

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 26, 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.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR

Guy N. Woods (Deceased)

Work is exertion for the accomplishment of a purpose. In it active energy is expended. It may be physical, mental, moral, or spiritual energy, or a combination of two or more of these. There are good works and bad works, works of God, and works of the devil (John 6:29, 8:41).

A refusal to engage in gainful occupation, for the purpose of earning a livelihood , when one has the capacity so to do is designated as disorderly conduct by the Holy Spirit (2 Thes. 3:6-9) it is indeed a sin of sufficient gravity to justify excluding such a one from the fellowship of the congregation.

Many of the members of the church in Thessalonica were from the laboring classes and these often found themselves in association with slaves. Some came to regard all manner of manual labor degrading. They refused to work themselves and they became dependant on the church treasury for support.

Paul admonishes the church not to provide support for those who because of indolence or laziness would not work. A report had come to Paul that some in the church were busybodies, idle, indolent, and who spent their time gadding about gossiping "for we hear of some that walk among you disorderly that work not at all but are busybodies" (2 Thes. 3:11).

There is an interesting relationship between the words work and busybodies not apparent in translation. To indicate this the statement may be freely rendered "some have no business but are busy with everybody's business." These the apostle admonished by the authority of Christ to work and to "eat their own bread."

There is an ancient adage which says an idle mind is the devils workshop." And it is also true that the devil finds some mischief still for idle hands to do.

To demonstrate the dignity of labor and support himself, that he might not be burdensome to the saints of Thessalonica, the apostle resorted to his occupation of making tents while in that city. Paul though highly educated by the standards of that day shrank not from working with his hands. His parents had taught him that is both honorable and right to work with ones hands, and he had acquired the skill of tent making.

There is a Jewish rabbinical saying that he who does not teach his son a trade teaches him to steal. The apostle had the right to expect support from the brethren, but he often waived it that he might be chargeable to none (Luke 10:7; 1 Cor. 9:1-18).

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But the LORD is in his holy temple:
let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:20

(Continued from page 1)

He followed this course in Ephesus - a fact which he brought to the attention of the elders in his address to them at Miletus. Ye yourselves know, that these hands ministered unto my necessities. And to them that were with me. In all things I gave you an example that so laboring ye ought to help the weak.

Two motives are set out forgoing affirmation of Paul, 1)to provide livelihood for oneself; 2)to be able to assist others in need there are others; (3) In 1 Timothy 5:16 and James 1:27—the obligation to provide for the fatherless and the widow is clearly set out.

To practice the religion which is pure and un-dented, it is necessary to work to have whereof to give to him that needeth (Eph 4:28).

Another motive for work is that proceeds there-from will enable one to live a useful and profitable life in the community. It is the solemn obligation of all children of God to "walk becomingly toward them that are without " (1 Thes. 4:12) and to "take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men" (Rom 12:17).

The scriptures prohibit all kinds of fraud , cheating, gambling, stealing, and all other activity not honest and honorable. And such must be avoided by faithful Christians.

Moreover it is sinful to engage in occupations the fruits of which will lead to harm of others. No Christian can engage acceptably in any form of the liquor industry, those who make money in such fashion do so at the expense of the health , happiness ,homes and souls of those who purchase and use these evil products.

Another reason why Christians ought to be engaged in gainful work is that they may be able to support the preaching of the gospel "even so did the Lord ordain that

they that proclaim the gospel should live of the gospel (1 Cor 9:14). Not all can proclaim the gospel in public fashion or in distant lands but most members of the church can help by their contributions in this glorious work. Their reward will be the same.

Not all work is prompted by proper motives.

- (1) It is wrong to work to obtain money to spend on ones lusts and sinful pleasures (Jam. 4:1-3). Many today work for this purpose alone and their efforts only hasten their destruction.
- (2) We are forbidden to lay up treasures on the earth. Mathew 6:19-25 is a passage not designed to discourage prudence and forethought but worldliness and materialism. Instead we are admonished to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break in and steal."
- (3) Work, prompted by covetousness is prohibited. Covetousness is an unlawful desire. Man was not created in the image of God and redeemed by the precious blood of Christ that he might spend his time in eating, sleeping, drinking, and satisfying the desires of the flesh.
- (4) He has been placed here to honor God and to serve him faithfully. Any deviation from this plan is displeasing in God's sight. It is a stupid idea that work any work however is lowly is disgraceful.

Before man sinned God "put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it" (Gen 2:15). In giving the Law of Sinai God ordained that man should work- "six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work" (Ex. 20:9).

God will bless the honest earnest worker. Idleness is now, and has ever been a curse to the race.

