

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



September 5, 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

Never Too Lost to Be Saved

With keen interest, I observed on social media recently the statement, "Nobody is ever too lost to be saved." How true! Yet, Christians generally are not as accepting as they ought to be toward some people who have repented of their sins. In a sense, God looks at all sins similarly in as much as any sin for which a sinner does not repent will cause him or her to be lost eternally (Rom. 3:10, 23). Even a sin less obnoxious to human sensitivities – like telling a lie – can keep a soul out of Heaven (Rev. 21:8). Note that Jesus Christ classified liars alongside of murderers, the sexually immoral, practitioners of witchcraft and idol worshippers. However, God hates some sins more than He despises other sins, and He refers to them as abominations (Prov. 6:16-19); lying is in this list, too.

Nevertheless, it is not the telling of a lie on which we want to focus our attention presently. Instead, let's notice from Scripture some penitent souls whose former sins, which if they were the sins of people today, that church members would be reluctant to forget, though God chooses to forget sins for which contrite souls repent (Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17).

First, consider 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, which reads:

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither **fornicators**, nor **idolaters**, nor **adulterers**, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites** [male prostitutes], nor **thieves**, nor **covetous**, nor **drunkards** [intoxicated ones], nor **revilers** [verbally or physically abusive persons], nor **extortioners** will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Not only our children, but others outside our families are candidates for conversion by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not only people like us in race, economics, academics and education are suitable persons to whom we need to take God's Word. Not only so-called good, moral people need God's forgiveness (and forgiveness by Christians) when they repent, but so do prostitutes, homosexuals, drunkards, the drug addicted "and such like" (Gal. 5:19-21), when they obey the Gospel (Rom. 6:17).

Despite the Corinthian Christians having been fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, male prostitutes, thieves, covetous, drunks, abusive people and extortioners, through their obedience of the Gospel, they were **washed** in the blood of Christ, **sanctified** and **justified**. Those precious penitent souls had some horrific backgrounds prior to becoming Christians. Yet, they comprised "the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Cor. 1:2). The Godhead accepted them (1 Cor. 6:11) on the basis of their Gospel obedience, and we, today, need to accept as brethren anyone and everyone who renders obedience to the Gospel. As mortals, we are not in a position to act as though we are omniscient and pass judgment (Jas. 4:11) on a person's sincerity or the genuineness of his or her Gospel obedience. Anything that God has chosen to forget is not something that we ought to remember **against** another; prudence, though, might well lead the church to refrain from appointing a brother to be the congregational treasurer since he embezzled the Lord's money previously when he was the treasurer formerly.

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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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Secondly, consider passages that show the apostle Paul in his earlier days, when he was better known as Saul of Tarsus (Acts 7:58; 9:11), was a murderer (Acts 9:1; 22:4) in his zealous persecution of Christians. Others he dragged from their homes to prison (Acts 8:3). Can you imagine the reluctance of Christians to accept Paul as a brother in Christ, as well as to forgive him for the rough treatment, imprisonment and death of their Christian families and friends?

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. (Acts 9:26-28)

Barnabas and the apostles accepted the converted former persecutor, but other Christians “attempted to kill him” (Acts 9:29).

It is no wonder, then, that Saul – the apostle Paul – worked for the Lord more efficiently among the Gentiles rather than among the Jews and Jewish Christians.

But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. (Gal. 2:7-9)

Not only so, but the apostle Paul became as zealous a promoter of Christianity as he had been before an opponent of it. “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of

God which was with me” (1 Cor. 15:9-10). The apostle Paul’s ministry included penning more epistles than any other divinely guided writer of the New Testament. All Christians today are indebted to the apostle Paul, though he had been a murderer and a persecutor of the Lord’s church.

Therefore, from the two biblical scenarios above, we can discern that the vilest of sinners can obey the Gospel of Christ. In so doing, God will forgive them and forget their sins. Hence, Christians, too, ought to forgive those who obey the Gospel and not hold their former sinful lives **against** them. Even people whose sinful pasts are the most revolting to us, once converted, may prove to be champions of the Christian faith. In a sense, in God’s eyes, every accountable soul has by his or her sin been repulsive to Him (Isa. 59:1-2). Happily, we have a God who is willing to forgive us of our sins and to forget them. May every Christian imitate God by forgiving and forgetting the sins of everyone who obeys the Gospel of Christ.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept. 2021)

You Almost Persuade Me to Become a Christian

Herod Agrippa II might have been the subject of tabloid headlines, if such had existed in his day. His constant companion was his sister, Bernice. He spent most of his early years in the imperial household in Rome. Claudius, emperor of Rome, ultimately appointed him king over Chalcis, a small realm on the western slope of the Anti-Lebanon.

Herod’s encounter with Paul came when he and Bernice went to Caesarea to salute the newly appointed governor, Festus. Paul’s challenging lesson on Jesus led him to say, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian” (Acts 26:28). The power of the apostle’s message arose from three important points.

First, Paul appealed to the Bible and known truth. He referenced Moses and the prophets (Acts 26:22-23). He said Agrippa knew about Jesus and His resurrection because everything happened in the open for all to see. He asked, “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe” (Acts 26:25-27).

