

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 22, 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

Faithfulness Is Not Impossible

Of all the discouragements a Christian must face, perhaps none surpasses the apostasy of once faithful brethren. The Christian is discouraged when he sees how error has gradually infiltrated and overcome congregations with whom he could once assemble and worship in spirit and in truth. The Christian is discouraged when colleges and schools of preaching that once served as spiritual lighthouses within their geographic regions now disseminate liberalism and Biblical agnosticism. The Christian is discouraged when children of God in whom he once placed the utmost confidence have lost all trace of conviction in the Gospel to which they once clung tightly. Such disappointing departures can cause a Christian to wonder: "If all these brethren cannot remain faithful, how can I? Is a life of faithfulness impossible?" Undoubtedly, such discouragement has caused some to throw in the towel, as they finally conclude, "Yes, a lifetime of faithfulness is more than I can give." Or perhaps they redefine *faithfulness*, reasoning, "What the Bible teaches as faithfulness is more than God can reasonably expect." Then they happily clear their newly lowered bar of "faithfulness," which actually places them in the realm of faithlessness. They begin fellowshipping doctrinal error, ignoring immorality, and generally not living very differently from the rest of the world; all the while convincing themselves that they are sufficiently faithful.

However, faithfulness—that is, true faithfulness—is not impossible, even in this age of apostasy, liberalism, and doubt. One can continue to follow the "old paths" (Jer. 6:16) that faithful Christians followed in times past. Let us consider a few reasons we can know that faithfulness is not impossible.

Because God Has Told Us What We Must Do

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). One can lament that we live in an age of apostasy, but not that we live in an age without access to the Word of God. Bibles are more readily available and affordable than at any other time in history. And by reading and heeding, one can still be a *"perfect...man of God...thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* The Lord's *"divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* (2 Pet. 1:3), and that applies to life and godliness in every year, generation, century, and millennium as long as the world stands. Even if others lose sight of following God, *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city"* (Rev. 22:14).

Because God Warns Us What We Need to Avoid

The world is a spiritual minefield, capable of destroying souls attempting to pass through to the other side. But in His Word, God has shown us where all the *mines* are. He warns us to avoid false teachers and teachings (Matt. 7:15; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 9-11), hatred (Gal. 5:20; 1 John 4:20), unbelief (Heb. 3:12; 4:11), enthrallment with human philosophy (1 Cor. 3:18-20; Col. 2:8), dimming of the spiritual perception (Eph. 4:18-19; 1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:13), fornication (1 Cor. 6:18; Heb. 13:4) and other sinful lusts (Matt. 5:27-29; 2 Tim. 2:22; 2 Pet. 2:11), fearfulness (Matt. 25:25; Rev. 21:8), responding in anger (Eph. 4:26, 31), foul language (4:29; Col. 3:8), and other sins and stumbling blocks that endanger the soul. Perhaps it may seem a bit much to avoid it all, but we can indeed *"cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Cor. 7:1). This brings us to another assurance that faithfulness is not impossible.

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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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Because God Does Not Demand the Impossible

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). God does not expect people to do anything they cannot do. God expects Christians to be faithful in the midst. Jesus exhorted the church at Smyrna, and consequently all Christians, “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Jesus’ primary point was not that one needs to be faithful until he dies, but rather that one must be faithful even if it costs him his life. However, if this teaches explicitly that one must be faithful regardless of the cost, it teaches implicitly that one must be faithful regardless of the duration; a teaching affirmed in numerous other passages (Rom. 2:6-7; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 3:14; 10:35-39). Additionally, God demands faithfulness regardless of how many others may depart from faithfulness: “For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you” (1 Cor. 11:19; compare with 1 John 2:19). God expects us to “preach the word” when people no longer want to hear it, and when the few faithful Christians are being **killed** for their faithfulness (2 Tim. 4:1-8). Since God demands a life of faithfulness, and God does not demand the impossible, one can live a life of faithfulness from the time he puts on his Lord in baptism until the time his spirit departs the body for the beyond.

Because God Has Recorded Historical Examples of Faithfulness

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). The word for *patience* in this verse means “the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty” and can be translated “patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness,” or “perseverance.” So, when Paul speaks of the “*patience of the scriptures*,” he speaks of “the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty” that the Scriptures provide. One of the most powerful ways the Scripture provides the capacity to hold out or bear up is through its historical examples of faithfulness:

*Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which **endure**. Ye have heard of the **patience of Job**, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy (Jas. 5:10-11).*

As Jesus gave the exhortation to the church at Smyrna to “*be faithful unto death*,” He shortly followed the command with an example: “*I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth*” (Rev. 2:13). Many of the greatest heroes of Biblical history are those who remained faithful to God despite widespread apostasy, such as Noah, Elijah, and countless other prophets. Their lives serve as a testimony that faithfulness is not impossible.

