org

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (05), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd (14), Kami Hardy (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peg Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Ryan Smithey (23), Gracen Hardy (30).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	April 22, 2012	April 29, 2012
Bible Class	48	48
AM Worship	60	62
PM Worship	39	53
Wednesday PM	32	36
Contribution	\$1507	\$1483

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/6/12	Next Week: 5/13/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	May 2012 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Jim Moore June 2012 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: The Smithey Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Greeters	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Gene Bannister*, Ken Maninger Allen Griffith, James Fuller	Hank Wheeler*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Matthew Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler <i>Hebrews 9:24-28</i>	Jim Moore		
Communion	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 9 Tom Wilcox	May 16 Garrett Barnum	May 23 Gospel Meeting	May 30 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 May 6, 2012		Sunday Class Romans 13-14	Wednesday Class Is The Bible From God (DVD)
<p>The Way To Live (Lev. 18:1-5)</p> <p>1) Appeal To Authority (v1-3)</p> <p>a) Something is our authority, either God (as it should be) or ourselves, others, human wisdom, etc. Their standard was not to be those around them but what God had said.</p> <p>b) Similar to the exhortation Joshua would later give (Josh. 24:14-15) and the same attitude we must have today (1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Pet. 2:9, 4:1-5; Col. 3:17; Matt. 15:9, 28:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:13)</p> <p>2) Exhortation To Faithfulness (v4)</p> <p>a) More than just acknowledging God's authority, they needed to submit to it and be active in following God and His will. This was to be their way of life.</p> <p>b) Similar to Elijah's plea on Mount Carmel, if you are going to call Him God, then live like it (1 Kings 18:21; Lk 6:46). If we really believe Him and His Word, then it should show in our lives (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:9, 11-12; Eph. 5:1, 8, 15-17; Phil. 1:27).</p> <p>3) Promise To Obtain (v5)</p> <p>a) A conditional promise but one that WILL be fulfilled based on the faithfulness of God. He would cause them to live as they continued with Him, they did not have to fear being cast out like the nations before (v28).</p> <p>b) Moses similarly exhorted Israel later (Deut. 30:14-20), and we have similar promises today (Matt 11:28-30; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Pet. 2:10, 12, 4:13; Phil. 1:28-29; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2 Pet. 3:11-12, 17-18).</p>		<p>Let Us... (Part 2; Hebrews)</p> <p>The writer continues to exhort the reader to continue on with renewed effort in these final eight "let us" exhortations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ...draw near... (10:22) - God has made it possible for man to draw near to Him (2 Cor. 5:19-21), He has extended an invitation and all who are in Christ (Gal. 3:27) can have confidence to come before Him because of Christ's sacrifice. ...hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (10:23) - Knowing God is faithful (2 Tim. 1:12; 2:13), live faithfully. Not a one-time confession of faith but a life-long transformation (Rom. 12:1-2), even in the midst of troubles (1 Pet. 4:12-13; Gal. 6:9). ...consider one another... (10:24) - While we go on with renewed effort, we should likewise come together and encourage one another (Eph. 4:16; Phil. 1:27, 2:2ff). ...lay aside every weight...and let us run with patience... (12:1) - Seeing there is nothing else to turn to (chap. 10) and the examples of those who were faithful (chap. 11), we are encouraged to have a renewed focus, zeal, and endurance to the end, even as Christ. Remove anything that would hinder us in that race and run to win (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Col. 3:2)! ...have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (12:28) - considering all that God has done for us, let us serve Him (Rom. 12:1-2). ...go forth therefore unto Him without he camp... (13:13) - rather than turning again to the OT sacrifices, continue with Christ, the only answer to sin (10:4; John 14:6; Acts 4:12) ...offer the sacrifice of praise to God... (13:15) - in Christ we serve as priests (1 Pet. 2:5) praising Him in word and deed. 	