

**IN THE SERVICES**

**July 27, 2008**

**Lord's Supper—**

L1Officiate: Keith Gremillion  
 L2Helper: Travis Gremillion  
 L3am(only): Spencer Scogin  
 L4am(only): Michael Smith  
 R1Assistant: Stephen Savant  
 R2am(only): David Landrum  
 R3am(only): Charlie Carr  
 R4am(only): Don Mouton

**Morning Prayers—**

Opening: Andy Crandall  
 Closing: Paul Smith

**Evening Prayers—**

Opening: Jathen Garrett  
 Closing: Doyle Bean

**August 3, 2008**

**Lord's Supper—**

L1Officiate: Tony Vela  
 L2Helper: Aaron Crandall  
 L3am(only): Mike Hebert  
 L4am(only): Freddy Moak  
 R1Assistant: Larry Hodge  
 R2am(only): D. J. Bean  
 R3am(only): Cayce Rhodes  
 R4am(only): Trey Crandall

**Morning Prayers—**

Opening: Doyle Osborne  
 Closing: Billy Guidry

**Evening Prayers—**

Opening: Stanton Hodge  
 Closing: Brett Hopkins

**FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**

**Announcements** — Randy Robin

**Greeters** — The (David) Garretts, The (Jarren) Garretts, The (Jathen) Garretts, The Guidrys

**Lockup** — **Andrew Smith**/Larry Richard  
 Billy Guidry/Larry Hodge

**EVANGELIST**

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 www.StonegateStandard.com  
 www.ObeyHisCommands.com  
 www.BloggingTheBible.com

**ELDERS**

Blake Bergman  
 Andy Crandall  
 H. G. "Buddy" Hamby  
 Randy Robin

**DEACONS**

Jeff Baker	Jimmy Moss
Ken Barry	Doyle Osborne
Jeff DeLord	Stephen Savant
Jarren Garrett	Ricky Scogin
Jathen Garrett	Andrew Smith
Keith Gremillion	Jim Threadgill
Garry Hamby	Tony Vela
Greg Hamby	Edgar Wolf

**TIMES OF SERVICES**

Sunday Family Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Family Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**  
**- Psalm 150:6**

# The Stonegate Standard

Volume XV

July 27, 2008

Issue 30

*Moving toward a personal*  
**Restoration**

Throughout history, there have been groups of individuals who saw an evil somewhere in their lives and attempted to end it by moving toward an ideal. In 1776, there was a group of people in New England who started moving toward an ideal in government. They believed that there was a correct and simple way for a government to operate and serve its citizens. When they sprung into action, they left nothing in tact that conflicted with this core philosophy – including their current government. Likewise, sometime around the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC in Judea, there was a group of individuals who reacted against the invasion of Greek philosophy and culture into Jewish religion. They focused their efforts on finding what God was teaching through the Torah

and removing everything else. We know these people, who loved God and the Scriptures, as the Pharisees. Over time, the tendency is for these groups of individuals moving toward an ideal to become something entirely different than originally intended. In the New Testament, we can see the disastrous results of allowing a group of individuals who are moving toward a good, sound ideological goal to become a religious movement. The Pharisees, who started out with a great love for the Scriptures and their teachings, changed fundamentally over time; rather than searching for the meaning of the Biblical texts, they began to turn to traditional explanations and understandings. They began

to rely on their customs so much they refused to accept that something in their traditional understanding could be incorrect. They stopped looking at the text and started to look at what they were taught about the text. When Jesus came and attempted to stretch and change their understanding, they were so intolerant and inflexible toward Christ that they broke like a tree which refuses to sway in a windstorm. When they broke, they crucified the son of God.

It ought to scare us when we realize that there is something in existence today called the Restoration Movement. While we all ought to be moving toward a restoration of pure and simple Biblical truth in our lives, we must never become members of the Restoration Movement. A movement seeks to sustain and perpetuate *itself*; we should be seeking to sustain and perpetuate the truth found in the Scriptures. If we find ourselves members of and supporters of a movement, when the Scriptures conflict with what we believe, rather than changing who we are and what we do, we will, like the Pharisees and Sadducees before us, invalidate the word of God in order to keep our traditions.

How can we seek to make sure that we are following the Bible and only the Bible? How can we guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus? We must question *everything*. We must ask questions that have “been settled”, and we must refuse to accept answers that do not come completely from the Scriptures. Thomas

Jefferson said, with regard to government, that every generation needs a revolution. In religion, every person needs a restoration. Every one of us must desire and yearn for the pure milk of the word. Even those who have experience with the word of God and have moved on to meat should long for milk in some regards; we must not ignore the “elementary principles” once we have moved on to maturity. Think about this, what goes better with a giant t-bone steak than a cool glass of milk?

Christians are people who have been bought by the blood of Christ and born again through the living and enduring word of God (1 Peter 1.23). What kind of respect do we show to God, his Son and the Holy Spirit when we refuse to hide the word in our hearts so that we might not sin? If the Scriptures really are more valuable than gold and more desirable than honey, why would we trade the truth of God for cheap gimmicks and the traditions of men?

Jesus Christ was a restorationist. He went back to the root of the law and based all his teaching on the two greatest commandments. Will we have the courage to do the same? Will we have the courage to really believe the Bible and only the Bible? If we are to support pure, simple, Biblical Christianity, then those are not only things we should do, they are things that we must do no matter the effort, no matter the pain, no matter the cost. We must take up our Bibles and follow Christ alone.

- Steven Cuffle

## Family Talk

**We extend a sincere welcome to all of our visitors. It is an honor to have you with us today and you are welcome every time our doors are open. Please stay a few minutes after worship so that we can get to know you.**

**Responses — Sandra Goins** has asked for our prayers and encouragement as she battles against the world in her workplace. **Sam Holt** has asked for prayers and encouragement.

**About Our Sick— Cowboy Fernandez** is home recovering from surgery. **Randy Robin** is recovering from surgery. Please remember the **Burris and Guidry** families in your prayers as **Barbara Burris** continues her fight against cancer.

**Devotionals —** The Friday Night Bible Study will be at Neal and Jill Smith’s house this Friday at 7 PM. On August 17th there will be a 7th—College Age devotional at Buddy and Carol Hamby’s house after evening services.

**Elders and Deacons Meeting**—this afternoon at 4:00 in the conference room.

**Quarterly Input Meeting**—this evening after services in Room 14.

**Men’s Lectureship**—Please mark your calendars for August 3-5 and make plans to attend each night of our Men’s Lectureship! Practice times will be announced on Wednesday for the speakers.

**Prayers for Saints in South Texas and Mexico**—Hurricane Dolly passed through these regions, some of which had already been flooded. Please keep our brothers and sisters in these areas in your prayers as there are some Christians in need of basic necessities. Please see Steven Cuffle if you would like information about helping them.

**Young Men’s Singing**—Young men’s singing practice will be this evening at 5:30 before services.

Please extend a warm welcome to Jeff Trahan and his family as they visit with us this morning. Brother Trahan will be preaching both services for us this Lord’s Day.