



Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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 10:00 AM
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

The Privilege of Calling God "Father"

By Mike Bonner

Joseph Walsh said once "only men have the privilege of having children, for animals have offspring. Children have the honor to call their fathers, father." The same for children of Almighty God, they have the pleasure of addressing the creator as Father. What a joy and consolation to have God as Father. However, the scriptures reveal clearly that Jesus is the only way to the Father in heaven thus coming in contact with His blood in baptism by way of the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16). It is at this time man becomes a child of the Father in heaven.

When the word father is used, it should have a rich meaning embedded in it, which would cause many to cherish the benefits couched therein. Words that come to mind are, "**strong, wise, fear, relationship, loving, stern and compassionate**". One would ask, "what benefits?" how about the benefits of others seeing God working through His own and those on the outside glorifying Him (Matt. 5:16). Solomon stated at one time, "the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good..." for we're aware of God's omniscience and what comfort in knowing that God sees His children praying, being benevolent and many other things which pleases Him (Pro. 15.3; Matt. 6.4, 9).

Emotions, our Father in heaven is a God of emotion. He is always ready to hear what is going on with His children. Peter told those scattered abroad to cast their care upon Him for He cares for you (1 Pet. 5:6). When the apostles were whipped for their stance for Jesus, they cried to the Lord for help (Acts 4:13-31). Furthermore, the Lord desires to give boldness through His word and the brethren in hopes this would carry us forward in Christ doing His will from the heart (Acts 20:32). What assurance in knowing we have a Father who really cares how we feel and is willing to encourage His in the midst of every trial and temptation.

Intimacy, that oneness and closeness of knowing you're important to the Father. The Psalmist stated, "what is man that you are mindful of him and the Son of Man that you visit him..." God is very concerned about His creation, especially those who named the name of Christ (Gal. 6:10). However, calling Him Father expresses pleasing Him in all that we do in our lives (Col 1:9). Jesus went about doing good and always pleased the Father in His actions (Acts 10:38; John 8:29). This should be every child of God's Joy and purpose in life, pleasing the Lord.

(Continued on page 3)



For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;
only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh,
but by love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

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

Focus

By Kevin Cauley

A lot of what we accomplish in life depends upon our focus. The story is told of the golfer Arnold Palmer, who, in the 1961 Master's finals was approached by a friend and congratulated on his victory a few shots prior to his finish. Palmer is on record as saying that in that moment he lost his focus and he ended up losing by a point. It happens time and again; there is the football player who looks toward the goal line and drops the ball; the ice skater who falls and simply can't recover to conclude the performance; the politician who misspeaks and ruins his political career all for a lack of focus.

Out of all of the kings of Israel, David was arguably the greatest; he had his problems, but he always ultimately sought to put his trust in the Lord. Nevertheless, because David was a man of war, his greatest desire, to build the Lord a house, could not be accomplished by him. David however, purposed to do all that he could toward the construction of the temple prior to his death. He made agreements with nations for materials; he collected materials; he assembled workers. Before his death, David commanded the princes of Israel to help Solomon build the temple (1 Chronicles 22:17). He exhorted them, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD"(1 Chronicles 22:19). Do we see the focus in the words, "Set your heart and soul to seek the Lord your God"? Because they focused upon seeking God, they were able to accomplish the task at hand.

Oscar Hammerstein II wrote the following lyrics in 1928:

Give me some men who are Stouthearted Men
Who will fight for the right they adore.

Start me with ten, who are Stouthearted Men
And I'll soon give you ten thousand more, Oh!

Shoulder to shoulder and bolder and bolder
They grow as they go to the fore!

Then there's nothing in the world can halt or mar a plan,
When Stouthearted Men can stick together man to man!

Where is our focus? Is it upon God or upon the world? John wrote, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14-15). It is so often the case that we don't accomplish the things that we desire to accomplish because we have not adequately focused upon God and His word in our lives. However, intensifying our focus upon God will bring us further along than any other thing.

So, do we find ourselves at our wits end because of the countless tasks that are before us? Focus on God. Do we fail to get anything accomplished due to the many distractions that come our way in life? Focus on God. Do we have godly goals and aspirations that we seek to accomplish? Focus on God. Whatever our situation is, we can improve it by focusing upon God and refocusing our life upon His priorities.

*Set your affection on things above,
not on things on the earth.*

Colossians 3:2

| Television | God's Plan for Redeeming Man | Bible Study Schedule |
|--|---|---|
| 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 and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376 | 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) | Week 49 2 Samuel 22—1 Kings 3 & Acts 8-9 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)

Seeking opportunities to develop, expand and foster the relationship into eternity.

Forgiveness, what security it is to know how our Father is longing for us to turn from our sin and seek His face. John state, "if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin..." (1 John 1:9). O' to know the Father wants to correct and comfort us when we become rebellious at times, yet He's not too hasty to throw us away (Heb. 12:5-11). Forgiveness implies relationship, when that trust or confidence has been broken then the obvious response is to mend it back. Our Father in heaven is always excited about mending broken relationships (Luke 15:lff).

