

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 13, 2020

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..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

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

How to Shine in a Dark World

The world in which we live has always been dark. Since the fall of humanity in Genesis 3, sin has been in the lives of people and destroying those who submit to sin rather than God. Though we may look at our current times as intensely dark and sinful, the things being done today should come as no surprise to the student of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:13). Jesus told His disciples that they were to be different. He wants us to shine our lights in this world so God our Father will receive the glory (Matt. 5:16). The idea of shining our light is normally taken to simply mean Christians should be good examples. Most certainly, Christians should be examples, but in what ways? How can we practically let those around us know that this world is not our home? I believe there are practical ways that we can let our light shine, which will catch the attention of those around us (Phil. 2:14-16). Near the end of 1 Thessalonians, Paul gave several commands that we should take to heart and adopt. When we examine 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22, I think we get a clear picture of how we can shine our light in a world that desperately needs it.

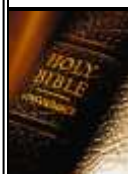
Always Rejoice (1 Thess. 5:16)

Paul told the Thessalonians to rejoice evermore (KJV) or to rejoice always (NKJV). This does not mean that Christians never experience sadness. We do, but our overall disposition should be one of constant joy (Rom. 12:15). We can have an abiding joy that is more permanent than momentary happiness because we know that God is in control of the world. We rejoice "in the Lord" at all times (Phil. 4:4). When we consider God reigning in Heaven, we can have joy even when many others think the sky is falling. In a world overrun with bad news, those of us who have the good news should demonstrate it by not being downcast or sullen but instead by rejoicing continually (2 Cor. 6:10). Many people in our world seek joy through substance abuse, perfect circumstances or material possessions. We should be paving the way to show others that true and lasting joy is tied to our relationship to God, not to things of the world.

Paul previously praised the Thessalonians for being examples to all of those around them because of their conversion (1 Thess. 1:8-10). They would continue to be examples if they demonstrated persistent rejoicing in a world of persistent negativity and pessimism. We should sing with joy (Jas. 5:13). Most importantly, we should share the good news of forgiveness with joy in our hearts (Eph. 1:7). Jesus told us that we could be of good cheer because He overcame the world (John 16:33). **If our joy is full, it will spill over into every area of**

(Continued on page 2)

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



"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me."
John 8:44-45

(Continued from page 1)

our lives. Our friends, neighbors and relatives will take notice (1 John 1:4). We will be able to point them to Jesus, who is the True Light, when they see the light in us (John 1:4).

Pray Incessantly (1 Thess. 5:17)

Paul’s command to pray without ceasing is easy to quote and hard to practice. Our light will shine brightly in this dark world if we actually take the Holy Spirit’s words seriously and pray constantly. When we see crisis in our world, we should be those who fall on our knees in prayer before we do anything else. Instead of posting on social media about all that is wrong, we should be praying to the One who can make it right. Rather than pouting about how terrible things in the world have become, we should be petitioning God to allow us to continue to spread the Word freely, which can change hearts (2 Thess. 3:1). The Colossians were told to be steadfast in prayer (Col. 4:2). The Romans were admonished to be constant in prayer (Rom. 12:12). The darker things get, the more we have about which to pray. We should accompany our prayers with action as we have the opportunity to put our faith into operation.

Yet, we should always remember that prayer is in itself an action. When we pray, we involve the God of the universe Who can do the most about our situation. People should hear Christians say, “I’m praying for you.” When people express fear and anxiety about the events in the world, we should be saying, “I’m praying and trusting the Lord.” **If we are just as faithless and overwhelmed as unbelievers, we will never draw them closer to God. Prayer must not be regulated to a last resort. Prayer is our first line of defense as we boldly approach the throne of grace and find the help that we need** (Heb. 4:16).

Be Thankful (1 Thess. 5:18)

One thing that sets Christians apart from the world is our attitude of thankfulness. We are told to “*give thanks always and for all things to God the Father in the name*

of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20). Paul told the Thessalonians that it was the will of God for them in Christ Jesus to give thanks (1 Thess. 5:18). In a world of gripes and ungrateful people, we can shine our light if we fail to voice our complaints. The New Testament describes the worldly person as ungrateful (2 Tim. 3:2) and unthankful (Rom. 1:21). It is not that we do not see things that enrage us or wish things were different, but we know things could always be worse. Also, we appreciate that God can use anything to His ultimate good (Rom. 8:28). Practice gratitude. Do not just feel thankful inside but express it to God and to others. It will be impactful. Gratitude shows that we know we are undeserving of God’s blessings, and we want to thank Him for them. Count your many blessings and name them one by one. It may help someone else count theirs, too.

