

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 11, 2013

Contact Us:

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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

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

The Five W's of Influence

By Tom Moore

One of the best ways for anyone to fully grasp and appreciate a word, an idea or an event is to use the five "W's" of journalism: what, who, when, where and why.

When Jesus said,

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:14-16)

He was speaking of our influence. Influence is a very integral part of a Christian's life, and this can be clearly seen by using this great tool of journalism.

The "what" of influence. Influence is the power one has in affecting a person or an event. Through our actions and words, we **will** affect others to do this or that, to say this or that or to think this or that. From a scriptural point of view, each Christian has the power to influence others to do good or evil. Whether we influence for good or evil depends on how we live. Influence is a powerful force we use to move others in one direction or another. Most often this powerful force is affecting others unknown to us. "*Ye are the light of the world*" (Matt. 5:14).

The "who" of influence. Whom do we affect through our influence? The ones over whom we have the most influence are our immediate family. Our children watch us like a hawk; they watch our every move and file them in memory. Children are great imitators of their parents, which indicates the powerful influence parents possess. In addition, by what we do (or fail to do) and say (or fail to say), we affect the lives of our neighbors, kinfolk, fellow Christians and most people with whom we come in contact on a daily basis. As adults, we need to be keenly aware of all the little ones in our local congregations who may be looking to us for examples in Christian living. What kind of example are we providing them? "*Ye are the light of the world* [the "who"]" (Matt. 5:14).

The "when" of influence. When do we affect people through our influence? We may have an opportunity at almost any moment. Many times, if not most, we are influencing others without our knowledge. The "when" of influence may come

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*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels
for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour;
that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Hebrews 2:9

HE HEARD MY VOICE

By Neal Pollard

Do you ever feel like nobody's listening, or that you have no one to whom to tell your troubles? Isolation seems to be more characteristic of our society. We are surrounded by lonely people, even as the country's population rises, even in the middle of crowded cities, stores, and subdivisions, and even though we are in the "information age." Information does not mean intimacy or communication.

Yet, even when we do have friends and loved ones in our lives, there are some circumstances where their shoulders and ears are not enough. David faced times like that. He recalls some of those times near the end of his reign as second king of Israel. In 2 Samuel 22, he remembers times with Saul and other enemies when he was surrounded, afraid, confronted, and distressed. Have you ever felt that way? What did you do?

David says, "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears" (22:7). Even when we have the attention of someone on earth, we do not have access to the wisdom and power of heaven. God can do what no mortal can. Notice the progression.

First, God heard (7). God is not disinterested when it comes to His children. His ears are open to the righteous (1 Peter 3:12). David had that same confidence at other times in his life (cf. Psalm 65:2). The only thing restricting God's ability to hear the faithful Christian's prayers is that Christian's lack of faithfulness to pray to Him. "Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." God intently waits for our prayers. Marlin Connelly once spoke of God's presence with the faithful in Revelation 8:1-4. In explaining the meaning of the silence in heaven for half an hour (1), Connelly commented that it is as if God is saying, "Hush! I'm listening

to the prayers of the saints!" What a thought!

Second, God reacted (8-14). God is not neutral when it comes to His children. Think about it. If you are a parent, are you neutral when it comes to your children? If they are being harassed, if they have problems, or if they are hurting, how does it make you feel? Notice how vividly David, by inspiration, poetically describes God's reaction to how David is being treated. The earth shook and the foundations of heaven quaked. Smoke went up from His nostrils and fire from His mouth. He thundered from heaven, sending out lightning bolts. Why? "Because He was angry" (8). He was angry at how His son David was being treated. Will you remember that God cares that much about you? Such knowledge should make us confident that we can weather any trial that comes!

Finally, God acted (15ff). God is not passive when it comes to His children. He rescued David (17-20) and punished His enemies (15-16). David says he took me, drew me, delivered me, supported me, rewarded me, and delighted in me. Through providence and answered prayer, God acts on our behalf. And think about what He has already done to show He cares (cf. Romans 5:8). Remember a cross? Or a big event on Pentecost (cf. Acts 20:28)? If we pay close attention, God constantly proves His love and concern for us.

Let us not miss David's part in all this. David understood that God's hearing, reacting, and acting on David's behalf was tied to David's manner of life and response to God's love. David heard God (22:21-23). David also acted obediently (22:24-25). Our relationship with the Father cannot be shallow or one-sided. But, what joy to know that even at the lowest, hardest times, if no one else knows, He hears our voice!

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 and on Roku
TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on
Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376

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 85

Psalm 27-32

& Ephesians 1-2

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)



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at most any time—when we come in contact with someone, or even when someone hears of our actions. The possibility of influence is ever present. *“Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid [the “when”]”* (Matt. 5:14).

The “where” of influence. Where might we be influential? Anywhere! We may be influencing others in the workplace, at home, at the ball game, in school, in the car, in the store or in the worship assembly. Wherever we go, our influence follows. *“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick; and it giveth light unto **all the house** [the “where”]”* (Matt. 5:15).

The “why” of influence. Why is our influence so important? It is important because many will be saved or lost as a result of our influence. Jesus said, *“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea”* (Matt. 18:6). It is easy to see why influence is vitally important. *“Therefore let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father** [the “why”] which is in heaven”* (Matt. 5:16).

