

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 15, 2021

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

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

I Believe that I Believe

I remember a conversation years ago between two people. One asked, "I'm just curious, but do you have faith?" "Oh yes," the other answered, "I have faith. I believe." The first then asked, "Well, what is it you believe?" The answer was, "I believe what the church believes." "Well," the first person said, "What is it the church believes?" "Oh, the church believes what I believe," was the answer. Still not satisfied, the first person pressed on. "Okay, but what is it that you both believe?" The response? "Oh well, you know, we both believe the same thing."

There are those who claim to believe but aren't sure what it is they really believe. I'm sure in the Lord's church there are those who genuinely and sincerely read the Bible daily and seek to take its principles and precepts to heart. They seek to allow God to work through His Word to transform their lives. How many, though, would reflect the attitude of culture, speaking reverently about Scripture but do not really know the transforming power of Scripture in their personal lives? How many believe but don't know what it is they should believe or how they should respond to what they believe?

The problem is not just a lack of knowledge of Scripture but a disconnect between what the Bible teaches and how a person goes about making the decisions that guide his or her actions in life. So, one must know what it says for there to be real faith. Yet, faith without transformation is useless. Jesus asked, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46). Saving faith, a relational faith with God and Christ, is never simply a mental acknowledgment of the truthfulness of Scripture, but it is a submission by faith to the life it demands. "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself" (James 2:17).

We could play out the scenario with which we started the article and find out if one just believes in believing or has a genuine faith in the spiritual, in God and His will for life. "Do you believe?" "Oh, yes, I certainly believe." "Do you faithfully worship God and fellowship your brothers and sisters in Christ?" "Well, not necessarily, but I believe in that." "Do you take advantage of opportunities to serve others?" "I do believe that is important, but I have a busy schedule." "Do you spend time in God's Word and try to apply it in your own life situations?" "I believe in that too, but doing it, not so much." If we objectively examine our faith and how we live, what would we find? Do we just believe in believing, or do we have a real faith that acts? "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

Perhaps the greatest challenge we have as Christians is what Paul noted in Romans 12:2. "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." We must spend time in Scripture so God can transform us from the image of the world around us into His image, but that transformation won't happen if we have no idea of into what it is we are to be transformed. Even if we know what it says, its power to transform can't be energized in us if we won't do it. Even of Christ the writer of Hebrews said, "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Do you believe? What is it you believe? Do you believe in believing, or do you have a faith that will respond in doing? One will save, the other will not. Choose wisely. "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Robert Johnson (Gospel Gazette Online, Aug. 2021)

Arguing with God

Arguing with God is an extremely bad idea! It's an argument one simply cannot win. Sadder yet, passing from life to death with an unresolved and ongoing argument with God is eternally lethal – a fate far worse than death.

There are several incidents recorded within the Scriptures that essentially represent arguments between humans and God. Beginning with Adam and Eve, things have never fared well for anyone who violated God's instructions or in essence argued with God (Gen. 3). Eventually, nearly the entire human race was expunged from the face of the earth in the universal flood in the days of Noah and his family (Gen. 6-8).

Later, not even the Israelites – a favored nation with God – refrained from arguing with God. Notable examples during the 40-year wilderness wandering include: complaints on the western shore of the Red Sea as the Egyptian army neared (Ex. 14:10-12); complaints about the availability of water (Ex. 15:24; 17:2; 20:1-5) and food (Ex. 16:2-3, 12-13); the Golden Calf idol (Ex. 32); profane fire kindled by Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-2); dissension of Aaron and Miriam against Moses (Num. 12); refusal to enter Canaan and determination to return to Egypt (Num. 14:1-4); Korah's rebellion (Num. 16); Moses' sin at Kadesh (Num. 20:10-13); complaints against God that prompted Him to send fiery serpents among the people (Num. 21:4-9); and fornication and idolatry in Moab (Num. 25). Failing to follow divine instructions, God responded on one occasion, "...How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?" (Ex. 16:28).

The nation of Israel continued to argue with God even after entering the Promised Land of Canaan. First, there was the memorable sin of Achan (Josh. 7). Generally speaking, Israel failed to complete the conquest of Canaan, which resulted in hundreds of years of reprisals by remaining previous inhabitants (Judg. 1:27-36). For over 300 years after entering Canaan, during the time of the Judges, Israel repeatedly wavered between obedience and disobedience toward God, for which cause God allowed the former occupants of Canaan to afflict Israel

and to require tribute. The circumstances were no better following the Judges and during the time of the three kings of the united kingdom of Israel. After the split between the ten northern tribes (Israel) and the balance of the nation (Judah), sinful arguments with God (rampant disobedience) led to the conquest of Israel by Assyria (721 B.C.) and the overthrow of Judah by Babylon (587 B.C.).