Love Good & Refrain from Evil (1 Thess. 5:19-22)

The last few verses in this section deal with our relationship to the truth of God’s revelation. We should not quench the Spirit or put out His work (1 Thess. 5:19). We should not despise prophecy (1 Thess. 5:20). We need to test everything and hold to what is good (1 Thess. 5:21). Lastly, we must abstain from evil in every avenue it appears (1 Thess. 5:22). One could summarize Paul’s thoughts here by saying we should love the good and refrain from the evil (3 John 11). Paul wanted the Thessalonians to treat the Word of God properly and reject everything that was opposed to it.

Much of what on which people meditate today is contrary to the Word of God. The nightly news can keep us informed, but it will not help us to be conformed to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:17-18). **If we love the things that God loves and reject the things He hates, people will know that we are different.** Shining our light in this dark world is not about being an example in a general way. There are concrete and specific ways by which we can announce to the world that our citizenship is in Heaven. Study 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22. Go and do likewise.

Hiram Kemp (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept., 2020, p. 5)

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. 13 2 Chron. 10—12; Psalm 74
Sept. 14 2 Chron. 13—15; Psalm 75
Sept. 15 2 Chron. 16—18; Psalm 76
Sept. 16 2 Chron. 19—21; Psalm 77
Sept. 17 2 Chron. 22—24; Psalm 78
Sept. 18 2 Chron. 25—27; Psalm 79
Sept. 19 2 Chron. 28—30; Psalm 80
Sept. 20 2 Chron. 31—33; Psalm 81

“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 **38** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ God has blessed us with much needed rain!
- ◆ Next week, Dr. Charles Hall will be here filling in for Johnny. He will bring all three lessons Sunday.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Oct. 1-3—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat.
- ◆ Oct. 17-18—“Back to the Bible” Lectures @ Hamilton.

Doors in the Word of God

Doors in the Word of God can be hopeful or hopeless. Unfortunately, man sometimes closes a door against the Lord. How often do we limit God by refusing to let Him in? The rich young ruler turned away from the Lord rather than sell his possessions and give the money to the poor (Matt. 19:22). The people of Jerusalem would not get close to the very Lord who came to deliver them words of truth (Matt. 23:37). The church in Laodicea heard the Lord say, “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me*” (Rev. 3:20). It is sad to think an assembly of Christians would not let the Lord inside.

Our loving Father has promised to give His children protection. The story of Noah includes, “*So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in*” (Gen. 7:16). Behind that door, Noah, his family and the animals he had taken in remained safe, while all other flesh died. The devil correctly charged God with putting a protective barrier around Job (Job 1:10). Even in times of temptation, He will provide a way of escape (2 Thess. 3:3; 2 Pet. 2:9; 1 Cor. 10:13).

Paul understood it is within the power of the Sovereign of the universe to give His people a door to tell the good news. God placed doors before the apostle in Ephesus and Troas (1 Cor. 16:8-9; 2 Cor. 2:12). Christians need to pray for contact with seeking souls today.

Each of us has an important choice to make. We can close the door against God, losing the many blessings He has promised. Or, we can obey Him and find doors closed around us to keep us safe. Additionally, those choosing God’s protection must ask for open doors to tell others the Gospel. “*Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had **opened the door of faith to the Gentiles***” (Acts 14:27).

Gary C. Hampton (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept., 2020, p. 3)

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: James Fuller (6), **Gene Bannister (16)**, **Connie Reed (16)**, Glenda Milam (24).

September Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...

