

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



October 7, 2012

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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.

Maintaining Our Spiritual Fire

By Kevin Cauley

This past week I saw a video on the news of a man stepping outside with a boiling pot of water, tossing the water into the air and its instantaneously changing into snow. He was near the top of Mount Washington in New Hampshire and it was thirty-five degrees below zero. My first reaction was, "Hey, that's kind of cool." Then I thought, "Wow, that's really cold." And finally, "That guy's crazy going outside in that kind of weather." Consider that water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit; water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. That's so cold that the water cooled down 180+ degrees in less than a second. The water froze because of a failure to maintain the fire. What can we do to maintain our spiritual fire?

Lesson #1: Much energy was needed to warm the water; but very little was needed to cool it. In order to boil water one must have a significant energy source. It takes 398 BTUs to change frozen water to boiling water. Energy is required! To the contrary, however, to cool water down takes practically no energy at all. A flick of the wrist and the boiling water was frozen. This reminds me of Paul's words to the church in Ephesus to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). Paul also said to the Galatians (5:6) that what avails is faith working (the Greek word ENERGEIO energy!) through love. Even spiritually speaking, energy/effort/work is required in order to stay warm; but what is required to freeze? Just do nothing. Work, that is, the input of energy, is important to maintaining our spiritual fire.

Lesson #2: Together the water was warm; separated, it became cold. Those trillions of water molecules in that boiling pot stayed warm so long as they were in close proximity to each other; they kept warm off each other's heat. However, once they dispersed they quickly cooled not having the company of their "brethren" to keep them warm. Ecclesiastes 4:11 says, "Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?" The story is told of the preacher who visits the un-attending member and, without a word, while sitting in front of the fireplace, merely pulls a coal out of the fire to watch it slowly die. Yet, putting it back in, the coal warms to a soft red glow again. We need to exhort one another daily and not forsake our assembling together! (Hebrews 3:13, 10:25) Togetherness is important to maintaining our spiritual fire.

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Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,
let us have grace, whereby we may serve God
acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:28



“VASBYTE”

By Mike Bonner

It was said when the African tribes found themselves in a position of fatigue yet they had to continue fighting, they would use the word, "**VASBYTE**" which literally meant to "**Bite Down**"! It was also used in other ways as well, for example; "*it's not over till its over*" and "*hang in there, it is worth your while in the end*". Powerful words and phrases gleaned from different cultures; there is so much to learn in life. Of course we glean these types of encouragement from the word of God, which strengthens us in our daily lives. As Christians we have the tendency to grow weary in doing right before God and towards our fellow man. However, Paul exhorted the brethren NOT to grow weary in well doing...(Gal. 6:9). We are encouraged to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6.12). Great encouragement.

When considering the book of Revelation, the people of God were going through severe troubles and trials. Christians were being persecuted by Domitian (the 11th emperor of Rome...81-96 A.D.) and his minions on a daily basis. Due to this hatred it turned into a blood bath that consumed the lives of many followers of Christ resulting in heartache, discouragement and apostasy. The temptation was to succumb to the pressure, thus denying Christ as Lord, and leaving the blood bought institution of Christ and kneeling down to the monarchy of Emperor worship, which would have been idolatry (Exo. 20:1-2).

VASBYTE, this was the plea from the Christ as He wrote to the churches of Asia, hang in there! The spiritual Israel of God was chased into the wilderness and persecuted in chapter twelve. But the people of God will be fine for they're all numbered with the faithful and will

have eternal life with God at the right time (Rev. 14:1ff). The encouragement was to hang in there in the face of death (Rev. 2:10). They were to realize that God was in control and would take care of the enemies of His people. Vengeance was His, He would repay.

In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation the church must continue to forge ahead in the fight of immorality and promote the righteous instruction of Jehovah. We have to hang in there and not give up but bite down and take the persecution of the ones who are antagonistic against Christ and His church. Certainly it's not easy to be talked about and ridiculed for standing up against immoral living such as "unlawful cohabitation, homosexuality and lesbianism" but we must remember the love God has for all men desiring them to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). So let's continue to help our friends and family to see the benefits of being Christ like and serving the Lord.

Again, hang in there is the plea from the Lord in the midst of personal problems. Problems like getting older, emotional stresses, which tend to remove our focus away from God and his purpose in our lives (Psalm 90; Eccl. 12; Rom. 12). The Hebrew Christians had undergone the same things, they were struggling with family issues and what covenant they were under. This as the reason the Hebrews writer had to demonstrate the superiority of Christ above all things. The church struggled with some attempting to leave the church and severe persecution from their own countrymen because of their faith in Christ. When our bodies begin to break down, causing sickness and disturbed minds, it causes us to want to throw in the towel. But this is the time to "bite down" and continue doing the will of God. Let's stay on the straight and narrow way and never give up. **VASBYTE!**

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 41 1 Samuel 5-10 & John 13-14</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>



ATTENTION LADIES:

How long has it been since we had a Ladies Get Together??? Well that's too long. So we are having a **special get together for you ladies and young girls on Sunday, October 21st at 4:00 here at the building.** We will eat a little, sing a little and have a little lesson. Then we will have time to visit with each other before worship service.