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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/

Sept. 5 1 Chronicles 14-16; Psalm 66
Sept. 6 1 Chronicles 17-19; Psalm 67
Sept. 7 1 Chronicles 20-22; Psalm 68
Sept. 8 1 Chronicles 23-25; Psalm 69
Sept. 9 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 70
Sept. 10 2 Chronicles 1-3; Psalm 71
Sept. 11 2 Chronicles 4-6; Psalm 72
Sept. 12 2 Chronicles 7-9; Psalm 73

“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 **21** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today—all are invited.
- ◆ **“Pew Packers”** will begin **this evening at 6:00pm.** (Sorry for the changes, but it is a work in progress!) This new class will focus on the children, but is for the whole church. It will last about 10 minutes. Our Sunday evening service will begin immediately after.
- ◆ **Covid numbers** are the highest since the start of the pandemic. We are not changing anything, but please be mindful of personal space and physical contact.
- ◆ We received a nice card this week from **Marcia Turnbull.** It is on the bulletin board.

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. 25-29—**Ladies’ Day & Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo) w/ Matthew Gibson (Wendy Gibson—ladies’ day). *“The Simplicity of Truth.”*
- ◆ 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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Second, Paul persuaded men. Herod’s words refer to that persuasion. He similarly sought to persuade the people of Antioch in Pisidia, Corinth and Ephesus (Acts 13:43; 18:4; 19:8). The apostle’s enemies even realized that was his purpose. Demetrius told his fellow silversmiths, *“Moreover you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands”* (Acts 19:26).

Third, Paul wanted men to be Christians – not almost but altogether (Acts 26:29). Each must do the will of God, thus showing personal faith (Matt. 7:21; Jas. 2:17). Self must be put to death and life must be lived for Christ (Gal. 2:20). We need to imitate Paul in these areas so lost men and women today can be persuaded to become Christians.

Gary C. Hampton (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept. 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

	Aug. 22, 2021	Aug. 29, 2021
Bible Class	42	39
AM Worship	49 + [8]	44 + [12]
PM Worship	25 + [6]	29 + [8]
Wednesday PM	28 + [5]	27 + [5]
Contribution	\$1,497	\$1,940

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 9/5/21	Next Week: 9/12/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	<p style="text-align: center;">August 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Reed</p>	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Dex Dennard*, Chase Churchwell Don Smith, Coyce Reed	James Fuller*, John Barnum Randy Huckaby, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Dex Dennard		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Chase Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 8 John Barnum	September 15 Johnny McCaghren	September 22 Don Smith	September 29 5 th Wednesday Video

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 September 5, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians: Introduction
 Wed. Class Leviticus 24:22

<p>"Help My Unbelief!" (Mt. 17:14-20; Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:34-43)</p> <p>When the man asked the Lord to heal his son, Jesus replied, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." That is when the man cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" No topic is more central to Christianity than <i>faith</i> – and no need is more crucial than the <i>strengthening of faith</i>.</p> <p>I. A Test of Faith (Mt. 17:14-18; Mk. 9:14-27; Lk. 9:37-43).</p> <p>A. A Feeble Boy.</p> <p>B. A Frustrated Teacher.</p> <p>C. A Faltering Father.</p> <p>D. A Faith-Inspiring Demonstration.</p> <p>II. The Power of Faith (Mt. 17:19-21; Mk. 9:28-29).</p> <p>A. A Lack of Faith.</p> <p>B. A Lapse in Prayer.</p> <p>III. The Source of Faith.</p> <p>A. Sources of Doubt.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The problem of evil.</u> <u>The impotence of disciples.</u> <u>The attacks of the world.</u> <u>The reality of self.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced faith – faith experienced from their parents and others. Affiliated faith – faith that comes from affiliating with those who have faith. Searching faith – faith struggling to become a personal faith. Owned faith – personal faith – developed successfully beyond the searching/struggling level. <p>B. Sources of Faith.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Learning.</u> <u>Living.</u> <u>Leaving and leaning.</u> <p>We cannot wait until our lives are out of control to develop a strong personal faith. The time to build faith is now.</p>	<p>Teaching on the Necessity of Childlikeness (Mt. 18:1-14; Mk. 9:33-50; Lk. 9:46-50)</p> <p>I. Discussions about Who Is the Greatest (Last week).</p> <p>II. Hindering Other Workers in the Kingdom (Mk. 9:37-41; Lk. 9:49-50).</p> <p>A. Each of the Synoptics illustrate the <i>theology of humility</i> in its own way.</p> <p>B. "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me" (Mk. 9:37).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> John interrupted, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us" (Lk. 9:49). Jesus answered John, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side" (Mk. 9:39-40). <p>C. "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Mk. 9:41).</p> <p>III. Causing a Little One to Stumble (Mt 18:6-11; Mk 9:42-50).</p> <p>A. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Mt. 18:6; see Mk. 9:42).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. ... If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. ... If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you..., rather than..., to be cast into hell fire—where Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:43-48). "For everyone will be seasoned with fire" (Mk. 9:49). "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another" (Mk. 9:50). (If the apostles continued to argue among themselves, they were in danger of losing their saltiness – become of no use.) <p>B. "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 18:10).</p> <p>IV. One Lost Sheep (Mt. 18:12-14; cf. Lk. 15:3-7).</p> <p>A. This parable is repeated in Luke 15:3-7, but in an entirely different context.</p> <p>B. God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).</p>
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