

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



October 18, 2020

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service N/A
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

WHICH WAY AMERICA?

I do not want my descendants to have to pass through centuries of atheistic, modernistic, communistic, humanistic, materialistic barbarism and depravity before the sun rises again. Do you?

Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." This proverb is the basis of our thoughts.

We love and appreciate the blessing of being an American, living in a land of freedom, a freedom that has been provided, protected, and defended at great cost to many, many people over nearly two centuries. There have been those periods in our history that are very regrettable, such as when the institution of slavery was existent, the abuses in our factories of people of all ages, the forced war for Southern independence, the various scandals, international wars and other tragedies.

We see poverty in various pockets and all manner of social problems among the populace. Yet, all the world looks to this nation as one to be desired. Our national heritage has reflected our moral standards and religious values that have their roots in the Bible. Biblical standards are often incorporated into our laws. We do not have to build walls or string barbed wire to keep our people in this land as others do their land. Our sentences are not to prevent escape, but to protect from without. Many are so eager to come to our nation that they do so illegally. While our land has not always been good, it remains the best so far.

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED

America has been abundantly blessed materially, with freedom, opportunity, and benefitting from the advancements in medicine, technology, food production, etc. Generally speaking, this nation has been compassionate toward those who are not so fortunate. America continues to provide assistance to the underprivileged nations more than any other nation in the world. It is somewhat amazing, in view of that fact, that so many who receive our gifts have hatred for us.

Where is America NOW? Which way are we going? The reason for our greatness has been our moral and spiritual values. Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We cannot claim to be a "Christian" nation in the Biblical sense of the Word. But true New Testament faith has had the opportunity to flourish in this land of religious freedom — under the protection, rather than the suppression, of civil government. Spiritual strength and respect for the divine has been our mark.

Most nations and empires rot from within before they succumb to the pressures from without. What happens to America matters to me because it is my earthly home, the home of my fore-parents and my descendants. After the fall of the Roman empire there was the era called the Dark Ages. It was years upon years before the enlightenment of the Renaissance broke through. I do not want my descendants to have to pass through two or three centuries of atheistic, modernistic, communistic, humanistic, materialistic barbarism and depravity before the sun rises again. Do you?

It is significant how God made promises and warnings to the kings of Israel like Saul, David, Solomon, even such kings as Jeroboam. In essence, He told them if they would serve Him, they would be blessed. If they defied Him, they would suffer their fall. That principle operated down through the history of nations. America is great because America has been good. When America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

America has been guilty of setting aside values that provide for social stability: honesty, truthfulness, justice, personal responsibility, work. Rather, it has promoted free food, public doles, permissive manners toward crooks, and has produced occupational cripples.

DESTRUCTION AT WORK

Consider ancient Israel. These principles worked just as God gave them. Under the judges, kings, whatever period of history one considers, when the nation was not righteous, even though religious, they suffered. When they forsook God and served something else, it led to their captivity and destruction as a nation. Do we have reason to think these principles shall somehow be rendered null and void for our own land?

Edward Gibbon cited several factors that contributed to the fall of the Roman empire in his account called "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." (1) A rapid increase in the divorce rate. (2) Higher and higher taxation. (3) The craze for pleasure, sports, and violence. (4) Huge military preparations for conquests. (5) Decay of religious influence. Should it cause us concern? Yes!

Servants of hell seek America's fall, because in the freedom of America, truth can still be proclaimed and distributed to the world.

IMMORALITY

America reels under the vicious impact of the sexual revolution — a disregard of God's moral standards. Such has produced an assault on society, the home, marriage, family, health, and youth that has not seen its equal in our history. There is a disregard for marital vows, morality, chastity, and moral responsibility. Diseases due to immorality run rampant. We hear from the "experts" of all kinds of proposed solutions, everything except teaching people how and why to be moral. There are unwanted children, many of whom are

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

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murdered by abortion. There is a rocketing rise in child abuse. The nation labors under increasing tax burdens to support the illegitimate, diseased, and depraved. People have suffered shame and loss of self respect. There is a very high percentage of babies being born to unwed parents. The rate of illegitimacy has doubled in the past five years. The physical, mental, emotional damage is creating an unstable and maniacal society. "Crazies" are crawling out of the woodwork and terrorizing society. Crime continues to increase and criminals coddled. Pornography is a big industry. Drugs and alcohol flow like water down the Mississippi. One cannot fathom the depth and seriousness of the self-imposed and destructive elements in our land today.

WHAT EDUCATION?

