

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



June 10, 2012

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
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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.

The Power of Choice

By Marvin Weir

One cannot read 2 Kings 21 and 22 without being impressed with free moral agency and the power of choice. It is a cop-out and excuse to cry, "The devil made me do it," "My friends made me do it," or "I just could not help it." Provided one is of sound mind, he has the power to choose to do either right or wrong. One's environment may be an obstacle to overcome, but it is not an impossible task. Neither can society or the majority be blamed for one's course of action. The "everybody else is doing it" excuse may sound comforting to the one who has chosen sin over godliness; but "*the wages of sin is death*" (Rom. 6:23), and one is "*not to follow a multitude to do evil*" (Exo. 23:2).

Hezekiah "*walked before [God] in truth and with a perfect heart*" (2 Kings 20:3). His son, Manasseh, chose to "*do that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah*" (2 Kings 21:2). But Manasseh's grandson, Josiah, proved to be one of the most godly of Old Testament kings. The Scriptures say of Josiah, "*And he did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left*" (2 Kings 22:2). The destiny of one's soul is determined by the choices **he** makes while living in this world. Let us learn from some choices Josiah made!

Josiah chose a good example! The Bible says, "*while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father*" (2 Chron. 34:3). Josiah chose not to sacrifice "*unto all the graven images*" (2 Kings 22) as did his father, Amon. Neither did he seek to follow his grandfather, Manasseh, or even Hezekiah. Josiah knew they were not perfect role models so he desired to imitate the true and living God. Josiah desired a God like unto the God of David, and the young king desired to rule his kingdom as David had done — according to Jehovah's will.

People today can learn from Josiah. One must not be a follower of any man — grandfather, father, or friend. To gain Heaven one must follow Christ who left us an example that we "*should follow his steps*" (2 Pet. 2:21). Christ always chose to do the Father's will (John 6:38), and we can choose to do likewise if we so desire.

Josiah chose to revere the Word of God! Hilkiah, the priest, found the book of the law written by Moses while the temple was undergoing repair. Upon hearing the reading of "*the words of the book of the law, [Josiah] rent his clothes*" (2 Kings 22:11). Josiah believed God's Word and in a most humble way accepted the Word as truth. One who will not humble himself before God's Word cannot be benefited by the Word.

Another comforting thought is that even though the Word of God is burned or buried it will never be destroyed. The Lord promised, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*" (Matt. 24:35). The Holy Scriptures will continue to manifest guidance, authority, and power as long as this earth stands.

Josiah sought to know the mind of God for himself! The king's instructions give great in-sight regarding his desire to **do** what was godly and right. Josiah said,

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*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
Provideth her meat in the summer,
and gathereth her food in the harvest.*

Proverbs 6:6-8

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“Go ye, inquire of Jehovah for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found; for great is the wrath of Jehovah that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us” (2 Kings 22:13). As king of Judah, he wanted both he and his people to comply with God’s will. Josiah learned and accepted a most valuable lesson — God’s wrath will always be kindled against those who refuse to obey a “thus saith the Lord.”

Josiah’s attitude was different from the attitude of worldly people and many people who profess to be Christians. It was the complaint of Christ that the scribes and Pharisees of His day (the religious people) searched the Scriptures but would not come to Him for life. The Lord rebuked these religious leaders saying, “Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me” (John 5:39). People today should learn that it does absolutely no good to say, “Lord, Lord, and do not the things” the Lord says to do (Luke 6:46). Christ is the author of eternal salvation **only** to those who obey Him (Heb. 5:9)!

Josiah unashamedly heralded forth the Word of God (2 Kings 23:1-2)! He was not embarrassed or ashamed of his faith and trust in God’s Word. Believing God’s Word not only saved Josiah but also Judah for a period of time. People need to hear the Word of God even if they say they have no interest in it. Ezra read from God’s Book “from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women, and of those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the

book of the law” (Neh. 8:3). People may choose not to heed God’s laws, but they need to be given the opportunity to hear His will for their lives.

