

Fulfilling the Ministry

“Do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5)

———— Faculty and Student Newsletter of the Brown Trail School of Preaching ————

April 2014
No. 88

From the Director's Desk

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It hardly seems possible that May is already upon us. The Apostle Peter was correct when he wrote that life is like the “flower of grass” (1 Peter 1:23). With that thought before us, we should understand that there is no more

important work to be done than the preaching of God’s “power unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Every day we give thanks to our Father for those that support the efforts of **Brown Trail School of Preaching** and other sound schools like her. No doubt we will never know this side of eternity the extent of our efforts.

As supporters of this work, please know that we are constantly aware of the fact that you are our “life’s blood” for the work we are doing. Your prayers, your support, and your kind words keep us going. A note came attached to a check recently that touched my heart (as many such notes often do!), “Dear Bro. Stapleton, *The church here is very small and I hope this donation will help. We appreciate the fact that the simple truths in the Bible are being taught to some of our preachers in the brotherhood. We wish you God speed.*” We appreciate these good brethren for supporting our efforts and for the kind words that lifted our spirits!

If you would like to have an update on the work here, please contact us and we will see that someone comes your way as soon as possible. **Tavaris Armstrong**, our new Field Representative, is already doing a great job, and I know he is anxious to meet as many of you as possible. I know if you have him come, you will be glad that you did!

MTSM Program

Our **Moving Toward Spiritual Maturity** program continues to reap many benefits for both the students and the school. Two of the three students that enrolled in this one year program in January have decided, after being here awhile, that they wanted to switch to the full two year preacher preparation course. We are excited for them, as both of them have shown great determination in their study.

If you have a son or daughter that will be graduating this Spring, and would like to see them go off to college better prepared to handle whatever the Devil may throw at them, give us a call, come by and see us, or email us for further information.

Spanish Department

The **Spanish Department** conducted a door knocking campaign for the **Stewart Avenue church of Christ** in Sedalia, Missouri the last weekend of April. They did this in conjunction with a Gospel Meeting that **Willie Alvarenga** held for the congregation there.

They will also be attending the “**Back to the Bible Lectures**” in Dallas hosted by the **Pleasant Grove church of Christ**, June 6th and 7th. **Willie** will be one of the speakers for this lectureship.

Fill In Preaching

We are happy to help your congregation with a student to fill in in case your preacher is ill, out of town, or some other reason resulting in you needing assistance. If you know that you are going to be in need of someone, please contact **Pat McIntosh, Dean of Students**, as early as possible, and he will do all that he can to make arrangements for someone to come your way.

In Honor * In Memory

The following have recently made a donation to BTSOP as a memorial or honorarium. Please keep in mind that your financial donations to BTSOP, as a honorarium or memorial, go a long way in training men to be gospel preachers.

PAUL BOREN

Julia Bridges

ANN CARROLL

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

PATRICIA EAKES

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton

MILDRED HOGGARD

Julia Bridges
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Gary & Mary Murphy

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NANCY COGGINS

Julia Bridges
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ELBERT GAUNTT

Gary & Mary Murphy

JAMES HORTON

Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Darrin & Carrie Stapleton

HENRY KILGORE

Gary & Mary Murphy

LEROY MIHILLS

Julia Bridges
Bob & Marcia Stapleton
Jack & MaryLea Stephens

KAY SMITH

Julia Bridges

Sermon Starters

BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT Proverbs 23:23; Matthew 13:45, 46

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are living in a world of buying and selling.
2. Either directly or indirectly, we are dependent upon it for our livelihood.
3. In our text, the commercial terms "buy and sell" are used to teach an important lesson relative to the importance of accepting the truth.
4. With this lesson we want to consider what it means to "buy the truth and sell it not."

BODY:

1. BUY THE TRUTH

- A. Truth is the commodity we are urged to buy.
- B. What is the truth? - John 18:38.
 1. The Word of God - John 17:17.
 2. Jesus is the manifestation of the truth - John 14:6.
 3. The gospel with its commands, facts and promises - Acts 26:25; Galatians 2:14.
- C. Why buy it?
 1. It will save us - James 1:21.
 2. It is needed in every effort to live the Christian life.

2. BUY ONLY THE TRUTH

- A. Not everything sold is as good as it is said to be.
 1. We must be careful so as to buy what is authentic.
- B. Not everything said to be the truth is truth.
- C. We need to examine what is said before we buy or accept it.
 1. We need to examine the doctrine - Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21.
 2. If the Bible teaches it, if it is in harmony with what the Bible teaches, then we should accept it.
- D. We must discriminate between truth and error - John 5:39.
- E. Just about everything of importance has been counterfeited.
- F. It is important to reject all error, no matter who is teaching it.

