



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..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

Deacons:

John Barnum Don Smith

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

When Christians Are Functionally Atheists

You don't need me to explain to you the difference between atheists and theists. The obvious disagreement, of course, is the decision to believe in God or not.

But, I think there's an underlying factor that largely determines whether someone will believe in God or reject Him.

Will you accept a God who doesn't act how you want Him to?

So much of modern atheism is not just a rejection of the idea of a divine being, but a specific rejection of the God (and gods) of world religions. Consider one of the most-used arguments in the atheist's arsenal, the argument of evil, pain, and suffering. Epicurus' Trilemma is perhaps the best explanation of it:

1. If God is unable to prevent evil, then He is not all-powerful.
2. If God is not willing to prevent evil, then He is not all-good.
3. If God is both willing and able to prevent evil, then why does evil exist?

Most other critiques fit into this same category of refusing to believe in a God who doesn't fit man's idea of who that God should be. "If there were a God, He would have shown Himself differently through science." Even the inane "Who created God?" argument boils down to refusing to believe in a God who is supernatural.

The Christian knows that God does not have to always make sense to us for us to believe in Him, though.

In *A Grief Observed*, C.S. Lewis' powerful account of his own struggle with faith in the face of loss and suffering, Lewis pointed out that every time we feel we have a firm grasp of who God is, He shatters our understanding of Him:

My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it Himself. He is the great iconoclast. Could we not almost say that this shattering is one of the marks of His presence? The Incarnation is the supreme example; it leaves all previous ideas of the Messiah in ruins.

Everybody in Jesus' day thought they had Him figured out. Time after time, He showed them He was not who they thought or expected, and that their concept of Him was too small. It's one of the great evidences of Christianity that our God does not make sense to us. All the stories of pagan, mythical gods show them acting either exactly as we would want them to, or exactly as we do. The one true God does not fit our mold of Him.

God told us His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts, and that His are so far above our understanding that they can hardly be compared. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9). Faith is believing this to be true and living it out.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

It's Job saying he'd keep trusting in God, "Though He slay me" (Job 13:15). It's Peter and the apostles staying when everybody else left after Jesus' "eat my flesh and drink my blood" speech, because "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). It's countless Psalms in which David and other psalmists lament God's seeming disappearance or disinterest in a time of need, only to return to the foundational truth that God loves us and is always doing that which is best. It's nothing more than the commitment to stay with God through thick and thin, because we know Jesus is the only Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6).

But you and I obviously haven't given in to atheism. So we're doing good, right?

Hang on, we're not in the clear just yet.

Most people who still want to be believers find a third way to handle this challenge, because it's the easiest way out. Rather than saying "God doesn't make sense to me, therefore I don't believe in Him," we're very good at reframing God until He *does* make sense to us. This presents us with two problems: one, we're no longer worshiping God but rather a graven image of ourselves, functionally making us atheists, and two, because we've created a fake god, it will fold under any pressure or questioning whatsoever.

This is how you end up with people believing in a God who supports LGBT causes, or looks the other way on divorce, or doesn't command separate gender roles in the home and the church, or doesn't expect His people to withdraw from worldliness, or won't prohibit the willfully sinful from entering heaven, or doesn't care about man's "innovations" in the church, and so on. It's functional atheism. In those cases we believe only in a god who makes sense to us, and that god is no God at all.

Once again, true faith is believing in God even when He doesn't act the way I want Him to. Does God ever frustrate you? Does He ever confuse you? Are any of His commandments difficult to you?

If you have a God who always makes sense to you, and acts exactly as you think He should in every situation, you might want to take a closer look and make sure it's the God of the Bible you're following.

Jack Wilkie (focuspress.org)

And Be Ye Kind

"And be ye kind one to another..." (Eph. 4:32a). **Every command that God gives is always for our best interest!** Sadly, sometimes humanity never realizes that the demands and the prohibitions that God outlines in His Word are given so that God's crown creation – mankind – may live abundant lives both here and in eternity (John 10:10). We find ourselves in a mixed-up world with emotional, mental and psychological illnesses, which are sometimes more prevalent and more widely seen because God's Word is not being honored and revered. God's way is always the **best** way! God's law of kindness is no exception. We are living in a world where kindness is not the norm, and sadly it is affecting our society in a seriously negative way. Consider with me the importance of God's law of kindness.