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 35 Joshua 18-23 & John 1-2</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>



Don't Drop the Baton

By Tom Moore

In the 1988 Olympics, the world assumed that the United States would be victorious in the 400-meter relay. They simply were the best. The gun cracked and they were off and running. After the last curve the unthinkable happened. The United States was ahead by 10 meters with no real competition in sight. And then, with victory in their grasp, it happened. They dropped the baton. The thousands in the stands gasped in disbelief. The United States team - sleek, muscular, and fast as leopards, lost the race. Why? Someone dropped the baton.

Today, many are dropping the "baton of faith" and as a result, many are losing the Christian race. The apostle Paul declared, "Ye were running well; who hindered you that ye should not obey the truth" (Gal. 5:7)? The dropping of "the baton of faith" • is a hindrance our victory at the finish line. "Know ye not that they that run in a race run all, but one received the prize? Even so run; that ye may attain. And every man that striveth in the games exerciseth self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not beating the air: but I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected" • (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

We drop "the baton of faith" and lose the race when we fail to exercise self-control and bring ourselves in to full subjection to Christ through the obedience of faith. Dropping the baton means we have run in vain (Gal. 2:2). Therefore we must hold "forth the word of life; that I may have whereof to glory in the day of Christ, that I did not run in vain neither labor in vain" (Phil. 2:16). "Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" • (Heb. 12:1).

Remember, "dropping the baton" will not only affect you but with those whom you have influence.

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 **38 contacts** were made.

News & Notes

- ◆ I forgot to mention last week but the Summer Youth Series sermon was recorded and placed on our website. However, if you would like an audio CD recording of that sermon, please write such in the notes section of your attendance card and I will make that for you.
- ◆ Priscilla and I appreciate the opportunity to be gone this past week and get away for a few days. We will miss being with you today but hope that you enjoy getting to meet **Johnny McCaghen** and hearing him preach today. We plan on returning tomorrow and will look forward to seeing you again Wednesday night.
- ◆ Remember our **gospel meeting** is just a few weeks away on September 16-19th with Josh Romo of San Angelo.

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

	August 12, 2012	August 19, 2012
Bible Class	46	45
AM Worship	60	63
PM Worship	44	
Wednesday PM	44	
Contribution	\$1477	\$1692

	This Week: 8/26/12	Next Week: 9/2/12	August 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	James Thomas	Clean Building: Smithey Family	
Communion	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler*, Garrett Barnum Gene Bannister, Allen Griffith	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	John Barnum	September 2012	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith	Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum	Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Communion	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 22 Jim Moore	August 29 Don Smith	September 5 James Fuller	September 12 Allen Griffith

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 August 26, 2012	Sunday ClassJohnny McCaghren Wednesday Class.....Redemption Through The Bible
Learning From The Weeper By Neal Pollard	
<p>Jeremiah's work as a prophet is something from which Christians, especially preachers, can learn so much today. He was put down, persecuted, and pressured from every side, just as he was warned from the beginning of his work for God. As God braces him for the challenges he would face, He tells him there is something for him not to say, be, or do. These same admonitions can guide us as we live the Christian life.</p> <p>There Is Something Not To Say (Jer. 1:7). Jeremiah was instructed not to talk about his perceived disadvantages and shortcomings. For him, it was his youth. May I suggest that you can always find an excuse for not serving Christ. All of us have deficiencies, but that is the beauty of partnering with God. As Paul said, regarding God's response to his "thorn in the flesh," "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake ; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:9-10). You can always talk about impediments. God wants you to focus on what He can do through you.</p> <p>There Is Something Not To Be (Jer. 1:8). Jeremiah was going to be put through the ringer, so we can sympathize as he may have been filled with fear. God anticipated as much, telling him, "Do not be afraid of them." Evangelism can be daunting business. We imagine all kinds of negative responses to our overtures, and sometimes we will even experience rejection and possibly ridicule. Let us remember what the timid Timothy was told, that "God has not given us a spirit of fear" (2 Tim. 1:7).</p> <p>There Is Something Not To Do (Jer. 1:17ff). In telling Jeremiah not to be dismayed, there is an implication that in his distress he might remain immobile. God says, "Gird up your loins and arise." To faithfully serve God, we cannot let fear (or worry, laziness, apathy, etc.) paralyze us. The one talent man was condemned, not for doing wrong but for doing nothing! May we remember this!</p> <p>In serving God, do not speak of your shortcomings, remain in your fears, or become immobilized. The hymn exhorts us to say with another prophet, Isaiah, "Here am I! Lord, send me!"</p>	