Because the Blood of Christ Can Cleanse Any Willing Soul

Sometimes one can be discouraged by the overwhelming power of temptation and sin. One’s past love for the Lord may have waned, and he may view himself as being past restoration to that first love. But as the hymn proclaims, “There is power in the precious blood of the Lamb.” “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Just as that power in the blood is available for the alien sinner willing to believe the Gospel of Christ, repent of sin, confess Christ, and be baptized for the remission of his sins (Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 22:16; compare with Rev. 1:5), the power in Christ’s blood is available for the child of God who gives in to temptation or goes astray: “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:7, 9). One who is “*far off*” from the Lord, and thus “*without hope*,” can be “*made nigh by the blood of Christ*” (Eph. 2:12-13). The blood of Christ brings **redemption**, purchasing our ransom from the slavery of sin (1:7; compare with Rom. 6:16-18). That blood brings **justification**, rendering a “not guilty” verdict from the judge (5:9). That blood brings “**boldness to enter into the holiest**” (Heb. 10:19). That blood purges one’s conscience from dead works that he may again serve the living God (9:14). God does not allow acquiescence to sin, but He makes provisions for His children who do—He demands faithfulness, and the blood of Christ will do the rest. No matter how numerous or egregious may be the sins in one’s life, he can be forgiven.

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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. 22 1 Kings 18-20; Psalm 52
Aug. 23 1 Kings 21-22; Psalm 53
Aug. 24 2 Kings 1-4; Psalm 54
Aug. 25 2 Kings 5-8; Psalm 55
Aug. 26 2 Kings 9-12; Psalm 56
Aug. 27 2 Kings 13-16; Psalm 57
Aug. 28 2 Kings 17-19; Psalm 58
Aug. 29 2 Kings 20-22; Psalm 59

“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 **20** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **World Bible School** will be here **next Sunday** for an informative presentation about the work during our Bible class time, and a teacher training session in the afternoon. We will have burgers for lunch, then begin the training session right after we eat. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for lunch items.
- ◆ **September 5th**, we will be starting a **“Pew Packers”** class before our Sunday evening service. It will begin at 5:30, and go for about 20-25 minutes. It is primarily for the kids, but all are welcome.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ September 26—**Cherokee Home for Children** update presentation.
- ◆ October 17-20—**Fall Gospel Meeting** w/ Ross Haffner. *“Teach me about Forgiveness”*

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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Because God Is Right

Regardless of how many may deviate from God’s way, God’s way is still the right way. As the psalmist praised:

Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous And very faithful. My zeal hath consumed me, Because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. Thy word is very pure: Therefore thy servant loveth it (Psa. 119:137-140).

Yes, the psalmist was very discouraged by those who had *“forgotten”* God’s words. However, he never lost his certainty that God was right and continued to follow Him. We must not concern ourselves with obtaining or being part of the largest following (John 12:42-43; Gal. 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:20; 1 John 5:19). *“Forsake the foolish, and live; And go in the way of understanding”* (Prov. 9:6). *“As for God, his way is perfect: The word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in him”* (Ps. 18:30). God’s commandments are mandatory. His warnings are invaluable. His promises are certain. One who sides with God may not be on the side of the human majority, but he can know he is right. God is always right!

Conclusion

Perhaps the thoughts of this article are obvious and rudimentary. However, when one considers the numerous brethren who have lost heart at least partly because of the apostasy of others, it is apparent that some are missing the obvious and forgetting the rudimentary. Yes, a lifetime of faithfulness is rare—it is the exception, not the rule (Matt. 7:13-14). However, it **can** be done and **must** be done— let us avail ourselves of the provisions and promises God makes, that we may finish our course with joy and faithfulness: *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (2 Tim. 1:12).

Lee Moses (Defender, Aug. 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

	August 8, 2021	Aug. 15, 2021
Bible Class	39	35
AM Worship	50 + [7]	41 + [8]
PM Worship	40 + [5]	31 + [5]
Wednesday PM	30 + [5]	33 + [7]
Contribution	\$2,131	\$1,472

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 8/22/21	Next Week: 8/29/21			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<p align="center">August 2021 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Rudloff Clean Building: Wilcox / Milam</p> <p align="center">September 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Rudloff</p>		
Greeters	—	—			
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith			
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards	Randy Huckaby*, Ryan Settles John Barnum, Coyce Reed			
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Dex Dennard			
Attendance Cards	—	—			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Johnny McCaghren	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Ken Maninger			
Scripture Reading	Randy Huckaby (Mt. 17:14-21)	Ryan Rudloff (Mt. 17:24—18:10)			
Communion	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby			
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Chase Churchwell			
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 25 Don Smith	September 1 Prayer Night	September 8 John Barnum	September 15 Ryan Rudloff	

