

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 18, 2013

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 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.

Is It Really Faith That We Possess?

Marvin L. Weir

The ASV of 1901 reads, "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). The KJV states, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Adam Clarke says:

Faith is the SUBSISTENCE of things hoped; the DEMONSTRATION of things not seen. The word *hupostasis*, which we translated "substance," signifies subsistence, that which becomes a foundation for another thing to stand on. And *elengchos* [proof, conviction, evidence] signifies such a conviction as is produced in the mind by the demonstration of a problem, after which demonstration no doubt can remain, because we see from it otherwise than as it is, and is proved to be. Such is the faith by which the soul is justified; or rather, such are the effects of justifying faith: on it subsists the peace of God which passeth all understanding.... In an extended sense the things hoped for are the resurrection of the body, the new heavens and the new earth, the introduction of believers into the heavenly country, and the possession of eternal glory. The things unseen, as distinguished from the things hoped for, are, in an extended sense, the creation of the world from nothing, the destruction of the world by the deluge, the miraculous conception of Christ, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension to glory, his mediation at the right hand of God, his government of the universe, etc., etc., all which we as firmly believe on the testimony of God's word as if we had seen them.

"Faith" is such an easy word to utter. It is not even difficult to spell or pronounce. The average child of God probably considers his faith to be adequate. However, I am convinced that we all need to grow in faith. God's Word makes us aware of the plea of the apostles, "*Lord, increase our faith*" (Luke 17:5). This request was made at least in part because of Jesus' teaching on the forgiveness of one's brother. The Lord had commanded, "*And if he sin against thee seven times in a day, and seven times turn to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him*" (Luke 17:4). The apostles realized they needed to grow in faith in order to do what they needed to do to be faithful followers of the Lord. Likewise, today, if we have true faith in God, we will be "*doers*" and not just "*hearers*" of His word (James 1:22).

(Continued on page 2)



Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another,
love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil,
or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are
thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9 Hebrews 2:9

(Continued from page 1)

Hebrews 11:17-18 reveals true faith in an outstanding way: *“By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac: yea, he that had gladly received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; even he to whom it was said, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.”*

One must remember that the covenant promise God made with Abraham was to be realized through the posterity of Isaac, but now suddenly, and with no explanation, God commands Abraham to offer his son of promise as a sacrifice. An ordinary man of faith would begin to question God immediately! “How can you keep your promise if the one who is key to that promise is dead?” Surely there is another way you can be satisfied without me having to kill Isaac! What has Isaac done to deserve to die? You do not know what you are asking—a father simply cannot do such a thing!”

What did Abraham do? His great faith contributed to his trusting in God completely, never once doubting but that His promise would be fulfilled. Perhaps Abraham could not see (as a human being) just how it would work out, but he had devout faith that it would! This is what sets Abraham apart from so many others who profess to follow God. Abraham did what God commanded him to do, and **trusted** in God to provide the necessary outcome. We live in an age today that **demand**s statistical proof and positive facts. People of the world put more trust in their empirical senses (sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch) than in God’s Word. So often Christians are not much different, but they should be! You have probably heard a child of God say, “I’d give more to the Lord’s church if I could just **see** how...,” or “We have served God faithfully for twenty years and we just cannot **see** that....” Another

might say, “I’ve tried to be faithful as a Christian and just look at the tragedy I have had to endure—it is not fair!” Someone else says, “I just cannot **see** why God would....”

People are often quick to give God the credit for something that goes wrong. There is a huge difference in what God **does** and what God **allows**. Why not credit Satan (that *“roaring lion seeking whom he might devour,”* 1 Pet. 5:8) with many of the difficulties of this life? One must also remember to give credit to self, as each person is a free moral agent who can choose to do either right or wrong. Bad and sinful choices have consequences that one may have to endure for the remainder of his or her life! The Bible warns Christians to avoid things that will cause tragedy, heartache and the loss of the soul.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [Gal. 5:19-21]

The truth is that I do not have to **see** how God will accomplish His every purpose, but I must have **faith** and **trust** that He will do so! The Hebrews writer speaks of *“the conviction [ASV] or evidence [KJV] of things not seen”* concerning faith. Let us contemplate this most important point—if we must “see it” and “completely understand it” before we launch out or take action, is it really Bible faith that we possess?

May we resolve to do what God bids us do and trust in Him to provide the correct outcome!

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 86 Psalm 33-38 & Ephesians 3-4</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>



The Missing Sponge

By Brett Petrillo

A surgeon was very selective with the people he wanted to work with. It was the first day on the job for a young nurse and the surgeon decided to issue a test. As the young nurse assisted the surgeon during a procedure, she noticed a problem.

"You've only removed eleven sponges, doctor," she said to the surgeon. "We used twelve."

"I removed them all," the doctor declared. "We'll close the incision now."

"No," the nurse objected. "We used twelve sponges."

"I'll take full responsibility," the surgeon said grimly. "Suture!"

"You can't do that!" blazed the nurse. "Think of the patient."