America reels under the impact of what is called "progressive education." Illiteracy is not being overcome. Even those who go to school emerge unable to cope with the bare necessities. Educators have grave concern, and well they should, because they have adopted this foolery of progressive education. Industries suffer and America lags. While many jobs are being lost due to foreign competition, many jobs are available that cannot be filled because of the lack of qualifications. Some who leave high school cannot fill out a job application. While the "experts" meddle with attitudes and personal adjustments, students do not even learn facts and figures essential to earning a living. The dominant influence of the humanist, John Dewey, has turned the educational system into a humanistic brain-corrupting project. America continues to fall behind.

SECULAR HUMANISM

Secular humanism is promoted by the state through the educational institutions. Humanists desire to make our society a totally secular one, removing all traces of faith in God, the very factor that has made America great, injecting organic evolution as fact (which is a lie), saying there is no right and wrong, but everyone can do "their own thing." With a program called Values Clarification, humanists in education undermine and destroy Biblical values. The media, one of the worst enemies of freedom in America today because of their promotion of the lies of humanism and evolution, are contributing to depravity, especially in the sexual programming and total disregard of things godly and right. We are told that atheism is the fastest growing religion in America. Just why the so-called "smart" people and the "experts" cannot see what their fruit is producing for America is difficult to understand.

Most nations and empires rot from within before they succumb to the pressures from without.

AMERICA'S ENTERTAINMENT

We get an indication of the mentality of the nation when we see the quality of entertainment. Real talent is minimized in favor of gyrating, savage stupidity. Weld metal bedposts together with some wagon wheels, and some call it art and sculpture. It is nothing but junk. There has been such a worship of "self-expression" that it has become nonsense. Splash paint on a canvass and slide over it with your feet and some fool will put it in a gallery. The "artist" gets his picture on some national magazine. The loudest, most vulgar, depraved looking, dope headed, bellowing degenerates are called musicians and their noise is called music. It is trash. People thrill over the shootings, fast cars, adultery, getting drunk, violence, blood, profanity, and call it entertainment. It is sewage from the minds of degenerates who produce it.

LAWLESSNESS

When people rebel against divine law, it is but a small thing to violate

human laws. Do you want an explanation for the increase of crime? It is due to the fact that Americans have taught two or three generations that they have come from animals and they are now conducting themselves with often less discipline than animals. Top that with a heavy dose of the influence of lawmakers who wish to remove every vestige of morality and justice, blocking the punishment of the guilty and failing to protect the victim, they make crime profitable. "Sick" judges, under the guise of civil liberty, have flooded the streets with criminals. Parole boards are dominated by uncaring fools. Even when criminals are jailed, there are not enough jails to keep them. Nor are they really punished. Instead, they are entertained, fed, never made to work, because some "nut" from the ACLU says that is slavery. There is no respect by authorities for the dignity of the human being. Laws are neither properly legislated nor enforced that deal with such things. Remember, the judges and lawyers probably learned the same garbage they dispense in the same schools alongside the criminals who dropped out.

VALUES

America has been guilty of setting aside values that provide for social stability: honesty, truthfulness, justice, personal responsibility, work. Rather, it has promoted free food, public doles, permissive manners toward crooks, and produced occupational cripples. The loss of respect for human dignity is never more prevalent than in the murder of millions of unborn human beings every year, and often at the expense of the taxpayer. Thousands are slaughtered on the highways due to alcohol, but nothing of substance is done to curb its growth. It would not be as bad if only the drinkers killed and maimed each other. But innocent people suffer from it. Even "Christians" often give their support to such promoters of the most destructive drug problem in America — alcohol.

Listen to the liberals wail and cry and march and demonstrate when one vicious, brutal, incorrigible murderer is executed. But, where are their cries for those he killed, or for others he would kill, or for hard working decent people who have to pay thousands each year to care for the servants of hell who have murdered and thereby lost their right to live?

The physical, mental, emotional damage is creating an unstable and maniacal society. "Crazies" are crawling out of the woodwork and terrorizing society. Crime continues to increase and criminals coddled.

WILL RELIGION HELP?

We see and hear the liberal clergymen join the ranks of the decadent elements of society and say there is no such thing as sin. Listen to Isaiah 5:20, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Sensual living destroys self-discipline which destroys freedom. Freedom is not "license" and cannot be sustained without self-discipline. Without self-discipline there simply cannot be enough laws or enforcers to regulate the nation. We are killing the blessing of freedom by listening to and siding with the liberal and immoral propagandists among us, even religious leaders. What was once an occasional blight and blemish on the scene in America has become the dominant plague. Some may consider this idle talk but in so doing they only show themselves unwilling to consider the evidence. Their unwillingness contributes to paving a smooth way for things to get worse.