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 22, 2021

Sunday Class I Corinthians 16:16
 Wed. Class Leviticus 23:23

<p>The Case for the Existence of God (Part 3): Morality and Ethics</p> <p>I. Morality and Ethics.</p> <p>A. Morality is "the character of being in accord with the principles or standards of right conduct."</p> <p>B. Ethics is "the discipline dealing with what is good and bad or right and wrong; a group of moral principles or a set of values."</p> <p>1. Ethics, then, "is generally viewed as the system or code by which attitudes and actions are determined to be either right or wrong."</p> <p>2. Put another way, "Ethics is the science of conduct, and the fundamental problem of ethics is determining what constitutes proper conduct."</p> <p>C. Morals and ethics are universally accepted traits among the human family, and, therefore, must be explained.</p> <p>D. There are but two options: Either morality and ethics are <i>theocentric</i> (they originated from the mind of God as an external source of infinite goodness), or they are <i>anthropocentric</i> (they originate from man himself).</p> <p>II. The Practical Impact of Morals and Ethics Without God – One Example.</p> <p>A. We routinely put animals "to sleep."</p> <p>B. If man is "just an animal," why should he be treated any differently when his life no longer is deemed worth living?</p> <p>C. Life – from an evolutionary vantage point – is completely expendable.</p> <p>III. Morality, Ethics, and the Existence of God.</p> <p>A. "Morals arise only in man.... And the workings of the universe cannot provide any automatic, universal, eternal, or absolute ethical criteria of right and wrong" (Simpson).</p> <p>B. Morality simply cannot survive if its ties to religion are cut.</p> <p>C. Only the theocentric approach to this problem is consistent logically and internally; it is the only approach that can provide an objective, absolute set of morals and ethics.</p> <p>D. True morality is based on the fact of the unchanging nature of Almighty God.</p> <p>1. There is within us a sense of moral responsibility derived from the fact that God is our Creator and that we are fashioned in His spiritual image.</p> <p>2. Whatever God does, commands, and approves is good.</p> <p>3. The basic thrust of God-based ethics concerns the relationship of man to the One Who created and sustains him.</p>	<p>Healing a Demon-Possessed Boy, and Another Prediction of Jesus' Death (Mt. 17:14-23; Mk. 9:14-32; Lk. 9:37-45)</p> <p>I. Healing a demon-possessed boy (Mt. 17:14-21; Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:37-43).</p> <p>A. When Jesus reached the foot of the mountain, He immediately found Himself in another emotional valley – triggered by the inability of His disciples to heal a demon-possessed young man (Mt. 17:14-16).</p> <p>B. Jesus' question, "What are you discussing [arguing about] with them?" is met with silence by all involved. The poor father finally breaks the silence.</p> <p>C. The description of this boy is pathetic: dumbness, seizures, loss of oral control, rigidity.</p> <p>D. The apostles had been unable to drive out this demon.</p> <p>E. The distraught father is a pathetic picture.</p> <p>1. "If You can do anything..."</p> <p>2. "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"</p> <p>F. Jesus wants to quickly close this incident before it causes any more of a stir.</p> <p>1. Jesus identifies the spirit by what it was causing and ordered it out.</p> <p>2. The demon has no alternative but to obey.</p> <p>3. The crowds are amazed at the power of God.</p> <p>G. The Nine ask Jesus, "Why could we not cast it out?"</p> <p>1. Their problem was the littleness of their faith.</p> <p>2. Even the barest minimum of faith ("a mustard seed") would overcome the big problems (i.e., "mountains").</p> <p>3. What would have helped the 9 was prayer.</p> <p>II. Returning to Galilee – and Another Prediction of Jesus' Death (Mt. 17:22-23; Mk. 9:30-32; Lk. 9:43-45).</p> <p>A. This is a critical period for the apostles.</p> <p>1. Jesus has revealed, as never before, His glory and His impending death.</p> <p>2. The Twelve do not understand, and it is imperative that they do.</p> <p>B. We now hear the second clear prediction of Jesus' death.</p> <p>1. Matthew says "on the third day"; Mark says "after the third day."</p> <p>2. "Let these words sink down into your ears" (Lk. 9:43).</p> <p>3. Luke ties this passage to the previous miracle (Lk. 9:43).</p> <p>4. "Betrayed" – "delivered."</p> <p>5. The apostles still do not catch the full meaning of Jesus' prediction.</p>
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