

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



August 1, 2021

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

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

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:40 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

The Message of Christ to the World

The most casual observer of men and events must surely be impressed with the fact that ours is, truly, a day of confusion and chaos. Principles long believed to be inviolable are surrendered daily, institutions the most sacred are despised, and governments for ages considered invincible now totter on their foundations. The spirit of restlessness hovers like a heavy cloud over the earth, and bewilderment and doubt characterize a significant portion of the race. Men with fear in their eyes and terror in their hearts plead piteously for an opportunity to live at peace with themselves and with each other.

Vast segments of society live in daily want of life's necessities, and little children, gaunt with hunger, their bodies wracked with pain and disease, move helplessly toward an inevitable destiny they do not deserve, but cannot avoid.

Throughout the earth, the wisest and most intellectual men among us, instead of devoting their energies toward making the world a better place in which to live, are engaged in a mad race to create fearful engines of destruction capable of annihilating whole peoples in a matter of moments.

Here and there, discordant voices rise above the din of confusion that swells through the world and offer their vain philosophies, each of which, when tried, mocks the hearts of the hopeful and teaches again the age-old lesson of man's utter inability to direct his steps.

Must we accede to the cheerless doctrine of fatalism and conclude in the light of these facts that we are nothing more than the creatures of a blind, inexorable fate, worthless pawns in the hands of unreasoning forces, individuals. Without purpose or design in the world? Have we no other destiny than to stand helplessly by and see ourselves drawn inexorably into the maelstrom of destruction without hope of salvation or deliverance?

It is indeed a sad but revealing commentary on human nature that in our search for the *sum-mum bonum*, the supreme good, we choose deliberately to close our eyes to a philosophy of life that has never once failed to satisfy all of the longings and aspirations of the human heart.

Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

Christianity, therefore, offers us **abundant life**.

Is this, too, nothing more than a vain and empty promise, destined to create hopes and expectations it can neither satisfy nor fulfill? Let us examine it carefully and see what it has to offer to the world.

Its Founder and Head is the revealer of all spiritual truth. Before He left the earth, He assured His disciples that provision had been made for them to be guided into all the truth. Years later, one of His disciples asserted that all things pertaining to life and godliness had been delivered. Therefore, it follows that Christianity does not seek to solve life's difficulties by applying human plans or efforts, but to them applies principles heaven-born and hence fully adequate to accomplish that for which they were originated.

Only the most thoughtless today believe that the world in which we live is without intelligible direction. Those who **really think** have no difficulty accepting the reasonable conclusion that the order and perfection everywhere manifest in the universe must be the result of purposeful and intelligent planning. "In the beginning God created" is the first article of faith of those who have thought things through regarding the material universe about it. A divine superintendency, preceded by a miraculous creation, is a postulate few today have the hardihood to deny.

These facts premised, it is highly significant that Christ (founder of Christianity) is the public declaration of the great Jehovah to the world. Said He of Himself: "No man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal **him**" (Lk. 10:22). Again: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (Jn. 14:8).

And still further: "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared **him**" (1:18). The words "declared **him**" mean literal-

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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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ly “made him plain.” To *declare* is to make manifest, to bring out into the open. Christ, therefore, has as it were, brought God out into the open—**made him plain!** No longer may men refuse to obey God on the pretext that He is too obscure to be known. Christ is His public announcement, the open and official revelation of His glory to the world. Hence, to know Christ is to know the Father; to acquaint oneself with the principles He enunciated is to know the will of Jehovah.

It is, then, pertinent to inquire: What is the message of God through Christ to the world?

Overshadowing all else is the boundless, immeasurable, passionate love which He felt for the wayward children of the earth as manifested in the supreme sacrifice of His Son to die the shameful and ignominious death of the cross for their redemption. *Redeem* was used frequently in the first century of the transaction by which one went into the slave market and purchased freedom for another. Thus, our Lord went into the slave market of sin and purchased our complete freedom with His precious blood, thus delivering us from the bondage of sin and giving us liberty and freedom in Christ Jesus. In describing the wondrous love that prompted such a sacrifice, Paul does so in this manner:

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus (Eph. 2: 4-7).

That is, God plans to put the redeemed **on exhibition** throughout all ages as a continual demonstration of the “*exceeding riches of his grace*” as manifested to fallen and sinful man.

However, we cannot conclude that Christianity is simply “another worldly” affair, designed to govern and regulate man in another sphere, but with little practical benefit here. This charge, though often lodged against it, is false in every detail. Every relationship of life is recognized and regulated in the New Testament. It is impossible for a child of God to find himself in any situation that he can be in wherein he cannot find explicit directions touching his conduct as a Christian therein.

Before He ascended, the Lord laid plans for a divinely purposed order of society, which He designated as the kingdom of God. The first word of His public teaching was, incidentally, “*Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*”; and His last words, spoken just before He returned to His Father, were concerning this kingdom. This institution was the dominant

thought in all of His teaching, the center of His plans and purposes, touching the redemption and final salvation of all men. Its principles are of the most exalted nature, superior to any ever formulated before or since. Adhered to and faithfully followed, they would turn the world into a veritable paradise. Were all men everywhere willing to submit themselves to it, war would immediately cease and be ever thereafter impossible. He revealed the fact of human brotherhood, urging through one of His disciples that God hath made of one blood all the nations of men that dwell upon the face of the earth.

