

# 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 8, 2021

## Contact Us:

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325-646-7102

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## 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 churches of Christ salute you” (Rom. 16:16)

In this age of marketing the church, many denominations, and unfortunately some churches of Christ have decided to change their name. Their reasons vary: a new emphasis, a Different location, a new “face lift,” a merger, a Division, Doctrinal barriers, etc. It is interesting to note many have dropped “church” from their new identity; e.g. The Branch, The Crossing, Grace Pointe, The Grove, The Mount, The Journey, etc. Others have the idea that any name is acceptable such as: The Cowboy Church, Endurance Church, The Bikers Church and even the Church of Schizophrenia. It is very apparent that many are of the persuasion that there is nothing in a name. Yet, their inconsistency is readily seen when it comes to marriage, naming of children, name of a business, one’s beneficiary, and identifying of criminal’s names.

We are exhorted to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Peter 4:11), and in so doing we will call “Bible things by Bible names!” Denominations and denominational names are without biblical authority (Col. 3:17) because they are not speaking as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11)! The inspired words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 is a riveting denunciation of party names which create division!

As one searches the Scriptures he will discover that “the church” has no given name. In other words, there is no one exclusive name for the church, but is spoken of in many scriptural designations: “*the church*” (Acts 8:1), “*the house of God*” (1 Tim. 3:15), “*the temple of God*” (1 Cor. 3:16), “*the church of God*” (1 Cor. 1:2), “*the church of the living God*” (1 Tim. 3:15), “*the general assembly*” (Heb. 12:23), “*the church of the firstborn*” (Heb. 12:23), and “*the churches of Christ*” (Rom. 16:16). All of these designations have reference to the one church of the New Testament which clearly identifies the church belonging to deity!

Paul’s letter to the Romans was written in 57 or 58 A.D. Toward the close of the epistle he wrote, “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (Rom. 16:16). Friends, there was not one denomination on the face of the earth when Paul wrote those inspired words! There was only the one church that Christ established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37-47)!

The word “*churches*” in Romans 16:16 has reference to local congregations of the Lord’s one church. Another example is “*the seven churches which are in Asia*” (Rev. 1:4). Meaning, the one church that belongs to Christ is found in these locations. Therefore, each congregation would be a “church of Christ!” Again, Christ is the head of the church which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23), and He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). One cannot separate Christ from His church!

Without question, “Christ’s church” or “the church of Christ” is a Scriptural designation of “the church” that belongs to Christ! Let us therefore wear the designation “the church of Christ” with dignity and honor to our risen Savior, Jesus Christ! “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (Rom. 16:16).

Ivie Powell (Seek The Old Paths, Aug. 2021)

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

# Who Is a Christian?

A person does not have to go far in the world today to hear the word Christian being used to refer to a host of people. In fact, the word Christian is used to describe almost anyone who is even the least bit moral. Other times, Christian is used to describe a person in contrast to a Muslim or a Buddhist. Often, our nation is referred to as a Christian nation. However, the way the world defines a particular word is not always the same way God defines that word. Then, from God's perspective, who is a Christian? As we consider this important subject, please remember, it is not you or me who decides who is a Christian, but God and His Word will clearly make that determination! So, who is a Christian?

## The Fallacies

Sadly, many in our world today believe they are Christians simply because they believe something about Jesus. However, we can know that this is not the case, for God's Word reminds, *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue"* (John 12:42). "Just believe" many will tout, but they clearly forget James's warning, *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble"* (James 2:19).

Some claim to be Christians simply because they are religious. However, God's Word reminds us of a man who traveled to Jerusalem from Ethiopia just to worship, and he was still not a Christian until he obeyed Scripture (Acts 8:26-39). Others are certain they are Christians because they are moral people. Again, God is clear that morality alone does not make one a Christian (Acts 10:1-2; 22; 48; 11:14). What about sincerity? Surely if someone is sincere, he or she is a Christian, right? No one was as sincere as Saul of Tarsus (Acts 26:9-11; Phil. 3:4-6), and yet, prior to his obedience, he was not a Christian! Some will courageously claim Christianity because they have been baptized, but again, God's Word proves that baptism **alone** does not make one a Christian (Acts 19:1-5).

## The Facts

In order to become a New Testament Christian in God's eyes, one must do what the New Testament says to do. Paul wrote that Christians are disciples and are also members of the church (Acts 11:26). Disciples or Christians are those who have obeyed from the heart a particular "form" or pat-

tern of doctrine (Rom, 6:1-18). Christians are not made by just "getting wet." Christians are people who have obeyed the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4). They are those who have been saved from their past sins (Eph. 1:7) and have been added to Christ's body, the church (Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22-23). They are those who have heard the Gospel (Rom. 10:17), believed and continue to believe in the risen Lord (John 8:24), repented and continue to repent of sin (Acts 17:30), have publicly confessed their faith in Jesus (Matt. 16:16; Rom. 10:9-10) and have been immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 10:48). According to God, these are Christians. Please note carefully that it is not you or I who determine or make the standard! It is God and God alone! Therefore, I must make certain that I do not go *"beyond that which is written"* (1 Cor. 4:6) when it comes to defining who is a Christian! Simply take God at His Word!