The surgeon smiled, lifted his foot, and showed the nurse the twelfth sponge, and said, "You'll do."

It can be difficult to stand up for what is right, especially when we meet resistance. For the young nurse, she was willing to risk disapproval and possibly even her job to stand up for what was right. Thankfully, she was working for a person who also valued integrity. It takes courage to expose ourselves and come under the heat of the spot light. In John 12:42-43, we see some people who weren't willing to stand out, "Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God."

Which do we love more, God's approval or man's? It feels really good when people like us, praise us, and agree with us. Many people are even willing to sacrifice their morals and ethics in order to lay low and run with the crowd. It can be scary to be disliked, made fun of, and disagreed with. It can be hard to stand up for honesty and integrity as Christians, especially when those around us do not.

Moses told Joshua before his death, "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

People may dislike or disagree with us, but there is only one approval that really matters anyway, God's. When we stand with God, God will stand with us. Therefore, no matter what other people may think, let's be courageous Christians and pursue God's approval above all others.

Thank you...

Don Smith wished to thank everyone for the birthday cards that he received and there is a new note on the bulletin board from **David & Joy Harris** thanking everyone for their support during David's bone marrow transplant.

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **26 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ 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.



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

	Aug. 4, 2013	Aug. 11, 2013
Bible Class	59	61
AM Worship	73	75
PM Worship	57	50
Wednesday PM	57	55
Contribution	\$1844	\$1829

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 8/18/13	Next Week: 8/25/13		August 2013 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: James Fuller September 2013 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Billy & Peggy Chism		The Maninger Family			
Opening Prayer	Don Smith		James Thomas			
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Gene Bannister Garrett Barnum, Hank Wheeler		Don Smith*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Kevin Wilcox			
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore		Garrett Barnum			
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller		Jim Moore			
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox <i>Psalm 25:1-7</i>		Allen Griffith			
Communion	Joe Dennis		Don Smith			
Closing Prayer	Kevin Wilcox		John Barnum			
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 21 Kevin Wilcox	August 28 Garrett Barnum	September 4 Don Smith	September 11 Jim Moore		

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 18, 2013		Sunday Class Titus 3 Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p>Salvation: By Grace through Faith (Eph. 2:8-9) As Paul writes of salvation we enjoy as Christians, we are reminded that grace and faith work together.</p> <p>1. By Grace—God’s Part of Salvation</p> <p>a. God made our salvation possible in Christ Jesus according to His eternal plan; this is the message of Ephesians 1:3-14.</p> <p>b. This reminds us of the need of salvation (Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 3:23, 6:23) and also the favor God has shown to us in making it possible (Titus 2:11-4, 3:4-5; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 3:24-26, Matt. 11:28-30).</p> <p>2. Through Faith—Man’s Part of Salvation</p> <p>a. While salvation has been offered to man, man plays a part in accepting it (Matt. 7:21; Acts 2:40).</p> <p>b. Man’s part is faith; God has set forth the evidence (John 20:30-31; Heb. 11:1; Eph. 1:9, 3:2ff) but man must believe and act on it (Heb. 11:6).</p> <p>c. This is not simply belief (John 12:42-43; James 2:19) but active faith (Gal. 5:6; Heb. 11:7, 30; James 2:24; Rom. 6:17; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 41; Gal. 3:26-27).</p> <p>3. Not of Works—Salvation is Not Earned or Merited</p> <p>a. Faith is not the gift (Jn. 8:24, Acts 16:31; Phil. 1:29).</p> <p>b. Salvation is the gift (Titus 2:11, 3:4-5; James 1:17-18); a gift man does not merit (Rom. 4:4-5, 5:8).</p> <p>c. While made available to all (Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9, it is not unconditional or universal (Heb. 5:8-9) — it is by grace through faith.</p>		<p>Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27)</p> <p><i>In spite of the circumstances of life, the psalmist would patiently, determinedly, and confidently wait on the Lord.</i></p> <p>1. Confidence (v1-3) - His trust would be in God and thus he would not fear man (Rom. 8:31; Heb. 13:5-6).</p> <p>2. Desire (v4) - His constant desire would be always to dwell in the house of the Lord where he could behold the beauty of His character and learn from Him (Ps. 23:6; 119:105). We too should have this singular desire that causes us to seek after God (Phil. 3:13; Luke 10:42; Mark 10:21; Matt. 5:6, 6:33; 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17; 1 Jn 1:5-7; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).</p> <p>3. Security (v5-10) - His confidence is not misplaced, for as he seeks after God, he has the benefit of security and protection (Acts 17:27; James 4:6-10; 1 Pet. 3:12, 5:6-10; John 10:27-30; Heb. 4:16).</p> <p>4. Patience (v11-14) - In his confidence, desire, and security, the psalmist will continue seeking and waiting on God. He knows the Lord will lead in in the right paths (Ps. 23:3 25:3-5; Ex. 14:13; Isa. 40:31; Jn 8:12, 14:6; Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 3:3-4, 13; Matt. 6:13; 1 Tim. 4:10, 6:17; James 1:17).</p> <p>Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>