In His view, all men were destined to be brothers, not enemies; friends, not fighters of one another, but following always and implicitly the Golden Rule: “*All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them.*”

The followers of Christ invariably make the best citizens, for they “*render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s*”; the most faithful husbands, for “*they love their wives, and are not bitter against them*”; the best wives, for they obey their husbands in the Lord; the best parents, for they bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; the best children because they honor and obey their parents all of their days; the best employees, who with good will render service, not as unto man, but as unto Christ; and the best employers, who, forbearing threatening, give to their servants that “*which is just and equal.*”

In a word, Christianity gathers up every human relationship and ordains that those who profess to adhere to its principles conduct themselves in such fashion as to reflect credit on the institution to which they belong and to Him who founded it. Recently, an able jurist observed that “the teachings of Jesus contain those principles that must solve all the social and economic problems of our time.”

Christ taught the sanctity of the marriage relation, honored a wedding with His presence, and established the indissolubility of the marriage bond, allowing it to be broken for one cause only. He taught the right of private property and forbade an improper desire for that which belongs to another. He visualized a state of society wherein all hate is eliminated and where men love one another and seek each other’s good. His were indeed the highest ideals of human life, the most sublime fellowship ever launched. He taught that the supreme good is in rendering the greatest service to the largest number of people. He made it plain that the way up is first down in pointing the way to true greatness! “*Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them,*” He once said to His disciples, “*But so shall it not be among you.*” He wanted them

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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/

Aug. 1 1 Samuel 13—15; Psalm 31
Aug. 2 1 Samuel 16—18; Psalm 32
Aug. 3 1 Samuel 19—21; Psalm 33
Aug. 4 1 Sam. 22—24; Ps. 34 (video)
Aug. 5 1 Samuel 25—27; Psalm 35
Aug. 6 1 Samuel 28—31; Psalm 36
Aug. 7 2 Samuel 1—3; Psalm 37
Aug. 8 2 Samuel 4—6; Psalm 38

“*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 **22** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ We will be assembling the food containers for our SYS this evening at 5:00pm. All who can help are welcome.
- ◆ Covid numbers have risen dramatically in Brown county and much of the country over the past ten days. Consequently, we will begin serving communion with the Covid precautions again, starting today.
- ◆ There are two new **Spiritual Swords** on the back table. The April and July editions. Please take and read.
- ◆ **SYS this week will be at Meridian** (Tuesday, 7:00pm). We host next week!
- ◆ **Bible Lands Museum and VBS at San Saba** this week. VBS is Thursday evening. Lectures Friday and Saturday. See bulletin board for more information.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 10—We host **Summer Youth Series**
- ◆ August 29—**World Bible School** presentation (Bible class) and Training (afternoon)
- ◆ September 26—**Cherokee Home for Children** update presentation.
- ◆ October 17-20—**Fall Gospel Meeting** w/ Ross Haffner

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Sept. 18-22—**Ladies' Day & Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo)
- ◆ Oct. 7-9—**Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**

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to know, *“but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all”* (Mk. 10:42-44).

“Not I, but others” was, and remains, the watchword of His standards, the slogan that motivates His faithful followers, the fundamental principle governing and regulating the lives of those who are indeed His own.

The church of the New Testament purchased with His precious blood and vitalized with His Spirit—the kingdom of God on earth—is the divine conservator of His principles, the agency through which He has elected to operate here below. As such, its place in man’s redemption is essential and irreplaceable. Only as it can function in harmony with its divine purpose is it able to accomplish that for which it was established in the earth. Far from minimizing its importance, it should be elevated to its rightful place and sphere in life and allowed to perform its Divine obligation of bearing the message of life and salvation to the world. Just before His ascension into heaven, Jesus bade the disciples to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” He admonished them that “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Moreover, repentance and remission of sins were to be preached in connection with the same message—all of it to go forth from Jerusalem. In pursuance of that Divine order, they assembled in the city appointed as the New Testament church’s birthplace. Faithfully the message was preached; thousands heard and obeyed and were thereupon added to the church. Adequate for all the human family’s needs then, it remains so today and awaits only an opportunity to demonstrate its all-sufficiency for our age and time.

It points us to Almighty God; it offers to reclaim the human soul for an immortal destiny; it reminds us of Jesus Christ; it comforts broken hearts; it is a friend of education and culture; it exhibits the highest type of brotherhood; it stands for social justice and civic righteousness; it is the greatest builder of morals; it stands ever before us as an implacable foe of evil; it inspires to health and happiness; it expounds our duty to our God, to our neighbor, and ourself; it is a big brother to every needy soul and worthy cause; it is the mother of all that is best in our civilization; it is a guardian of the home, herald of the Lord’s day, and defender of the Bible.