## The Faithful

Once a person does what God has clearly outlined in the New Testament, he or she is always a Christian; that never changes. Sadly, what does change sometimes is one's faithfulness. Just because a person obeys from the heart the pattern God gave, does not mean he or she will continue to obey for life (2 Pet. 2:20-22). Every Christian has a daily choice to make! Faithfulness or unfaithfulness! Paul was so clear that disciples (learners, followers) were also Christians and were also the same ones who *"assembled with the church"* (Acts 11:26). What if a person no longer assembles with the church; is he still faithful? Barring any **out of their control** issues (e.g., homebound, sickness, etc.) the clear, biblical answer is, **No.** Faithfulness involves assembling (Matt. 6:33; Heb. 10:25) and encouraging other brothers and sisters (Heb. 3:13; 10:23-24). Sadly, some believe they can have Jesus without His church. However, the body and the Head are inseparable (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).

We must never forget that God and His Word alone define who is a Christian and who is not. When our Lord returns to judge the living and the dead (2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1), He will return to take faithful Christians home to Heaven (John 14:1-6). Those who have not obeyed the Gospel and those who have turned from that obedience will suffer eternal damnation (2 Thess. 1:7-9; 2 Pet. 2:20-22). No excuse will permit a change in those facts. So, then, the question comes to you and me. Who is a Christian? Are you?

*Rodney Nulph* (Gospel Gazette Online, Aug. 2021)

### 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/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Aug. 8** 2 Samuel 4—6; Psalm 38  
**Aug. 9** 2 Samuel 7—9; Psalm 39  
**Aug. 10** 2 Samuel 10—12; Psalm 40  
**Aug. 11** 2 Samuel 13—15; Psalm 41  
**Aug. 12** 2 Sam. 16—18; Ps. 42 (video)  
**Aug. 13** 2 Samuel 19—21; Psalm 43  
**Aug. 14** 2 Samuel 22—24; Psalm 44  
**Aug. 15** 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 45 (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

- ◆ We host the **Summer Youth Series** this week (Tuesday, 7:00pm, Festival Park). All members are encouraged to attend. It is not just for the youth. Warning—you may get put to work!

### Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ 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) w/ Matthew Gibson (Wendy Gibson—ladies' day)
- ◆ Oct. 3-6—**Gospel Meeting @ Rising Star** w/ Tom Moore
- ◆ Oct. 7-9—**Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**
- ◆ Oct. 10-13—**Gospel Meeting @ Bangs** w/ John Hall
- ◆ Oct. 16-17—**Lectureship @ Hamilton**

## Ananias and Forgiveness

Christians talk a great deal about the forgiveness of God. Christians are thankful for the forgiveness of God. We understand that God is willing to forgive us of all our sins if we repent and obey Him. He is willing to love us and give us a multitude of spiritual blessings if we will turn from our sins. He no longer holds us guilty of our past sins when we are forgiven.

Christians strive to be just as forgiving as God. We are to be long suffering towards those who desire to live for God. We strive to forget past wrongs toward us and others, as well as to embrace new Christians.

Ananias demonstrated proper forgiveness. He was contacted by God in Acts 9 to go and to preach to Saul about conversion to Christ; Saul was known as the great persecutor of Christians. He was in Damascus to find and to imprison Christians. Ananias was hesitant, but God assured him that Saul was turning from his past actions; he desired to do what was right. So, Ananias went and told him what to do to become a Christian.

That was impressive enough, but in verse 19, we find that Ananias was now willing to eat with Saul. When one understands how intimate the action of eating with someone was to a first century Christian, one understands how important it was that we are told that Ananias was willing to eat with Saul. This shows acceptance. This shows love. This shows that Ananias did accept Saul as a brother in Christ.

Ananias took it further. He was willing to listen to Saul preach. It would have been easy for Ananias to get haughty and believe that since he had converted Saul that Saul should be the one listening to him teach and preach. It would have been easy for Ananias to get jealous of the position that Saul was taking in the church. It would have been easy for him to attempt to undermine Saul's teaching by murmuring about Saul's past evil actions. Yet, Ananias had forgiven Saul.

Finally, Ananias was willing to help Saul escape from being killed (v. 25). It would have been easy to get rid of an upstart new Christian just by allowing enemies of the church to kill him. However, Ananias had forgiven Saul and desired for him to be able to continue to serve God in whatever capacity God desired. Ananias would not allow evil personal thoughts to hinder preaching by Saul.