We do not wish to overstate the conditions. But anyone who denies there has been a decline in the moral and spiritual values of the people of this land are simply ignorant or dishonest. As a Gospel preacher, we have no

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Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

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 Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

- Oct. 18** Isaiah 5—8; Ps. 109 (video)
- Oct. 19** Isaiah 9—12; Psalm 110
- Oct. 20** Isaiah 13—16; Psalm 111
- Oct. 21** Isaiah 17—20; Psalm 112
- Oct. 22** Isaiah 21—24; Psalm 113
- Oct. 23** Isaiah 25—28; Psalm 114
- Oct. 24** Isaiah 29—32; Psalm 115
- Oct. 25** Isaiah 33—36; Psalm 116

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week 33 contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **We had a great Gospel Meeting!** Thank you to everyone who contributed to it's success. In addition to our regular meeting times (listed below), our attendance was 58 Monday evening and 47 Tuesday evening.
- ◆ We will continue to keep our COVID safety measures in place until further notice.
- ◆ Remember the **Gospel Meeting this week at Bangs** with Kerry Clark. Flyer on bulletin board.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ Nov. 15—Justin Hopkins—mission update.
- ◆ March 14-17—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jon McCormack

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major concern with matters that are purely political. But when leaders of our land make decisions based on their horoscopes, turn to the psychics, use the premillennial theory to regulate foreign policy, act as if whatever makes money and gets votes is right, the nation is in trouble. And, WE ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE! People lie to get into office: lie while in office; lie to stay in office. Do I fear Russia? Yes! Do I fear economic disaster for the nation? Yes! Do I fear nuclear war? Yes! But for America, what I fear most is the law of "sowing and reaping" (Gal. 6:7-8; Hosea 8:7).

Do you realize that even members of the Lord's church (being more concerned with their political affiliation than God's truth) even lend their support to admitted humanists to lead our nation? They constantly berate high officials that suggest respect for God. They vote for the most immoral. When so-called "Christian" people act like that, what direction do you think the nation is going? Will America be the first nation to repeal the law of sowing and reaping? I do not think so. This disturbs me because of those who follow after in the coming generations. While many propose all man-

ner of efforts to make things better, they stoutly refuse to consider the real problem, which is moral and religious, giving aid and comfort to those who want to root out all moral and religious influence from education, and in all areas of national and personal life.

People thrill over the shootings, fast cars, adultery, getting drunk, violence, blood, profanity, and call it entertainment. It is sewage from the minds of degenerates who produce it.

MANY VOICES RISE, THANKFULLY

A few years ago such words as you have been reading fell only from the lips of preachers who cared enough to tell the truth. Some are critical of telling the truth. But now and again we hear some of these things come from others, a few stable educators, some lawyers and judges, even a president now and then (like the one we have now, though many try to deny it, some even hiding in their basement). While the Ten Commandments are still named in many state constitutions, who cares? While our coins hypocritically read "In God We Trust," most trust the coin. Religious leaders provide no guidance or solution. They are part of the problem, because they have adopted the modernistic, liberalistic, agnostic approach to most everything the Bible teaches. Let it be proposed that our young be taught the moral heritage of our land and the wail and cry of the ACLU (aka, all crooks love us), and other similar groups of hell shout loud. In America, we either repent or perish, and signs of repentance are scarce.

God said through Samuel to Saul, "*Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath rejected thee from being king*" (1 Sam. 15:23). "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land*" (2 Chron. 7:14). Daniel Webster wrote, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering. But if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury us and our glory in profound obscurity." Abraham Lincoln said, "Let the people know the truth and this country is safe." He did not always provide the truth, however. But, we need to know God's truth.

The goal of our enemies is to bury us by eliminating our laws that restrict obscenity by calling them censorship. They wish to break down the morality and stability of the home by the media propagating the sexual perversity with which the media is so replete already. They wish to promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle. They seek to discredit the Bible, the family, encouraging easy divorce, eliminate all religious expression from schools and state functions. Are they making headway? Yes!

Regardless of how the people of this nation consider themselves, it is becoming more and more apparent that our enemies consider us much like Sodom and Gomorrah — ripe for destruction — and with justification. They know that morality and religious truth is the only prevention to our fall. That is why they work so hard to remove the barrier. God said He would have saved Sodom if only ten righteous men could be found. If Abraham had found nine, needing one more, and you were the only one left to consider, would the city have been spared?

Servants of hell seek America's fall, because in the freedom of America, truth can still be proclaimed and distributed to the world. But enemies have taken giant steps in bringing destruction on a nation that seems bent to go the way of the devil rather than listen to the way of God. God has blessed America. Will he continue to do so? We ask, if we persist the way of the recent past, why should He?

The most preservative and patriotic thing a person can do in this nation, or any other, is to be a Christian. Christians are the best citizens because they uphold the only hope, Jesus Christ. Condemning sin and exalting righteousness is the right thing to do. Shall we pay attention to Proverbs 14:34?