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week 33 **contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ August 13: This Tuesday, we will be hosting the last Summer Youth Series for this year. There is a **sign-up sheet at the back of the auditorium for food items that are needed**. Thanks in advance for your help and I hope you will make plans to be here that night; it is always an enjoyable and encouraging time; it starts at 7 PM.
- ◆ August 23: Game Night at the building starting at 6 PM.
- ◆ September 20-22: Annual Lectureship at 5th & Grape, “The Great Grace and Matchless Mercy of God”.
- ◆ October 20-23: Our Fall Meeting with Rick Popejoy.

New editions of House to House are available at the back of the auditorium. Please use these materials for your study and also consider passing them along to others who will benefit from them as well.



Texas Ladies In Christ Retreat

Priscilla has been working with some other area ladies to put together a Ladies Retreat this fall. The dates will be October 3-5 (Thursday night through Saturday afternoon) at the Heart of Texas Bible Camp in Brady and will focus on an in-depth study of the book of Philippians. If you are interested you can contact Priscilla, see the flyers/registration forms at the back of the auditorium, and/or visit www.texasladiesinchrist.org

Online Resources

Some online resources for Bible Study:

- ◆ media.tullstar.org—This is the work that I have been associated with for a little over a year. While still a work in progress, audio files of past lectureships are being added and contain many excellent studies for your benefit.
- ◆ www.harrisandmoore.org—Past episodes of the radio program by David Harris and Tom Moore as well as the link for their live program on Mondays at 8 PM.

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (09), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), 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 28, 2013	Aug. 4, 2013
Bible Class	60	59
AM Worship	82	73
PM Worship	65	57
Wednesday PM	42	57
Contribution	\$1827	\$1844

	This Week: 8/11/13	Next Week: 8/18/13	August 2013	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum	
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Billy & Peggy Chism	Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith	Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore	
Communion	James Fuller*, John Barnum Jim Moore, Don Smith	Joe Dennis*, Gene Bannister Garrett Barnum, Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	September 2013	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	James Fuller	Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Hebrews 6:9-12</i>	Tom Wilcox	Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Communion	James Fuller	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Kevin Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 14 Tom Wilcox	August 21 Kevin Wilcox	August 28 Garrett Barnum	September 4 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 August 11, 2013		Sunday Class Titus 3	Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p>Psalm 22: Suffering Servant of God <i>The Suffering Servant would know great agony, persecution, and shame; but such would turn to a great victory to the benefit of all!</i></p> <p>1. Perception of Abandonment (v1-2)</p> <p>a. The writer/speaker begins by expressing his overwhelming feeling of being all alone, even from God. These words are uttered by Jesus on the cross in the moment when God could not help Him (Matt. 27:46).</p> <p>b. Yet they may have been more emotion than fact (Jn 8:29; 16:32; Isa. 53:10-12); surely we can know that we don't have to feel this way (1 Pet. 5:7; Heb. 13:5-6).</p> <p>2. Plea for Help (v3-21)</p> <p>a. Though humble and reproached, he knows God has helped before (v3-10). Even in his despair, he recognizes the holiness of God and turns to Him who has before proved His care; he has trusted in the past and will yet trust (Ps. 139; 2 Cor. 1:10). Again consider parallels to Christ's suffering (Matt. 27:39-44; Mk. 15:29-30; Lk. 23:35).</p> <p>b. Therefore he turns to God in his present need (v11-21). He expresses his state and concern to God (Col. 4:2; Heb. 4:14-16). Again parallels Christ's suffering (John 19:23-24,37; Lk. 23:27, 35).</p> <p>3. Praise for God who has Heard and Helped (v22-31)</p> <p>a. Changes to a note of victory; God has heard his cry and aided him; so he will tell others of what God has done and call them to praise Him! (v22-25; Jn 20:1, 17; Heb 2:12; Matt. 28:19-20)</p> <p>b. The world and future generations will hear of what God has done to the glory of His Kingdom. (v26-31) We can rejoice for what God has done and praise Him (Rom. 8::17-18; 2 Tim. 2:11-12), calling others to follow Him (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).</p>		<p>Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:7) <i>This verse well summarizes the warnings of the whole book; all need to realize there are consequences to the choices and actions we make in this life, especially spiritual ones.</i></p> <p>1. Be Not Deceived: the warning is against being led away from the right way. It is used this way numerous times throughout the New Testament (deceive: Matt. 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 Cor. 6:9ff; 1 Jn 1:8; err: Matt. 22:29; James 5:19; astray: Matt. 18:12-13; seduce: 1 John 2:26; wandered: Heb. 11:38; way: Heb. 5:2). They had listened to false teachers that were turning them from the way of truth and the grace of God (1:6-7; 5:4, 7); now they needed to turn back; for there was no hope anywhere else (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 4:4-6, 12:1-2; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).</p> <p>2. God Is Not Mocked: This is idea of turning up the nose at, sneering at, or ridiculing (Ps. 2:1ff/Acts 4:25ff). They could not think that God would not notice what they were doing; neither are His warnings to be scoffed at. We are recipients of great promises as those faithful in Christ (2:16; 3:7, 9, 11, 26-29; 4:3-7) but they would forfeit them by turning back. We will not deceive God, only ourselves (James 1:22; Heb. 4:12-13).</p> <p>3. You Reap What You Sow: They needed to determine what they were following after: a perverted Gospel or the gospel of Christ (1:6-7)? Fleshly lusts or the Spirit (5:16ff)? The things of the world or things of God (6:8; 1 John 2:15-17)? They needed to seek and support spiritual things, which if they would do, they would reap a great reward if they grew not weary but continue striving to have Christ formed in them (6:9, 4:19, 5:1; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 8:18; Matt. 25:21; Rev. 2:10).</p>	