3. BUY ALL THE TRUTH

- A. It is just as bad not to buy all the truth as to buy what is not truth.
- B. Whether we buy a car or a sewing machine we want all of it.
 1. It will do no good to have just part of it.
- C. Some will accept part of the truth, but not all of it.
 1. Some accept the truth concerning the need for salvation, but want to leave out baptism.
 2. Some accept the truth when it comes to worship, but want to leave out the Lord's Supper.

4. BUY THE TRUTH REGARDLESS OF THE PRICE

- A. We need to be willing to "pay" whatever the price is - Luke 14:26-33.
- B. We must be willing to "pay" the price of self-denial - Luke 9:23.

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In Honor Of/Memory Of _____

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Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

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Director's Schedule - 2014

Gospel Meeting - May 11th - Briar church of Christ, Briar, TX
 Summer Series - June 4th - Las Vegas Trail church of Christ, Fort Worth, TX
 Summer Series - June 11th - Downtown church of Christ, Cedar Hill, TX
 Summer Series - June 18th - Centerville Rd. church of Christ, Garland, TX
 Summer Series - July 16th - Granbury St. church of Christ, Cleburne, TX
 Summer Series - July 23rd - Westhill church of Christ, Corsicana, TX
 Gospel Meeting - September 17th - 21st - Wagoner church of Christ, Wagoner, OK

Sermon Starters - Continued

- C. Whatever is necessary, we must be willing to “pay” the price, even to the very point of death - Revelation 2:10.
5. **BUY THE TRUTH**
- A. It is not sufficient to hear about it.
 - B. It is not sufficient to hear and know about it.
 - C. It is not sufficient to recommend it to others.
 - D. It is not sufficient to intend to buy it.
 - E. To be blessed, we must “buy” or accept the truth - Matthew 7:21-23; John 8:32; Hebrews 5:9; James 1:22.
6. **BUY THE TRUTH NOW**
- A. Scripture teaches the urgency of obeying now - 2 Corinthians 6:2; James 4:14.
 - 1. Look at all the cases of conversion in Acts.
 - A. See that they obeyed when they heard.
 - B. Too often we put it off until it is too late - Acts 24:25; 26:28.
7. **SELL IT NOT**
- A. When “purchasing” the truth, we need to do so as a permanent investment.
 - 1. It should be “purchased” as that which we intend not to part with.
 - B. We do not “sell” it for livelihood, pleasure or anything else.
 - C. We are cheated when we bargain it, even if we do so for the whole world - Mark 8:36, 37.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is important to “buy the truth and sell it not” while we can.
 - A. Tomorrow may be too late.
2. For those of us who have already “bought” it, we must be careful to not bargain it away as we are drawn away after worldly desires - James 1:14.

Email Copy Available

Please let us know if you would like to receive your copy of *Fulfilling the Ministry* via the Internet.

Note to all alumni: If you have a change of address, family news, work news, unusual experience or anything else that you would like to share with other alumni, please let us know. You may e-mail the information to Bob Stapleton at chimalabob@yahoo.com, or fill out the form on our Web Site. Either way, be sure to include name, address, graduation year, congregation you work with and the news item you would like to have included in the newsletter.

News from Alumni

Eddie Hill (1995)

Condolences are extended to the **Hill** family at the passing of brother **Hill**, April 3rd, due to complications following a stroke.

John Ratliff (2012)

John and his family have relocated and is now working with the Prescott church of Christ, Prescott AR. Their address is 425 E. Elm St. Prescott, AR 71857. Their home phone number is 870-887-0313, and his cell number is 903-268-5866.

Travis Anderson (2013)

Travis and his family have located with the Northside church of Christ in Bismarck, IL. Their address is 6 Prairie Drive, Bismarck, IL 61814. His phone and email remain the same.

James R. Jones II (2013)

James has located with the Whispering Hills church of Christ, Duncanville, TX. The address is 2126 S. Main Street, Duncanville, TX 75137. His phone and email remain the same.

Jonathan Maner (2013)

Jonathan and **Hannah** are working with the Durango church of Christ, Durango, CO in an Intern capacity. Their address is 2042 W. 3rd. Ave., Durango, CO 81301. Their phone and email remain the same also.

I am sure any of these brethren would be happy to hear from you.

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