

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



December 1, 2013

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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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:

Johnny McCaghren

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.

We Walk by Faith

By Kevin Cauley

In 2 Corinthians 5:7, the apostle Paul wrote, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Many have taken this verse out of context to mean that we walk by faith not by knowledge. Of course, this is not what the apostle Paul was saying. Rather, he was saying, as written in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is not necessary to see in order to believe. To the contrary, believing is seeing when one puts one's faith and trust in God (Prov. 3:5-6).

Relying upon seeing to believe, however, eventually kills faith altogether. Science says that physical sight is nothing more than a collection of neurons and chemicals in precisely the right balance so as to produce sensations in the brain. Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the DNA molecule said, "'You,' your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules. Who you are is nothing but a pack of neurons." How can chemicals and grouped atoms be trusted to provide adequate information for knowledge? Charles Darwin said, "With me, the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man's mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals, are of any value or at all trustworthy." Without God, knowledge is impossible.

The fact, however, that we can perceive this paradox—to know the physical processes that are involved in knowledge that allegedly makes knowledge impossible—proves that we are more than just physical beings. It shows that we can step outside of our physical selves with our spiritual person and have real understanding of truth. We are not like rats in a maze that have no clue that they are, in fact, rats in a maze. Rather, we are spiritual beings with a physical apparatus that enables us to know the physical world. Even knowing the physical world means walking by faith.

There is no other way around our state of affairs than to have faith. So why do we need to renew our faith? We are, unfortunately, creatures of doubt. Doubt can serve us well when applied in the appropriate contexts. In the chemistry lab, I had better doubt whether the beaker in front of me is water or not lest I drink it and die. In the desert, however, such doubt would kill me. It is the misapplication of doubt that gets us into trouble, and over which we may have our biggest controversies.

So, renewing faith is that personal and communal activity that provides for us the same platform on which to operate. I renew my faith when I put my trust in God and His word, the Bible. I pledge before everyone that this book is the standard

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And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
and though I give my body to be burned,
and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

“Out-of-Style”?

Carl B. Garner

If we have an out-of-date credit card, we do not have much—not only is it worthless, it could be dangerous to our business reputation if it is used. Not long ago, a student was describing an old TV show he had seen. The program was revealing the “up-to-date” apparel for men in the late 1960s and 1970s. According to his recollection, the outdated men’s and women’s garments, looked pretty strange. The only one he could describe in detail was a coat or jacket called a “Nehru suit,” but he was not familiar with it. A short history lesson would have taken that young man back from the 1970s to the 1940s and the family of Nehru Ghandi, a leading citizen in India. His apparel included a jacket that was unique to its time, and it caught on in our part of the world. Some facets of their design are said to continue today, though not quite as prominently as back in the 1970s. If we were to appear in one of those old “Nehru jackets” today, we would immediately be the center of attention.

It is true that some things, such as fashions, ideas, and political and military strategy, can become outdated almost overnight. The worst thing that could happen to some “modern” men or women is to be looked upon as “out-of-date.” However, we realize that there are some things that must be set aside—views that are proven to be wrong, other ideas that have failed to be established and some practices that must be abandoned for one reason or another.

Man’s wisdom must step aside when God’s wisdom speaks. The “wisdom of man” has declared that some foods are not good for human consumption, only to discover later that they were mistaken. Women’s apparel has been the most fluctuating, with mini-skirts, then long skirts; pointed-toe shoes, then round-toed shoes; as well as the most popular colors—all changing with the sea-

sons of the year. Seldom does anyone, male or female, choose to be at odds with the currently accepted fashion. For some, nothing could be more embarrassing than to be seen wearing “last year’s” style.

A few years ago, I had a phone conversation with a lady who was quite disturbed. She had been told that the church of Christ does not believe in music. She admitted that she was not a Bible scholar, but she could not imagine why anyone could be against music. I told her that I, too, could not see why someone would oppose music and that I enjoy the music in which we all participate during the worship hour. Her surprise at my answer was reflected in her voice, for she had heard that we do not believe in music, that our worship is dull and “out-of-date.” She said her church had wonderful music. “We have the coolest music director,” she said. “He plays the piano while nine other people play their instruments along with him”—and to her, that music was beautiful.

I agreed that the music she described could be beautiful, and very appealing to our ears. However, as we continued our conversation, she made it clear that she did not like drums in a church orchestra. That appeared to be a good time for me to ask her the following question: “I wonder what God likes in our church music.” She answered, “I have not thought about that,” and then asked me if the Bible addresses that subject. It was then that we opened up the Bible and there we found what God had authorized in His church—the church Jesus purchased with His own blood. These are found in our New Testament, and they reveal God’s approved church music:

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in

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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 101
Psalm 123-128
& Titus 1-2

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
(2 Timothy 2:15)



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upon which I operate my life. When others make the same pledge, we operate upon the same standard, and vow to uphold that standard regardless what may come our way. When we live faithfully based upon that standard, we find others who will commune with us in a state of peace, harmony, and love. No force can overcome such renewal.

However, problems will arise that challenge that fellowship. How will we manage such problems? Will we do so based upon the standard of God's word? Or will we turn to cultural and societal solutions? Often, we do the latter instead of the former. The result is devastating for a people who claim to follow God's standard of right and wrong. Confusion and doubt set in, and faith is destroyed. Few have the integrity that is needed to withstand such an onslaught and breach of communal standards. As a result, some may turn to other religions or philosophies. Some become agnostics and atheists because the stench of hypocrisy is so strong.

We must renew our faith in God and His word by going to His word and letting it rule in our lives. *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). Walking by faith means walking by the word of God, and that must be done in every situation. If we truly believe the standard of God's word, then by following it, we can resolve all issues that stand between us.

Neither science nor the philosophies of men hold the basis to resolve human conflict. Darwinian naturalism doesn't fight destructive conflict at all. In fact, it claims that destructive conflict is natural and "good." It weeds out the less fit so that the stronger may survive. The philosophies of men talk a good game, but when it comes to making critical decisions based upon them, they always fail and never provide true direction for the resolution of conflict. God's word, however, will succeed when it is applied. We may truly renew our faith both in God and one another through His will. May we ever learn to depend upon it and trust in its truths, for vain is the help of man (Ps. 108:12).

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **12 contacts** were made.

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your heart to the Lord. (Eph. 5:19)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)

Rather than ask, "What do I like?" we should be asking, "What does God like?" If we are worshipping God and singing from our hearts, we will never be "out of style" to Him. It can be beautiful, inspiring, encouraging and comforting. We should learn to like what God likes.

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: 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), Phyllis & Horace Hooper (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 17, 2013	Nov. 24, 2013
Bible Class	53	46
AM Worship	67	59
PM Worship	57	49
Wednesday PM	50	35
Contribution	\$2079	\$1491