Records

	Aug. 30, 2020	Sept. 6, 2020
Bible Class	43	27
AM Worship	48 + [10]	34
PM Worship	39 + [3]	28
Wednesday PM	35	26
Contribution	\$2,025	\$1,856

	This Week: 9/13/20	Next Week: 9/20/20			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	September 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family October 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren		
Greeters	—	—			
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Rafe Smith			
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Dex Dennard Coyce Reed, Rafe Smith	John Barnum*, Chase Churchwell James Fuller, Ryan Rudloff			
Closing Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Dex Dennard			
Attendance Cards	—	—			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Randy Huckaby			
Scripture Reading	—	—			
Communion	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Don Smith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 16 Rafe Smith	September 23 Video	September 30 Don Smith	October 7 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 September 13, 2020

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 12:10*
 Wed. Class *Exodus 21:20*

Satan / The Devil / "The Ruler of the Demons"

- I. **Satan is God's Enemy.** (Mt. 13:37-39)
 - A. Man is insignificant to Satan – simply a means to an end.
 - B. While Satan clearly hates humanity, especially "the sons of the kingdom," his enemy is God and his work is trying to overthrow God.
- II. **To understand the devil, we must understand the mystery.**
 - A. If Satan is to be understood, he must be studied and understood in light of the mystery of God – the working of God's plan.
 - B. Satan is on his way to defeat from the time he is introduced to humanity.
- III. **The Devil's Origin.**
 - A. There are 4 natures revealed in Scripture – divine, angelic, human, animal.
 1. Satan is not divine, human, or animal; thus, he must be angelic.
 2. He is created.
 3. He is associated with angels.
 - B. As an angel, he is greater in power and might than men – but absolutely subject and submissive to God.
- IV. **The Devil's Devices** – "...for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11).
 - A. **He lies** – in essence that that is all he does.
 - B. **All of Satan's lies fall within 1 of 3 categories:** "the lust of the flesh," "the lust of the eyes," or "the pride of life" (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
- V. **The Devil's Limitations.** (Job 1:6-8)
 - A. Notice first of all, who is appearing before whom (6).
 - B. **He is not omnipresent.**
 - C. **He is not omniscient.** (Job 1:9-11)
 - D. **He is not omnipotent.**
- VI. **The Devil's Defeat.**
 - A. Satan never had a chance – God has no rival.
 - B. When the Messiah came to earth, He demonstrated His power over the spirit world – demons.
 1. Jesus will bind the strong man (Mt. 12:24-29).
 2. Jesus came to destroy the devil (Heb. 2:9-15).
 3. "the accuser ... has been cast down" (Rev. 12:10).

God's children do not have to live in fear of Satan. He has been defeated. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7).

Jesus' First Disciples, First Miracle, and First Residence (Jn. 1:35 – 2:12)

- I. **Jesus' 1st Disciples (In Judea)** (Jn. 1:35-51).
 - A. The following day, after John's proclamation "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!", John was with two of his disciples.
 1. One of the two disciples with John was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
 2. The other was probably John, the writer of this Gospel Account.
 - B. As Jesus walked by, John again said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (36).
 1. His two disciples followed Jesus and spent the day with Him (37-39).
 2. Andrew found his brother Simon and brought him to Christ (40-42).
 - a. "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ) (41).
 - b. When Jesus met Simon, He told him that he would be called "Cephas." It is likely that John's statement that "He first found his own brother..." is suggesting that Andrew was the first to go get his brother while John was the second to go get his brother (James).
 3. The next day Jesus called Philip.
 - a. Philip immediately found Nathanael and brought him to Jesus (45-46).
 - b. Jesus astonished Nathanael by revealing details of his character and his life (47-49).
 - C. Thus, Jesus gained His first small band of disciples (see Jn. 2:2).
- II. **Jesus' 1st Miracle (At Cana in Galilee)** (Jn. 2:1-11).
 - A. Jesus and His disciples headed north to Galilee.
 - B. They had come to attend a wedding at Cana (1-2).
 1. Jesus' mother, Mary, was also present (1).
 2. In the midst of the celebration, the refreshments ran out.
 - a. Mary came to her Son and said, "They have no wine" (3).
 - b. Jesus' answer is significant: "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come" (4).
 - c. Mary told the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it" (5).
 3. He then performed the well-known miracle of turning water to wine (6-10).
 - C. Quietly, almost unnoticed, Jesus had begun to flex His spiritual muscles.
- III. **Jesus' 1st Residence at Capernaum (In Galilee)** (Jn. 2:12).
 - A. In addition to His disciples, His mother and brothers are traveling with Jesus.
 - B. Capernaum was a busy commercial city on the Sea of Galilee.