Though today God may not exact immediate punishment upon disobedient souls, nevertheless, the Judgment is coming to all (Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10). Every act of disobedience, either of commission or of omission (Jas. 4:17), is essentially an unfruitful argument with God. It is going to end badly for everyone who enters into eternity with an unresolved argument with God (i.e., acting out disobedience). "...It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on **those who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thess. 1:6-9; cf., 1 Pet. 4:17).

Whatever divine instructions may be entertained, the choice is always to obey or not to obey. Disobedience of any sort (e.g., ignoring, directly challenging, subtraction from or addition to God's Word, or any other modification of biblical instruction) amounts to an argument with God. One's complaint lies not with faithful teachers of God's Word, but truly complaints to any biblically true proclamation are assaults rather against God Himself. "...What are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord" (Ex. 16:8; cf., 1 Thess. 4:8).

If God had asked for my preferences, I would have made some recommendations about what constitutes Christian worship. However, God neither consulted with me nor with any other human prior to stipulating the activities and mindset of Christian worship. Christian worship must be "in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). Had God

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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. 15 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 45 (video)

Aug. 16 1 Kings 3-4; Psalm 46

Aug. 17 1 Kings 5-7; Psalm 47

Aug. 18 1 Kings 8-9; Psalm 48 (video)

Aug. 19 1 Kings 10-11; Psalm 49

Aug. 20 1 Kings 12-13; Psalm 50

Aug. 21 1 Kings 14-17; Psalm 51

Aug. 22 1 Kings 18-20; Psalm 52

"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 **27** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **World Bible School** will be here **two weeks from today** for an informative presentation about the work during our Bible class time, and a teacher training session in the afternoon.
- ◆ A big **“Thank You”** to everyone who helped with the Summer Youth Series Tuesday evening. As usual, it was great and enjoyed by all.
- ◆ Keep our students and teachers in your prayers, as public **school begins this week.**

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ 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. 3-6—**Annual Lubbock Lectureship.** Theme: *“A New Heaven and a New Earth”*
- ◆ Oct. 7-9—**Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**
- ◆ Oct. 10-13—**Gospel Meeting @ Bangs** w/ John Hall
- ◆ Oct. 16-17—**Back to the Bible Lectures @ Hamilton.** Theme: *“Precious Book Divine”*

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sought my opinion about church organization, Christian doctrine, salvation or a host of other matters, I might have been so brazen and foolish enough to offer a few suggestions. God did not, though, approach me or any other mortal for guidance on these things or on anything else.

The Bible is God’s final, absolute, complete and divinely inspired Word – His verbal communication to mankind. As communication, it was **intended to be understood** by the original recipients of the various books and epistles that comprise the 66 books of the Bible. Students of the Scriptures today ought to understand no more and no less than what God expected the original addressees to understand. *“...No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Pet. 1:20-21). Finally, in the Christian Age, all humankind must turn to the New Testament for answers regarding Christianity (Rom. 7:6; Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14).

Remember, arguing with God is an extremely bad idea! It’s an argument one simply cannot win.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Aug. 2021)

Is Wanting the Same as Getting?

Did you ever want something with such a desire that you could hardly think of anything else? Did you always get everything you wanted? The Bible tells us of a man who stated that whatever he wanted was not withheld from him. If you are a Bible student, you know this man was Solomon. Yet, in all that he had, he did not find happiness.

Now a big question. Do you want to go to Heaven when this life is over? There is a song we used to sing where I grew up. Part of it stated, *“...when the saints go marching in; Lord, I want to be in that number...”* Only a fool would not want to go to Heaven. However, just wanting it does not give assurance that it will be a reality. Jesus gave a plain and simple answer to the question of who will be in the heavenly kingdom. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). The fact remains that just **wanting** to go to Heaven will not get us there. Some of us are old enough to remember the lyrics of an old spiritual that said, *“Everybody talkin’ about it, ain’t gonna be going there...”* Do you want to go to Heaven? I mean, **do you really want to go to Heaven?** If so, you had better become a student of God’s Word and obey it.