So many today are ashamed of or do not believe the Word of God, and such an attitude has affected members of the Lord’s church. A Christian would do well to remember these words: “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38). May Christians choose to heartily wield the sword of the Spirit and sound forth God’s will for mankind!

Josiah consecrated himself to do God’s will (2 Kings 23:3)! The king promised to follow God and keep His commandments. It is one thing to **believe** what the Bible says. It is another thing to be willing to **do** what the Bible says to do! The Bible is clear. If one’s faith will not lead to action, it is a dead faith (James 2:14-26). Josiah surrendered to the Word of God, and it was evident for people to see that surrender.

Will you and I profit from Josiah’s decisions regarding the power of choice? The Bible makes it clear that we must “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22), or we deceive ourselves. The Lord Himself warned, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). Do not let the devil deceive you in thinking you do not have the power of choice! May we have the courage to choose to live godly lives!

Three Things Necessary for Spiritual Success

Mark Lindley

In Acts 8, there was great spiritual success. A man who was lost in sin changed the course of his life by becoming a child of God, and I am sure we would all agree that when a sinner is saved, this is spiritual success. Because the man’s name was not given in scripture, we sometimes identify this man as “the Ethiopian eunuch.” His conversation is recorded in Acts 8:26-40. Consider from this Biblical text three things necessary for spiritual success.

First, the eunuch had the right attitude. On the occasion in Acts 8, the eunuch was reading God’s word. He was reading a prophecy about Christ recorded in Isaiah 53, but he did not understand what he was reading. When Philip asked

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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 24</p> <p>Numbers 22-27 & Luke 3-4</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>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</p>



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the eunuch if he understood what he was reading, the man showed the right attitude by saying, “*How can I, except some man should guide me?*” The eunuch then expressed his desire for Philip to teach him God’s word (Acts 8:31). What a wonderful attitude! Here was a man who was humble enough to admit that he did not understand God’s word, and he was open-minded enough to be taught. We all need humility and a willingness to learn more about God’s word.

Second, Philip the evangelist presented the right message. Scripture says that when the eunuch was ready to be taught, “*Philip began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus*” (Acts 8:35). Notice that Philip did not share his own feelings, philosophies or opinions with the eunuch. Rather, Philip taught “*scripture*” and preached “*Jesus*.” It is interesting to note that when Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch, the eunuch requested to be baptized. He asked, “*What doth hinder me to be baptized?*” (Acts 8:35-36). This proves that when Philip preached Jesus, he preached not only about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, but also what Jesus said about baptism: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:16). Yes, when Philip preached Jesus, his preaching included instruction about baptism; otherwise, the eunuch would not have asked to be baptized. This shows that preachers and teachers of God’s word today should include baptism in their preaching.

Third, the eunuch rendered the right response. When the eunuch heard about Jesus’ sacrifice and what Jesus had said about being baptized, the eunuch was baptized. The text says, “*And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him*” (Acts 8:38). The eunuch had a sense of urgency in wanting to be baptized. He wanted to be baptized immediately because he understood that by being baptized, his sins would be washed away by the blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38). All who reach the age of accountability today should respond to the gospel as the eunuch did.

Yes, spiritual success will be the result when one has the right attitude, hears the right message and renders the right response. Let us do what we can to promote spiritual success.

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 **34 contacts** were made.

Also remember that next week will be the 3rd Sunday and time for our finger-food supper after the meeting...hope you can join us.

News & Notes

- ◆ We had a great start to the **Summer Youth Series** last week. Remember they continue each Tuesday night at 7 PM. Next week will be hosted by Hillcrest in Stephenville.
- ◆ Ryan will be out again this Wednesday speaking at 9th & Main in San Angelo for their series on “*Seek Ye First...*”. Please keep our travels and these efforts in your prayers; the auditorium class will continue looking at the DVD, “How We Got The Bible”.
- ◆ Do you watch **The Truth In Love** program on Sunday morning? If so, they would appreciate your help in reporting any problems you have with the program (audio/video problems, wrong time, didn’t air, etc.) to their offices. Details are on the bulletin board.
- ◆ We will have our next bi-monthly **Game Night** on Friday, June 15 at the Smithey’s house. Sorry for the late notice but hope you can join us beginning at 6 PM...bring games and food and enjoy.