James W. Boyd (This article was written and published more than 20 years ago: Vol.16, No. 9 of "A Burning Fire" — www.aburningfire.net)

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14).

October Anniversaries: Rafe and Becky Smith (16), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 4, 2020	Oct. 11, 2020
Bible Class	40	44
AM Worship	46 + [3]	51 + [3]
PM Worship	33 + [3]	39 + [3]
Wednesday PM	25	40
Contribution	\$2,394	\$1,609

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 10/18/20	Next Week: 10/25/20			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	October 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: McCaghren Clean Building: McCaghren November 2020 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister		
Greeters	_____	_____			
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister			
Communion	Don Smith*, Chase Churchwell John Barnum, Randy Huckaby	Rafe Smith*, Coyce Reed James Fuller, Ryan Rudloff			
Closing Prayer	Rafe Smith	Tom Wilcox			
Attendance Cards	_____	_____			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Dex Dennard			
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith			
Scripture Reading	_____	_____			
Communion	Don Smith	Rafe Smith			
Closing Prayer	Dex Dennard	Randy Huckaby			
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 21 Dex Dennard	October 28 Don Smith	November 4 Prayer Night	November 11 James Fuller	

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 October 18, 2020

Sunday Class I Corinthians 12:24
Wed. Class Exodus 23:1

Wonderful Things Happen, When I Kneel at the Throne of God's Grace

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6-7)

I. The Godhead Listens.

- A. God, the Father, listens as the one "to whom" we pray.
- B. God, the Son, listens as the one "through whom" we pray.
- C. God, the HS, listens as the one "with whom" we pray.

II. The Power of God Almighty Is Harnessed.

- A. The power that created the "universe" is the power that responds to our prayers.
- B. The power that created "earth" is the power that responds to our prayers.
- C. The power that created "man and woman" is the power that responds to our prayers.
 - 1. God "respectfully" [fearfully] crafted us.
 - 2. God "distinctively" [wonderfully] set us apart from the rest of His creation by making us "in His own image" (Gen. 1:26-27).

III. Providence Is Set Into Motion.

- A. God will providentially take care of our "physical" needs.
- B. God will providentially take care of our "emotional" needs.
 - 1. First, we learn to live at God's pace.
 - 2. Second, we learn to live in God's peace.
- C. God will providentially take care of our "spiritual" needs.

IV. Nothing Less Than "The Best" Will Result.

- A. At times, God says, "Yes," when we pray.
- B. At times, God says, "No," when we pray.
- C. At times, God says, "I will give you something else," when we pray.

Wonderful Things Happen, When I Kneel at the Throne of God's Grace!

The Incident in Samaria (Jn. 4:4-42)

John wrote that Jesus "needed to [had to] go through Samaria" (4:4). Where the Jews saw a despised mongrel race, Jesus saw a field "white for harvest" (4:35). John will lay out three important themes: *Living Water*, *True Worship*, and *Gentile Inclusion*. All three of these find their fulfillment in the person of Jesus.

I. Jesus and the Woman of Samaria (Jn. 4:4-26).

- A. Sychar is a village ¼ mile from Jacob's well; 30 miles north of Jerusalem.
- B. Jesus is all alone at the well; the disciples have gone into town to buy food.
 - 1. In their absence, this Samaritan woman comes to draw water.
 - 2. Jesus asks her to get some water for Him.
- C. "If you really knew who I was, you would ask Me for living water."
- D. Unfortunately, she is not ready for such beautiful refreshment.
- E. Why would Jesus now ask her to go call her husband?
 - 1. He effectively grabs her attention and draws her to Himself.
 - 2. She was convinced that He could deliver on this "living water."
- F. She quickly confesses Jesus is a prophet – this much is obvious.
- G. She quickly diverts the conversation from her sinful life to a theological debate – the proper place of worship.
- H. "God is Spirit."
- I. She does not know how to respond to Jesus.
 - 1. "Well, the Messiah will make it all clear to us." (paraphrased)
 - 2. "Lady, I am the Messiah." (paraphrased)

II. The Harvest is Ripe (Jn. 4:27-38).

- A. The woman leaves her waterpot and runs into town with excitement.
 - 1. "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did."
 - 2. "Could this be the Christ?" [This is not the Christ, is it?]
 - 3. They left the town in droves to see Jesus.
- B. "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

III. Sychar Submits to Christ (Jn. 4:39-42).

- A. Because of the testimony of this woman, many in Sychar believe in Jesus.
- B. Jesus stays with them two days, during which even more believe in Him.
- C. "Now we believe, ... and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."