

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



August 5, 2012

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

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

"BACK TO THE BIBLE" STILL THE RIGHT THING TO DO

By Carl B. Garner

It has been over 150 years since the following words were written:

"If you can induce a community to doubt the genuineness and authenticity of the Scriptures, to question the reality and obligations of religion; to hesitate, undeciding. Whether there be any such thing as virtue or vice; whether there be an eternal state of retribution beyond the grave; or whether there be any such being as God. you have broken down the barriers of mural virtue, and hoisted the flood-gates of immorality and crime."

These thoughts are from the McGuffey's Reader of 1854, the book from which most of our great-great grandparents learned to read. Yes, they are quite clear, very specific and extremely critical of a mindset that now has taken over our own nation's thinking process.

Some may think these words are so ancient that they can have no relevance to our modern way of life. However, reading the remainder of the comments from this honored source, it is obvious that we are experiencing today what McGuffey warned about then:

"I need not say that when a people have once done this. They can no longer exist as a tranquil and happy people. Every bond that holds society together would be ruptured: fraud and treachery would take the place of confidence between man and man; the tribunals would be scenes of bribery and injustice. avarice, perjury, ambition and revenge would walk through the land, and render it more the dwelling place of savage beasts than the tranquil abode of civilized, Christianized men and women."

It can be a bit eerie that a book used as a primary reader 150 years ago could so accurately portray what a society can become when its foundations are abandoned. Is not McGuffey's term "savage beasts" descriptive of much human behavior today? Was he not right in slating that giving up the principles of the Bible would result in chaos and immorality?

Surely we can see that if abandoning Bible principles results in immorality, then going back to the Bible is the way back to civilized behavior.

Back to the Bible For Doctrine

A major reason for the reign of ethical chaos in our culture is that "religion" has turned away from the Bible to the doctrines of men. There are more than 10,000 different religions in America, most espousing many completely opposing doctrinal beliefs. Had we given heed to Jesus' prayer in John 17, we would have seen this chaos coming. The solution? Go back to the Bible for our doctrine!

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Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.



*As for God, his way is perfect: The word of Jehovah is tried;
He is a shield unto all them that take refuge in him.*

2 Samuel 22:31, ASV

READING YOUR BIBLE DEVOTIONALLY

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Devotional Bible reading can have a powerful influence on your life, if you are willing to take the steps necessary to make it part of your regular routine. It provides the daily opportunity to challenge our assumptions, enrich our character, and refresh our souls. By taking the time to read your Bible carefully, thoughtfully, and meaningfully, whether as an individual or as a family, you subtly reinforce that God is in control, that Jesus Christ reigns, and that God's Word is your guide. It helps you change from just bringing your life to Christianity to bringing your Christianity to life.

Read for content. When a certain lawyer approached Jesus with a question about eternal life, Jesus asked him in return, "What is written in the law? How *readest thou?*" (Luke 10:25-26). Rather than giving a recitation of various verses, our Lord preferred to emphasize the individual's responsibility to know God's Word so that he can know the answers to questions such as this from his own reading. Therefore, to Jesus, reading the Bible was not to be undertaken ritualistically but rather to provide the spiritual information necessary for us to learn and grow closer to God (2 Pet. 3:18). If we are just reading words and not considering the information communicated by those words, then we are not fulfilling the purpose of devotional reading. Thus, when we read we should always consider immediately afterward, what did I learn from this reading?

Read for application. The lawyer had evidently read the Law well, because he had an answer ready: "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself*" (Luke 10:27). To which Jesus replied, "Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live" (Luke 10:28). Jesus' words again show something important: understanding what to do is

meaningless if we do not **do** what we are supposed to do. Many a person has read through the Bible more than once, considering this alone an accomplishment instead of applying the message itself. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

Read introspectively. The lawyer had answered Jesus' question well. He knew the Law and even knew the major principles behind it. We can even infer that he applied these principles to some extent in his life. However, he obviously had limitations to how far he wanted to take God's Word, for "he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, *And who is my neighbor?*" (Luke 10:29). This man was not reading the law to consider his own life, needs, and shortfalls; he was reading it to find justification and loopholes. Thus, despite the fact that he was reading the Law, because he failed to open his own life up to its full impact, that reading did not accomplish what it otherwise could have.

Read devotedly. We have changed the meaning of the word "devotional" so that we lose sight of its root—"devote." We should devote ourselves to reading scripture because we love God's Word (Psa. 119:97), we want its guidance in life (Psa. 119:105), we want to keep away from sin (Psa. 119:11), and we want to become stronger spiritually (1 Tim. 4:13). Reading with devotion requires not only the formation of a good habit but the formation of a good heart. When we read devotionally, we open ourselves up to the wisdom of God's Word to consider its instruction on how we conduct ourselves daily, and isn't that supposed to be the point?