Ernest S. Underwood (Gospel Gazette Online, Aug. 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

	August 1, 2021	August 8, 2021
Bible Class	31	39
AM Worship	40 + [7]	50 + [7]
PM Worship	36 + [6]	40 + [5]
Wednesday PM	27 + [4]	30 + [5]
Contribution	\$2,060	\$2,131

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 8/15/21	Next Week: 8/22/21			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	<p>August 2021 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Rudloff Clean Building: Wilcox / Milam</p> <p>September 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Rudloff</p>		
Greeters	_____	_____			
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum			
Communion	Dex Dennard*, Ryan Settles Don Smith, Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards			
Closing Prayer	Kyle Duaine	Ryan Rudloff			
Attendance Cards	_____	_____			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Dex Dennard			
Opening Prayer	Chase Churchwell	James Fuller			
Scripture Reading	John Barnum (Mk. 9:2-13)	Randy Huckaby (Mt. 17:14-21)			
Communion	Dex Dennard	Ken Maninger			
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Tom Wilcox			
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 18 Dex Dennard	August 25 Don Smith	September 1 Prayer Night	September 8 John Barnum	

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 15, 2021

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 16:13*
 Wed. Class *Leviticus 23:1*

<p>The Case for the Existence of God (Part 2)</p> <p>One of the laws of thought employed in the field of logic is the <i>Law of Rationality</i> – that one should accept as true only those conclusions for which there is adequate evidence.</p> <p>Design in Nature – The Teleological Argument</p> <p>"Teleology" has reference to purpose or design. Thus, this approach suggests that were there is purposeful <i>design</i>, there must be a <i>designer</i>. The theist's logical argument may be presented as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the Universe shows purposeful design, there must have been a designer. The Universe does show purposeful design. Thus, the Universe must have had a designer. <p>I. Design of the Universe.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our Universe operates in accordance with exact scientific laws. We live in a tremendously large Universe. Yet, while the size itself is impressive, the inherent design is even more so. Can a person reasonably be expected to believe that these exacting requirements for life as we know it have been met "just by accident"? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The statistical improbability of the Universe "just happening by blind chance" is staggering. The only alternative is an Intelligent Designer – God. <p>II. Design of the Human Body.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The human body may be considered at four different levels: <i>Cells</i>, which represent the smallest unit of life; <i>Tissues</i> – groups of like cells carrying on the same kind of activity; <i>Organs</i> – groups of tissues working together in unison; and <i>Systems</i> – groups of organs carry out specific bodily functions. Cells have three major components: a <i>cell membrane</i>, a three-dimensional <i>cytoplasm</i>, and the <i>nucleus</i>. The <i>nucleus</i> is the control center of the cell, and contains the genetic machinery of the cell (chromosomes and genes containing DNA). "The information content of a simple cell has been estimated as around 10¹² [one trillion] bits...." (Carl Sagan). <p>The only one who seem to "have difficulty understanding the tremendous order and complexity" found in the Universe are those who "[do] not like to retain God in their knowledge" (Rom. 1:28).</p>	<p>The Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-13; Mk. 9:2-13; Lk. 9:28-36)</p> <p>I. The Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> About a week after Peter's great confession, the "inner three" are taken aside for this momentous revelation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Luke connects Jesus death prediction and the Transfiguration together. The two must stand together. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suffering is often a prerequisite of, or even the passage to, victory. The Transfiguration is a reminder of Jesus' future glory, at a time when the disciples are discouraged by Jesus' imminent suffering. This privacy with the three provides an appropriate setting for prayer. The time is probably late evening. As Jesus is praying deep into the night, while His best friends sleep, His appearance changes. Moses and Elijah appear, talking with Jesus. The focus of their discussion is Jesus' departure. Peter, in classic form, attempts to hold onto this golden moment. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He makes a bad suggestion based on fear – "let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." It ignored the supremacy of Jesus and would have hindered the progress of Jesus' mission. Peter is interrupted by a cloud and a voice – "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" The message is clear: Jesus is superior to Moses and Elijah. The three "fell on their faces and were greatly afraid," but Jesus "touched them and said, 'Arise, and do not be afraid.'" <p>II. Discussion of the Coming of Elijah (Mt. 17:9-13; Mk. 9:9-13; Lk. 9:36b).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus commanded the three, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead." The apostles still don't know what Jesus means by "rising from the dead." Even more perplexing was the "coming of Elijah." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus explained that John was the coming "Elijah," and, thus, "Elijah" had already come. As the people had rejected and killed "Elijah," so they would do with the Messiah.
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