

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



January 13, 2013

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 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

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

Jeremiah's Thoughts

By Marvin Weir

By divine inspiration, we have the anguished words of a prophet of God. Jeremiah says:

"O Jehovah, thou hast persuaded me, and I was persuaded; thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am become a laughing-stock all the day, every one mocketh me. For as often as I speak, I cry out; I cry, Violence and destruction! because the word of Jeho-vah is made a reproach unto me, and a deri-sion, all the day. And if I say, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name, then there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with forbearing, and I cannot contain. For I have heard the defaming of many, ter-ror on every side. Denounce, and we will denounce him, say all my familiar friends, they that watch for my fall; peradventure he will be persuaded, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But Jehovah is with me as a mighty one and a terrible: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail; they shall be utterly put to shame, because they have not dealt wisely, even with an everlasting dishonor which shall never be forgotten (Jer. 20:7-11).

Jeremiah was "persuaded" (ASV) or "deceived" (KJV) [not befooled, but induced by words, Keil & Delitzsch] of the Lord! Others versions read that Jeremiah was "overcome" (NASB) or "enticed" (Darby). What occurs here is that Jeremiah is revealed as a mere man with like passions with ourselves. It appears that Jeremiah is overcome or persuaded by the all powerful Word of God. The Word was stronger than the prophet, and it prevailed.

The words Jeremiah uttered in these verses are from a heart filled with frustration and despair. The prophet is persuaded by God to be His mouthpiece (Jer. 1:9; 15:19), but such brought Jeremiah the strife, derision, and curses of his brethren (15:10). He recalls God's promise that his enemies will not prevail against him and that Jehovah will deliver him (1:18-19). What is occurring, however, is that Jeremiah is mocked, threatened, despised, considered insane and the "laughing-stock" (20:7) of the land.

The people Jeremiah so loved rejected his warnings and believed false prophets such as Pashhur. The people believed it would be Jeremiah and not them and their city that would be destroyed.

What counts is that Jeremiah allowed God's word to persuade and overcome his doubts. He was faithful to proclaim it accurately and power-fully. What a cost was involved to be God's mouthpiece! Nothing has changed today. God's faithful

(Continued on page 2)



Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

Psalm 47:6-8

(Continued from page 1)

servants must be persuaded that the all powerful Word will be victorious and overcome all enemies of the Cross. We must keep on keeping on and stand fast for the faith!

Jeremiah was mocked by men! It seemed that everyone was against him (20:7). One can understand how Jeremiah must have felt at having been “overcome” or “persuaded” by God’s Word only to be derided by men.

A great lesson for God’s people to learn to-day is that His faithful servant is still “*a spectacle unto the world*” (1 Cor. 4:9). The apostle John reminds all who love the Lord and would be faithful to His cause: “*Marvel not, brethren, if the world hateth you*” (1 John 3:13). Mockery and hatred is the price to be paid for faithfulness!

Jeremiah was indignant at the response to God’s truths! The prophet notices that if he lifts up his voice so that the people may hear and understand he is greeted with grief and trouble and utter contempt for the Word of God (Jer. 20:8). The violence against truth is hard to accept. Suffering reproach for God is difficult to bear. One must understand that people cannot be forced to obey God’s Word, but His Word must continue to be proclaimed faithfully and unashamedly.

Jeremiah was discouraged at the results! “*Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name*” (Jer. 20:9, KJV). His faithful proclaiming of God’s Word had seemingly brought nothing but reproach. Why should he continue to do that which is causing him so much misery? Why continue to tell people that which they do not want to hear? Why continue to do that which makes you so unpopular?

Here is food for thought. Would we be more faithful to God if it brought us more personal profit and pleasure? Does our being faithful to God depend on what is happening to us in this world? These false conditions for “being faithful” are spreading like a prairie fire throughout the Lord’s church today.

Faithful gospel preachers today become discouraged at the **results** of proclaiming a “thus saith the Lord.” Many brethren are only concerned with worship that is pleasing to them. They resent being told that for their worship to be acceptable to God they “**must worship in spirit and truth**” (John 4:24, emph. MLW). Brethren will turn on you when you teach that women cannot be placed in a leadership role in the church over men (1 Tim. 2:12). Brethren will label you as “out of touch” if you teach we only have authority to sing in worship and that adding the instrument is sinful (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Rev. 22:18-19). It is all too easy today to identify with Jeremiah!

Jeremiah was motivated by the Word of God! “*...there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with forbearing, and I cannot contain*” (Jer. 20:9). The Word of God will prevail **if** one loves God. When threatened to not teach in God’s name Peter and the apostles said, “*We must obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29). One who loves God and is motivated by His Word will always choose to faithfully proclaim it!

Jeremiah was misunderstood by his friends! “*For I have heard the defaming of many, terror on every side. Denounce, and we will denounce him, say all my familiar friends, they that watch for my fall...*” (Jer. 20:10). The unfavorable support of supposed Christian friends is one of the hardest burdens to bear of the faithful servant of Christ. It is tragic when brotherhood politics, power and prestige, and financial gain triumph over what is godly and right!

Jeremiah was encouraged by God! “*But Jehovah is with me as a mighty one and a terrible: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail...*” (20:11). Do not forget that God is more mighty and terrible than enemies of truth. The faithful will take comfort in the fact that “*if God is for us*” no enemy of truth can prevail against us (Rom. 8:31).

| 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 and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376</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 55 2 Kings 12-17 & Acts 20-21</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;</i>” (1 Pet. 2:2)</p> |



Think About It... (Articles by Tom Moore)

Walking In His Steps

There was a field covered with freshly fallen snow. A father and a son enter the field. As they walk across the field, you notice that the father pays no particular attention to where he is going, but his son, on the other hand, follows directly behind, making a special effort to step in his father's footprints. After the two have crossed the field, you notice that there is only one set of tracks visible in the field, although two had walked across it.