What a privilege and honor it is to be in the presence of God and call Him Father and Lord. This blessing bestowed upon His people is not to be taken lightly or for granted. When we're talking to individuals who may not know Christ and the Father for the forgiveness of sins, we must show them our relationship and the trust we have in God as our Father. He will provide our every need. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will never put on us more than we can handle. He will never put us in the position of feeling as if He doesn't love us, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. May God richly bless you in seeing how good He is in allowing us to be a part of His family, the church. Let God be true.

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 **21 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **Ladies class meets each Wednesday** at 10 AM in the high school class room. The ladies have started a new study on *Women of the Bible*; we hope you can plan to join them.
- ◆ December is time for our regular game night but we will hold off for a **New Year's Eve party**...look for more details soon.
- ◆ Dec. 15: **Youth Holiday Party**; flyer on the bulletin board.

Thank You

The blood drive yesterday for David Harris went very well. In all about 36 or 38 people showed up to donate and while not all were able to for various reasons, 32 units of blood were collected which will go toward helping those that need it. David will have credits for about 8 units of blood if he needs them in this coming year because of your efforts.

*Behold, what manner of love
the Father hath bestowed upon us,
that we should be called the sons of God:
therefore the world knoweth us not,
because it knew him not.*

1 John 3:1

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: James Womack (04), Freda Cox (05), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

December Anniversaries: Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

| | Nov. 18, 2012 | Nov. 25, 2012 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bible Class | 52 | 46 |
| AM Worship | 72 | 71 |
| PM Worship | 57 | 50 |
| Wednesday PM | 41 | 44 |
| Contribution | \$1665 | \$2068 |

| | | This Week: 12/2/12 | Next Week: 12/9/12 | | December 2012 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller January 2013 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Charles White |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday AM: | | Lead Singing: Joe Dennis | Lead Singing: Ken Maninger | | |
| Greeters | The Maninger Family | | Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler | | |
| Opening Prayer | James Thomas | | Allen Griffith | | |
| Communion | Don Smith*, James Fuller Ken Maninger, Jim Moore | | Hank Wheeler*, Garrett Barnum Gene Bannister, Joe Dennis | | |
| Closing Prayer | Hank Wheeler | | John Barnum | | |
| Attendance Cards | Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis | | Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez | | |
| Sunday PM: | | | | | |
| Opening Prayer | Allen Griffith | | Billy Chism | | |
| Scripture Reading | Garrett Barnum 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 | | Jim Moore | | |
| Communion | Don Smith | | Hank Wheeler | | |
| Closing Prayer | Gene Bannister | | Jim Moore | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | November 28 Jim Moore | December 5 Don Smith | December 12 Allen Griffith | December 19 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 December 2, 2012 | | Sunday Class Colossians (Chap. 3-4) | Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Dealing With Church Problems (Acts 6:1-7) The beginning of Acts is a record of the church growing: when it preached the truth (Acts 2), when it gave credit to God (Acts 3), when it exhibited conviction during persecution (Acts 4, 5), when there was accountability/discipline (Acts 5), and when it dealt with the problems it faced (Acts 6). Acts 6 shows the church dealing with one of its first great problems and gives us some guidelines for dealing with problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Define the Problem—they did not let the problem fester, but promptly came together to deal with it (v1-2; cf. 1 Cor. 3:3; Phil. 2:3, 14; James 3:13-18). Proclaim the Word of God—apostles prescribed a solution that handled the problem and kept the work going (v2-4). We should always be ready to seek God's will and Christ's example (Col. 3:17; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:21). We also see in this the understanding that our problems must not prevent us from doing our work of spreading the gospel—they did not minimize the problem but dealt with it AND kept on working. Plead with One Another—encourage one another to do the will of God and work together (v5-6). Consider Paul's constant exhortations to unity (Eph. 4:1-6; etc.) and his humble pleading (I beseech you, 1 Thess. 2). Pray—don't let God out of our processes, rather put Him first (v6). Jesus and early Christians both did this (Lk 6:12; Acts 1:24-25, 4:24ff, 12:12; etc.; James 4:13-15; Col. 4:2) Meet with Prosperity—when they dealt with problems, the church kept growing (v7; cf. Phil. 2:14-16). | <p>For Such A Time As This (Esther 4:14) Esther was given a charge that perhaps she was in the time, place, and position she was to help with the problems of that time. We certainly don't always like the situations we are in, but we can similarly use the opportunities available to us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There Was a Problem: People were going to die. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Haman was set on carrying out his hatred of Mordecai by killing all of the Jews. But similarly we need to look around at a world that is lost in sin and will die spiritually (Rom. 3:32, 6:23; Eph. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev. 20:11-15, 21:27). There Was Opportunity: Someone could offer hope. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Esther was in a unique position to help her people by petitioning the king. Her decision to help was not without danger, but perhaps this was the very reason she was there. Today there is hope in Christ for those lost in sin (Rom. 6:23, John 3:16; Rom. 1:16; Eph. 2:1, 13, 19; John 14:6; Eph. 1:3). He is the solution the world needs to hear, even though this task is not without difficulty (Mark 16:15; 2 Tim. 3:12; John 15:18, 19). The Opportunity Seized Provided For Protection <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Esther acted, and so was able to help save her people. We too can help those about us for our benefit and theirs (Rom. 1:15-16; Mark 16:15-16; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; James 5:19-20; Prov. 11:30; 1 Cor. 15:57). | | |