Is it not worth a trial?

Guy N. Woods—deceased (reprinted in Defender, July 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

| | July 18, 2021 | July 25, 2021 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class | 43 | 40 |
| AM Worship | 49 + [8] | 45 + [7] |
| PM Worship | 45 + [6] | 46 + [4] |
| Wednesday PM | 38 + [3] | 29 + [3] |
| Contribution | \$2,640 | \$1,899 |

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|-------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------|
| | This Week: 8/1/21 | Next Week: 8/8/21 | | |
| Sunday AM: | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | Song Leader: James Fuller | August 2021 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Rudloff Clean Building: Wilcox / Milam September 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Rudloff | |
| Greeters | _____ | _____ | | |
| Opening Prayer | James Fuller | Ken Maninger | | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell Coyce Reed, Ryan Settles | John Barnum, Randy Huckaby Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards | | |
| Closing Prayer | Tom Wilcox | Rafe Smith | | |
| Attendance Cards | _____ | _____ | | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: Dex Dennard | Song Leader: James Fuller | | |
| Opening Prayer | Don Smith | Ryan Rudloff | | |
| Scripture Reading | Don Smith (Mt. 16:13-20) | Chase Churchwell (Mk. 8:31-38) | | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger | John Barnum | | |
| Closing Prayer | Ryan Rudloff | Tom Wilcox | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | August 4 Prayer Night | August 11 James Fuller | August 18 Dex Dennard | August 25 Don Smith |

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 August 1, 2021

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 16:3*
 Wed. Class *Leviticus 21:1*

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| <p>Loving Others (Leviticus 19)</p> <p>The greatest commandment is "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Mt. 22:37). The second greatest is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 22:39).</p> <p>I. Obeying God's Commands.</p> <p>A. "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (19:2).</p> <p>B. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD" (19:18).</p> <p>C. "Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: I am the LORD" (19:37).</p> <p>D. To be holy, one had to love his neighbor; and to love his neighbor, he had to obey God's commands.</p> <p>II. Maintaining a Distinct Identity.</p> <p>A. "Holiness" required Israel to be a separate people.</p> <p>B. Their distinctiveness enabled them to bless others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Israelites were to avoid mixing different things (19). They were forbidden to eat the fruit from their trees the first 4 years (23-25). They were forbidden to "eat anything with the blood" (26). They were forbidden to cut or mark up their bodies (27-28). <p>C. How would this distinctiveness help them fulfill their responsibilities to love others, even those outside their fellowship?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To influence people for good, we must be good ourselves. We are to be salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16). <p>D. If we love others, we will maintain that distinct identity and be good examples of how one who loves and obeys God can enjoy abundant life.</p> <p>III. Doing Good to All Kinds of People.</p> <p>A. Our Enemies.</p> <p>B. Our Family and Friends.</p> <p>C. Our Parents.</p> <p>D. The Aged.</p> <p>E. Employees.</p> <p>F. People Involved in Legal Cases.</p> <p>G. The Disabled.</p> <p>H. The Poor.</p> <p>I. Strangers.</p> <p>J. People in Business.</p> <p>"I am the LORD" – "Do this because of who I am and what I am. I am the holy Lord. I act lovingly toward mankind. Therefore, you, as My holy people, should also act lovingly toward mankind so that they, too, can know that I am a God of love."</p> | <p>Near Caesarea Philippi: The Good Confession (Mt. 16:13-20; Mk. 8:27-30; Lk. 9:18-21)</p> <p>I. From Bethsaida-Julias, Jesus and His followers continued their journey north until they finally arrived in the vicinity of Caesarea Philippi.</p> <p>II. Somewhere along the way, sometime after His prayer, Jesus turns to the 12 and asks two carefully crafted questions.</p> <p>A. First, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The disciples reply with some of the possibilities they have heard discussed by the people: "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." While these answers put Jesus in some good company, they are a rejection of Him as the Messiah. <p>B. Then comes the real question, the one that matters: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter characteristically answers for the group: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Christ" = Messiah = "the Anointed One." "Son of the living God" – another Hebrew title for the Messiah. <p>III. Peter had taken the initiative with the answer; Jesus addresses him directly.</p> <p>A. "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."</p> <p>B. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Controversy has raged over the words "Peter" and "rock." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus used two different words: The word translated "Peter" is the masculine <i>petros</i>, while the word for "rock" is the feminine <i>petra</i>. "Petra" denotes a mass of rock, as distinct from <i>petros</i>, a detached stone or boulder, or a stone that might be thrown or easily moved" (NASB). "Church" – called out – an assembly – an assembly of God's people. "Hades" – the realm of the dead – death would not destroy the church. <p>C. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" – Peter would open and allow entrance into the kingdom, being the first to preach the good news.</p> <p>D. "Whatever you bind on earth [shall have been^{NASB}] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth [shall have been^{NASB}] loosed in heaven" – the "binding" and "loosing" would originate in heaven, then would the apostles, by inspiration, "bind" and "loose" on earth.</p> |
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