The Christian life is that way. In our daily walk we ought to be following Christ's example. Whether in times of suffering, sorrow or need, whether in times of health, joy, or abundance - if someone were to observe the snow-covered fields of your life, would there be one set of tracks, those of Christ? - Or would there be two sets, one belonging to Christ and the other distinctly yours?

Peter said, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pt. 2:21).

Drowsy Living

There is a sign series on the West Virginia Turnpike that says, "Driving while drowsy can put you to sleep - permanently."

My friends, drowsy, uncaring living can put us to sleep spiritually - permanently. The Bible says, "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11). "Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame" (1 Cor. 15:34). "Therefore He says: Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light" (Eph. 5:14).

Christians are sometimes drowsy at the wheel of life. Drowsy, apathetic, lackadaisical "Christian" living will cause our spiritual ruin. It is time to wakeup and get with the program!

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 **28 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Remember the **Ladies class** each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom. Hope you can join them as they talk about Ladies of the Bible.
- ◆ **Jan. 27:** The next **Bible Bowl** will be held at Bangs.

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Judie Turner (29), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

| | Dec. 30, 2012 | Jan. 6, 2013 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bible Class | 53 | 51 |
| AM Worship | 64 | 74 |
| PM Worship | 45 | 53 |
| Wednesday PM | 42 | 40 |
| Contribution | \$1669 | \$1518 |

| | This Week: 1/13/13 | Next Week: 1/20/13 | January 2013 | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| Sunday AM: | Lead Singing: Ken Maninger | Lead Singing: Joe Dennis | Make Announcements: John Barnum | |
| Greeters | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | John Barnum Family | Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox | |
| Opening Prayer | Jim Moore | Tom Wilcox | Clean Building: The Smithey Family | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum James Thomas, Don Smith | Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Maninger | Keep Grounds: Charles White | |
| Closing Prayer | Hank Wheeler | Don Smith | February 2013 | |
| Attendance Cards | Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis | Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez | Make Announcements: James Fuller | |
| Sunday PM: | | | Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family | |
| Opening Prayer | Billy Chism | James Thomas | Clean Building: Jessica Stultz | |
| Scripture Reading | James Fuller <i>Matthew 6:9-13</i> | Hank Wheeler | Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith | Jim Moore | | |
| Closing Prayer | Gene Bannister | Billy Chism | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | January 16 Jim Moore | January 23 Don Smith | January 30 Allen Griffith | February 6 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 January 13, 2013 | Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Chap. 2)</i> Wednesday Class..... <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i> |
|--|--|
| <p>Are You Sure? (Acts 18-19)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some thought they were sure yet rejected the gospel. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Jews at Corinth opposed themselves and blasphemed (18:6), others at Ephesus were hardened and believed not (18:9), Demetrius cared more for his craft and gain than the truth (19:24ff). These were content to reject the One in Whom is salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and attempt to establish their righteousness (Rom. 10:1-4). Reminder that conscience cannot be our guide! Some thought they were sure yet heeded instruction. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Crispus and others of Corinth heard and obeyed the gospel (18:8), Apollos was willing to be taught more perfectly (18:24-28), the twelve disciples at Ephesus were willing to learn and obey the true gospel (19:1-7). Shows the gospel's effect on honest hearts (19:18-19; Matt 13:23, 7:21; Jms 1:22, 26-27; Phil 1:27; Eph 4:1). A reminder that sincerity or "going through the motions" is not enough! Some were sure and stood steadfastly. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul and others boldly proclaimed what they knew. Consider what they were doing in these chapters: reasoning (18:4, 19), testifying (18:5), teaching (18:11), speaking boldly, disputing, and persuading (19:8). Those of Ephesus showed their conviction by their actions: burning their books (19:18-19). One can know and obey truth in confidence (Jn 8:31-32). | <p>Resolve To Pray (1 Timothy 2:1-8)</p> <p><i>Paul is writing Timothy concerning the church (1 Tim. 3:14), but we can learn a few practical lessons about prayer for ourselves in these verses too</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Make It A Priority (v1) - this is the first thing that Paul addresses; it is to be a priority in our lives as it was for Jesus, the apostles, early Christians, etc. (Matt. 6:33). ◆ Add Variety (v1) - different words are used in reference to prayer: supplication (expressing a need); prayers (broad/general term for prayers); intercessions (petitions/requests for others/draw near in confident conversation); and giving of thanks (gratitude). ◆ Expand the Scope (v1-2) - Our prayers are not to be narrowly focused but here included on behalf of themselves, all men, and those in authority; no one is outside the scope of those for whom we should pray. ◆ Keep Your Focus (v2-4) - our aim ultimately is not selfish ends of prosperity or comfort but that we might live faithfully, pleasing to God, and as examples to others. ◆ Remember the Avenue (v5-7) - It is through Christ we can approach unto God (John 14:6; Heb. 4:15-16), consider therefore the honor and privilege we have and use it confidently and regularly. ◆ Examine Your Attitude (v8) - Examine your posture, not of the body, but of the heart; we need to lead a clean life, have a loving/right attitude toward others especially in our petitions concerning them, and trust God. |