Firstly, **the demonstration** of kindness. The Bible is inundated with actions of kindness. One of the **early ones** was shown by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex. 2:5-10). This young Egyptian lady knew the law her father implemented and enforced. "...Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river..." (Ex. 1:22). Kindness, spurred by compassion for baby Moses, caused this Egyptian to behave in an unusual way. Notice carefully, saving this child was **not** the norm; it was anything but the norm. In fact, the norm was to follow the law and slay every Hebrew male child. Kindness changed it all!

Even prior to this act of kindness is another almost unbelievable action on the part of Joseph (Gen. 37:12-36). After being abandoned, sold, betrayed and downright horribly mistreated by his very own flesh and blood, Joseph behaved in a kind manner many years later when the same brothers needed his help. Kindness does not repay or **give back** what others really deserve. Numerous other demonstrations of kindness could be cited: Boaz, Good Samaritan, Barnabas, Stephen and most obvious is the Lord Himself!

The data regarding kindness. Amazingly, non-biblical studies have been conducted and have shown that kindness does amazing things for individuals and communities alike. Experts say that teaching children to be kind actually helps and encourages success in their lives.

A study of more than 50,000 business professionals referenced in the Harvard Business Review found that likeability is one of the keys to effective leadership. The study showed that people who score low on a rating of "likeability" have only a 1-in-2,000 chance of being rated as effective leaders. This type of research suggests that kindness is not an add-on to be thought of once we've reached the top. Instead, it's a fundamental component of getting there in the first place. (<https://www.learningliftoff.com/how-teaching-kids-to-be-kind-can-affect-their-success>)

(Continued on page 3)

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/

July 11	Deut. 33—34; Psalm 10
July 12	Joshua 1—3; Psalm 11 (video)
July 13	Joshua 4—6; Psalm 12 (video)
July 14	Joshua 7—9; Psalm 13
July 15	Joshua 10—12; Psalm 14
July 16	Joshua 13—15; Psalm 15
July 17	Joshua 16—18; Psalm 16
July 18	Joshua 19—21; Ps. 17 (video)

"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 **31** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** will be at **Rising Star** this week. (Tuesday—7:00pm)
- ◆ **Next Sunday evening, Mission Printing** will be here to give us an update presentation.
- ◆ Mark your calendar for **August 29**. Richard Patton from **World Bible School** will be here. He will give an informational presentation during the Bible class time, and a “how to” training session in the afternoon (time TBD).

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ July 18 pm—**Mission Printing** Update (evening)
- ◆ August 10—We host **Summer Youth Series**
- ◆ August 29—**World Bible School** Presentation (Bible class) and Training (afternoon)
- ◆ October 17-20—**Fall Gospel Meeting** w/ Ross Haffner

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ June 8—August 10: **Summer Youth Series** each Tuesday evening at 7:00pm (except camp weeks; see flyer on bulletin board for locations and topics)
- ◆ July 18-23—**Senior Camp**
- ◆ July 24—**VBS @ Hamilton**
- ◆ August 5-8—**Bible Lands Museum & VBS @ San Saba**
- ◆ Sept. 18-22—**Ladies’ Day & Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo)

(Continued from page 2)

Similar studies have shown that boys who are rated as “kind” by their kindergarten teachers are shown to make more money 30 years down the road. Middle school aged young people who are characterized as kind, helpful and compassionate also excel higher than others without the same character traits. Obviously, these studies only look at success upon this earth and speak nothing of the success that will follow in the afterlife for those who are kind and compassionate!

The Development of kindness. You may be thinking to yourself, yes all of the above may be true, but sometimes it is difficult to be kind, especially to those who are so unkind. This difficulty can be made less with some help from God’s Word.

#1 Kindness begins in the mind. To be kind, we must think kind thoughts. Thoughts become action, so if my thoughts regarding another are not right, my actions will soon follow and not be right either. However, the opposite is true as well; if my thoughts are filled with kindness, my actions will follow and be kind as well (Phil. 4:8-9). Someone has suggested keeping a kindness journal, wherein you can list names of people and ways to express kindness to them.

#2 Kindness is the result of mutuality (empathy). Being empathetic and understanding others can go a long way in dealing kindly with them. Matthew 7:12 is the classic kindness text in this regard. How do I want others to treat me? That is exactly the way I should treat them, too!

#3 Kindness is generated by meekness. Kindness and gentleness go hand in hand. Look at Christ; the kindest man to have ever lived was also the meekest man to have ever lived (Matt. 11:28-30).