*"O how love I thy law!
it is my meditation all the day."
(Psalm 119:97)*

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)
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 32
Deuteronomy 34—Joshua 5
& Luke 19-20
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)



(Continued from page 1)

Back to the Bible for our Authority

That which “authorizes” most worship today is “I like it” rather than “God said it.” Entertainment is high on every agenda, and how ‘pretty’ it sounds has become the major criterion for how and where a person worships today. Going back to the Bible will cause us to follow the Holy Spirit’s imperative that we worship God “in spirit and in truth,” John 4:24, and “decently and in order,” I Corinthians 14:40. When we recognize God’s authority, He will be pleased while we are edified and strengthened.

Back to The Bible for our Moral Standards

It appears that righteous, moral behavior has become the exception rather than the rule. Dead-bolt locks, security systems, “white collar crime,” divorce, pornography, child abuse, spousal abuse, and various forms of addiction are the defining terms of our society today.

We are told that trying to enforce “objective” standards is bound for failure. Some are now warning us that “hard, fast rules of morality won’t work today,” and we have, as a nation, accepted that viewpoint. We have bought into the “If it feels good, do it” mentality. And where has it taken us? Just exactly where McGuffey predicted we would be: Chaos, Injustice, Vengeance. In I John 5:2-3 we are instructed:

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not burdensome.”

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.

News & Notes

- ◆ Please join us following this mornings worship for our 1st Sunday lunch in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** this week will be at **5th & Grape in Abilene** on Tuesday at 7 PM. Next week will be here on August 14th be listening for announcements on how you can help.

Back to the Bible for Our Hope

When danger threatens us, it is tempting to look for a hope that rests in military or political strength. They have their place, but our hope is not in bombs and ambassadors, but in the God of all the earth, Jehovah of the Bible. Israel had an army of over 600,000 men, but their hope rested not in their army, but in God, His promise through Isaiah the prophet is still true today:

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee,” Isaiah 26:3.

Our hope and our faith are in the God that created us and redeemed us by the blood of His Son. McGuffey’s Reader was correct back in 1854, not because McGuffey was right, but because the Bible is right. For our own sake, and for that of our nation, I hope it is not too late for us to “go back to the Bible.”

Note this article is reprinted from 2006 — the need to get back to the Bible is just as great today !

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Pam & Terry Teague (16), Darlene & Don Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	July 22, 2012	July 29, 2012
Bible Class	45	45
AM Worship	62	63
PM Worship	47	45
Wednesday PM	35	35
Contribution	\$1301	\$1733

	This Week: 8/5/12	Next Week: 8/12/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	Lead Singing: James Fuller	August 2012 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox September 2012 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Greeters	Charles & Bennie White	Gene & Barbara Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Fuller*, Ken Maninger Allen Griffith, Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Matthew Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler <i>Psalm 26:1-3</i>	Jim Moore		
Communion	James Fuller	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Garrett Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 8 Tom Wilcox	August 15 Garrett Banrum	August 22 Jim Moore	August 29 Don Smith

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 July 29, 2012	Sunday Class <i>Philemon</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p><i>The Secret Vs. Revealed Things Of God (Deut. 29:29)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There are things that God has kept secret from man <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Not everything God knows has been revealed to man; there are things even that we might desire to know more about that He has not revealed or spoken on. He has revealed that which is necessary to man (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17); arguing and debating over these things will do no good (1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:4). There are things that God has revealed to man <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The second part of Moses statement however reminds us that God has revealed what He wants us to know for our benefit—they could know these things and live. He reiterates this in Deut. 30:11-14; God's word/will is not something that we have to find, He has made it known. We are similarly reminded in the New Testament that God has make Himself and His will known to us for our benefit (Rom. 10:5-13; Acts 17:27). Man is responsible to act on those things revealed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God has not asked the impossible of us; we are not asked to respond to the unknown things of God but we are responsible for responding to the revealed will of God. This is what Moses was asking of the people of his day; follow God—His will—and live (Deut. 30:15-20). We have the same invitation today; will we respond to what God has revealed to us and so choose life? (Matt. 7:21, 24; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:40; Rom. 2:16; John 12:47-48; James 1:21-22; etc.) 	<p><i>Letter To Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)</i> <i>A church should be zealous.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God Knows Our Temperature (v15-16) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Their spiritual temperature revealed a problem in the congregation and they were sickening to Jesus...they needed a zeal according to knowledge (Rom. 12:11; 10:2; Titus 2:14; Eph. 2:10). We must not grow lazy and indifferent in our spiritual walk (James 1:22, 25; Gal. 6:9). God Knows Our Worth (v17-18) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They seemed to trust in themselves and had a high estimation of their spiritual value, but God could see their true worth — they were bankrupt and in need of help. They may have been physically wealthy but that did not mean things were going well; they needed to reevaluate where their riches lay (Matt. 6:20-21). However, Jesus had the solution to all of their problems...something of true value to treasure (Prov. 23:23), white raiment with which to be clothed (Rev. 3:5; Gal. 3:27), and eye salve by which to see (Matt. 13:15-16). God Knows Our Need For Discipline (v19). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God was showing His love for them in this discipline (Heb. 12:6-12) — He was trying to save them. They could show their love in return by humbling themselves to Him (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). Before them was the opportunity to enjoy eternal life, it was up to them what they would do with it.