We would like for each lady to bring 1 or 2 of your favorite recipes (on recipe cards) if you would like and you will go home with some surprises. So, please make time to get together with your sisters in Christ on Sunday afternoon.

If you would be willing to help with the food please see Priscilla, Linda or Peg. It'll be a fun rewarding afternoon.

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Lesson #3: Someone "stirred" the pot. That water didn't become snow without someone agitating the pot! If the pot had been left on the fire it would have stayed warm, but it was moved, stirred, agitated. This resulted in the decrease of heat and the increase of cold. Agitation in the church often has the same results. Paul told the church at Philippi, "Do all things without murmurings and disputing" (Philippians 2:14). He said in Colossians 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man has a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Instead of murmuring and quarrelling we need to practice forgiveness to keep ourselves warm and lively. Forgiveness is important to maintaining our spiritual fire.

We all know what it means when a body has "assumed room temperature." Warmth equals life. Cold equals death. Let us do all to avoid assuming room temperature and do everything in our power to maintain our spiritual fire!

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 **31 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events *(flyers on back bulletin board)*

- ◆ Today is the First Sunday...we hope you will stay for the potluck lunch following the morning worship.
- ◆ Oct. 14-17: Meeting at DeLeon with Jerry Jackson.
- ◆ Oct. 20-21: "Back To The Bible" Lectureship at Hamilton.
- ◆ Oct. 21-24: Meeting/Lectureship at Rising Star.
- ◆ Oct. 28: Bible Bowl hosted here.

Thank You

Veneta Nolen expresses her thanks for all of the cards, calls, and prayers on her behalf during her recovery. She is improving was able to start walking some last week.

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Jim Moore (03), Lisa Greer (05), Matthew Churchwell (07), Jo Maninger (12), Seth Smithy (13), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Peggy Dudley (25).

October Anniversaries: Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25), Patti & Mike Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Sept. 23, 2012	Sept. 23, 2012
Bible Class	53	42
AM Worship	72	62
PM Worship	44	43
Wednesday PM	44	40
Contribution	\$1733	\$1591

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 10/7/12	Next Week: 10/14/12	October 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	Make Announcements: Jim Moore	
Greeters	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	Charles & Bennie White	Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism	
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Jim Moore	Clean Building: Jessica Stultz	
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox James Thomas, Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum James Thomas, Don Smith	Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler	November 2012	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: Gene Bannister	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Billy Chism	Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum <i>1 Peter 4:8-11</i>	Tom Wilcox	Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Communion	Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 10 Jim Moore	October 17 Don Smith	October 24 Allen Griffith	October 31 Tom Wilcox

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 October 7, 2012		Sunday Class Colossians (Chap. 2)	Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p>A Faith That Fell Short (John 12:42-43)</p> <p>What can we learn from certain rulers that believed on Jesus but would not confess Him for their love of the praise of men?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They believed, but that was not enough. This belief had not led them to confess Christ (Matt 10:32-33), it had not led them to change their lives (Lk 9:23), it had not led them to obey God (Matt 7:21); it was a dead faith (Jms 2:14-26). They believed the same thing; such is possible. We can come to knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:15). They believed in Christ; evidence was sufficient. Enough undeniable proof had been presented (Jn 20:30-31; Heb. 11:1; 1 Cor. 15:3-11; 1 Jn 1:1-4). They had placed themselves in a position of being able to decide what was right and they believed (Jn 7:48). They believed, but were short-sighted. They carried about the condemnation of the Pharisees (temporal) over what was right before God (eternal). (Matt. 10:28; Gal. 1:10; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:2-3; 2 Pet. 1:9). They believed, but sought the wrong thing. Their love was the praise of men, it became their god because it controlled their lives (Matt. 6:24, 33; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:9-10, 6, 11-12). <p><i>Let us not have such a faith that would fall short!</i></p>	<p>Like The Prophets Before You</p> <p>Consider some traits of God's prophets of old, true "men of God," needed not just by preachers but all children of God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Men of deep convictions (Jer. 4:9; Amos 4:12; Hosea 4:1). Believed in the message, its need, and its urgency (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 3:9, 4:1-4). Did not "beat around-the-bush" in getting the message across—direct (II Sam. 12:7; Hosea 4:6; Micah 6:8; Acts 2:36, 7:51, 17:22-31; Titus 2:15). Did not fear the reaction of men (I Kings 21:20; Amos 7:12-15; 1 Pet. 3:14-16; Rev. 2:10). Did not go along with the crowd (I Kings 22; Ga. 1:10-12; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:4). Willing to suffer and die for Gods causes (Heb. 11:36-38; Matt. 5:10-12). Had grief and pity (Jer. 8:18). They had compassion (Matt. 23:37; Rom. 12:15; 2 Cor. 5:14). Proclaimed judgment (Micah 3:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:30-31). Rebuked false prophets and leaders (Micah 3:11; Gal. 2:11; 1 Jn 4:1; Rom. 16:17). Spoke out on morality and ethics (Amos 5:11; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3; Gal. 5:19-23). Became discouraged, but not defeated (Jer. 9:2, 20:9; 2 Cor. 4:8-9, 17-18; James 5:10). <p><i>Don't be content declaring smooth things (Isa. 30:10), but rather declare the things of God (1 Pet. 4:11).</i></p>		