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04), Paul McClung (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Freda Womack (14), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich, Lisa & David Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	May 27, 2012	June 3, 2012
Bible Class	40	40
AM Worship	58	54
PM Worship	N/C	37
Wednesday PM	N/C	27
Contribution	\$1394	\$1614

	This Week: 6/10/12	Next Week: 6/17/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	June 2012 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: The Smithey Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey July 2012 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, John Barnum Garrett Barnum, Don Smith	James Thomas*, Tom Wilcox John Barnum, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller <i>Revelation 22:12-17</i>	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Ken Maninger	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 13 Don Smith	June 20 Allen Griffith	June 27 Tom Wilcox	July 4 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)

Studies for the week of June 10, 2012		Sunday Class Romans 14-15	Wednesday Class How We Got The Bible (DVD)
<p>Luke: Portrait of a Compassionate Savior To All Men Luke gives an accurate and orderly account of Jesus' life, showing Him as the perfect man and the son of God.</p> <p>1) Son of Man</p> <p>a) Seems to appeal to a Greek mindset, setting forth Jesus as the ideal man that came to help all mankind (2:10, 30-32; 3:6; 24:46-49).</p> <p>b) Even traces His ancestry all the way back to Adam to show a common connection to all men (3:23-38).</p> <p>c) Also to this end shows Him as being born of woman and growing and maturing in both mind and body (2:40, 52) to the point of becoming wise (2:46-47, 11:31).</p> <p>d) All this while also being ruler of an everlasting kingdom (1:31-33).</p> <p>2) Compassionate Savior</p> <p>a) Here was one who could save (19:10; 2:11; 5:17-26; 9:56; John 3:17; Lk. 4:32; 9:35; 24:44).</p> <p>b) He cared for the outcast and neglected (5:31-32). Consider many accounts where He gave attention to beggars (6:19-21); poor, maimed, halt, blind (14:7-24); Zaccheus (19:2), the thief on the cross (23:43), as well as women and children (7:12, 8:1-3, 43-48; 10: 38-42; 21:1-4).</p> <p>c) Yet He had expectations & demands (9:23-26; 14:26-27)</p> <p>3) Man of Prayer —This ideal man recognized His dependence on God and set an example (3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:28-29; 11:14; 22:41-42; 23:46) and Luke records more about prayer than other gospel writers (11:5-13; 18:1-8; 21:36).</p>		<p>Letter to Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11) A church should be faithful in persecution. This congregation receives no criticism but is encouraged and reminded of the need for faithfulness in spite of trial.</p> <p>1) God Knows Our Hardships (v9) - He knew of their tribulation, poverty, and the blasphemies of others. But they could take comfort in knowing that God knew the hardships they faced for the cause of Christ (Heb. 2:18, 4:15), that their earthly riches were not important spiritually (Matt. 6:20; 1 Tim. 6:6ff), and that they were God's chosen people (Rom. 2:28-29; Gal. 3:29; 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9).</p> <p>2) God Knows Our Future (v10) - He warns them of things that are to come, a reminder that earthly hardships will not last forever and that God remains in control (1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Tim. 3:12; Dan. 4:25; Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:18; Rev. 6:9-11; 2 Thess. 1:6-7).</p> <p>3) God Will Reward The Faithful (v10) - Yes, they will face hard times, but if they remain faithful, even to the point of death, they will be rewarded—they could trust the faithfulness of God. (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor. 4:17, 5:1; 1 Pet. 1:3-9, 5:4; 1 Cor. 9:25; Rev. 21-22).</p> <p>Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	