#4 Kindness comes with maturity. Peter listed kindness as one of the Christian graces that mature Christians develop in their walk with Jesus (2 Pet. 1:5-8). Paul listed kindness as a fruit that is produced by those who are mature enough to walk in the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Kindness to the Christian is like water to a fish; without it we die! Kindness should encapsulate our very beings (Col. 3:12). Someone has well written, “A single act of kindness throws our roots in all directions, and the root springs up and makes new trees.” Another wrote, “Kindness is the language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” **Be ye kind!**

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, July 2021, p. 2)

Celebrate

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



Records

	June 27, 2021	July 4, 2021
Bible Class	37	37
AM Worship	46 + [9]	46 + [7]
PM Worship	36 + [7]	36 + [6]
Wednesday PM	29 + [3]	43 + [3]
Contribution	\$1,914	\$1,488

	This Week: 7/11/21	Next Week: 7/18/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p align="center">July 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Duaine / Edwards Clean Building: Duaine / Edwards</p> <p align="center">August 2021 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Rudloff Clean Building: Wilcox / Milam</p>	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	James Fuller		
Communion	Tom Wilcox, Rafe Smith Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards	John Barnum, Chase Churchwell Randy Huckaby, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	Dex Dennard	Rafe Smith		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	Ryan Rudloff (Mt. 15:29-39)	—		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 14 Ryan Rudloff	July 21 Rafe Smith	July 28 Don Smith	August 4 Prayer Night

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 July 11, 2021

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 15:50*
 Wed. Class *Leviticus 19:26*

<p align="center">When People Really Need Help (Mt. 14:13-21; Mk. 6:33-44; Lk. 9:11-17; Jn. 6:2-14)</p> <p>I. People Do Have Needs.</p> <p>A. People with Needs Then.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus nourished the people spiritually. However, as evening drew near, the need for physical nourishment became critical. <p>B. People with Needs Now.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Their most important needs are spiritual. Food and clothing. Care for widows and orphans. Care for the sick. Additional needs are always arising. <p>II. How Some Avoid Helping.</p> <p>A. "We Don't Have the Resources." B. "This Is Not Our Problem." C. "They Don't Deserve It."</p> <p>III. How We Can Help.</p> <p>A. <i>Imbibe the Spirit of Jesus.</i> B. <i>Use the Resources We Do Have.</i> C. <i>Rely on the Lord's Resources, Not Our Own.</i> D. <i>Do What the Lord Says, Whether We Understand It or Not.</i> E. <i>Discard Excuses for Failing to Help Others.</i></p> <p>Jesus intended for His apostles to learn from this experience – to learn that He could help them meet <i>any</i> challenge in life. If we will stop giving excuses and start doing what we can, God will bless our efforts and will also bless the lives of others.</p>	<p align="center">Avoiding Herod, Healing in Decapolis, and Feeding Four Thousand Men (Mt. 15:29-39; Mk. 7:31 – 8:9)</p> <p>I. Avoiding Herod's Territory (Mt. 15:29; Mk. 7:31).</p> <p>A. When Jesus and the apostles left Tyre, they did not return to Galilee. Instead, they moved north to Sidon, then east across the mountains and the headwaters of the Jordan River, then south along the east coast of the Sea of Galilee, finally coming to "the region of Decapolis" (Mk. 7:31). Decapolis was Gentile territory.</p> <p>B. "More of the Same."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Neither the healings nor the feed of the 4,000 present anything new. What was unique, however, was that they were done for Gentiles in Gentile territory. <p>II. Healings in Decapolis, Including a Deaf Man (Mt. 15:30-31; Mk. 7:32-37).</p> <p>A. Once more He was interrupted: "Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet" (Mt. 15:30).</p> <p>B. "So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel" (Mt. 15:31).</p> <p>C. Mark recorded one specific incident: the healing of "one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech" (Mk. 7:32).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why did Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears? Why did He spit, and touch the man's tongue? We are not told. Since these actions were not repeated in similar healings, they were incidental to what He did. On the other hand, the "sigh" sent heavenward is significant. After Jesus said, "Be opened" the man's "ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly" (Mk. 7:35). The people "were astonished beyond measure" (Mk. 7:37). <p>III. Feeding 4,000 Men (Mt. 15:32-39; Mk. 8:1-9).</p> <p>A. This is not the same event as the feed of the 5,000 – while there are similarities, there are many differences.</p> <p>B. How do we explain the apostles' response, given that they had already witnessed the prior miracle? Would we have done better?</p>
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