Be like Ananias. Be willing to forgive those who have done evil in the past but now are willing to live for Christ. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

*Mark McWhorter (Gospel Gazette Online, July 2021)*

## Celebrate

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

## Records

	July 25, 2021	August 1, 2021
Bible Class	40	31
AM Worship	45 + [7]	40 + [7]
PM Worship	46 + [4]	36 + [6]
Wednesday PM	29 + [3]	27 + [4]
Contribution	\$1,899	\$2,060





	This Week: 8/8/21	Next Week: 8/15/21		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	<b>August 2021</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Rudloff <b>Clean Building:</b> Wilcox / Milam  <b>September 2021</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Rudloff	
<b>Greeters</b>	—	—		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum, Randy Huckaby Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards	Dex Dennard*, Ryan Settles Don Smith, Tom Wilcox		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	Kyle Duaine		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	—	—		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Chase Churchwell (Mk. 8:31-38)	John Barnum (Mk. 9:2-13)		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	Dex Dennard		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	August 11 James Fuller	August 18 Dex Dennard	August 25 Don Smith	September 1 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 August 8, 2021

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 16:8*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Leviticus 22:1*

<p><b>The Case for the Existence of God (Part 1)</b>                  One of the "laws" of logic is the <i>Law of the Excluded Middle</i> – all precisely stated propositions are either true or false, they cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same fashion. Either God exist or He does not.</p> <p><b>Cause and Effect – The Cosmological Argument</b></p> <p>I. <b>The Law of Cause and Effect</b> (the Law of Causality) – every material effect must have an adequate antecedent cause.                  A. A cause must have an effect; an effect must have a cause.                  B. Causes never occur after the effect.                  C. The effect never is superior to, or greater than, the cause.</p> <p>II. <b>What caused the Universe?</b> – there are only three possible answers:                  A. <i>The Universe is eternal</i> – it always had existed and always will exist;                  B. <i>The Universe is not eternal</i> – it created itself out of nothing; or                  C. <i>The Universe is not eternal, and did not create itself out of nothing</i> – rather, it was created by something (or Someone) anterior, and superior, to itself.</p> <p>III. <b>Is the Universe Eternal?</b>                  A. This is the most comfortable position for the unbeliever – it avoids the problem of beginning or ending (the need for a "first cause").                  B. As "comfortable" as it may be, no scientist can support this position.</p> <p>IV. <b>Did the Universe Create Itself Out of Nothing?</b>                  A. A clear violation of the First Law of Thermodynamics – neither matter nor energy may be created or destroyed in nature.                  B. The idea is absurd, both philosophically and scientifically.</p> <p>V. <b>Was the Universe Created?</b>                  A. The only remaining alternative – the Universe was created by something that: existed before it, is superior to it, and is of a different nature from it.                  B. The choice is between <i>matter only</i> and <i>more than matter</i> as the fundamental explanation for the existence and orderliness of the Universe.                  1. Time, chance, and the inherent properties of matter; or                  2. Design, creation, and the irreducible properties of organization.</p> <p>The Universe is here; intelligent life is here; morality is here; love is here. What is their adequate antecedent cause? The Cause of life must be a living Intelligence which itself is both moral and loving.                  "In the beginning, God," makes known to us just such a First Cause.</p>	<p><b>Near Caesarea Philippi: Jesus' Death Foretold</b>                  (Mt. 16:21-28; Mk. 8:31 – 9:1; Lk. 9:22-27)</p> <p>I. <b>Jesus' First Clear Prediction of His Death</b> (Mt. 16:21-23; Mk. 8:31-33; Lk. 9:22).                  A. Jesus had just announced the establishment of His church.                  1. However, there could be no church without His death.                  2. The time had therefore come for Him to tell His apostles that He must die.                  B. This event marks a turning point in the teaching of the apostles.                  1. "From that time" Jesus speaks openly about His impending death.                      a. The apostles have now come to an understanding of Jesus as Messiah,                      b. Jesus must now begin to reorder their thinking about the nature and work of the Messiah.                  2. "Son of Man" – 81x in the Gospels – only by Jesus in reference to Himself.                      a. Daniel 7:13-14.                      b. Blending of human/divine attributes – an allusion to the incarnation.                  3. Both Matthew and Mark tell how clearly Jesus spoke.                      a. Matthew – "show" – "to point out, to demonstrate with evidence."                      b. Mark says Jesus spoke "openly" [plainly].                  4. Jesus' death was necessary ("must") – to fulfill God's plan – to pay for our sin.                  5. The clarity of Jesus' statement did not make it easier for the apostles to understand and accept.                  C. Peter took it upon himself to correct ("rebuke") Jesus.                  D. In turn, Jesus rebuked Peter: "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."</p> <p>II. <b>Some Implications of Discipleship</b> (Mt. 16:24-28; Mk. 8:34-9:1; Lk. 9:23-27).                  A. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross [daily] and follow Me."                  B. "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." (The first clear prediction of the Second Coming.)                  C. "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."                  1. On the Jewish feast of Pentecost, the power of the HS came upon them.                  2. Jesus fulfilled His promise to build His church/kingdom.</p>
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