

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 27, 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

Is the Gospel Still Relevant Today?

For the past two years there has been one unread text message on my phone. It is from August 7, 2018. My brother in Christ, Brandon, sent a message that simply says "Thanks!". I met Brandon just a few days before that. He had met a Christian businessman in central Texas who moved out to San Angelo. After finding some online resources and studying for himself, Brandon reached out to his friend who reached out to me. Brandon was a wealthy, single man of about 50 who drove a fancy car and had a huge heart. On Saturday, August 4, two of us sat down at the church building and studied with Brandon for the better part of two hours. We studied the power of God (Gen. 1; Rom. 1:18-20), the character of God (Exo. 3:1-6, 34:6-7; 1 Pet. 1:16; 1 Jn. 4:16); the nature of sin (Isa. 59:1-2; Hab. 1:13; Rom. 3:23, 6:23); the deity, humanity, and humility of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11; Jn. 1:1-27); and the sufficiency of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Then, we took a long, hard, honest look at how the Scriptures, the gospel, could change Brandon's life (Rom. 1:16-17). He clearly understood that the saving blood of Jesus could wash him clean (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:27). After dozens of questions about the Christian life that were answered from the Bible and a long discussion about repentance (Acts 17:30-31), Brandon was baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4). He followed the New Testament commands (Acts 2:37-38) and the example of conversion (Acts 8:31-35). The gospel changed Brandon. His heart had been softened, the soil was honest and good, and the seed of the kingdom produced fruit. Two weeks later, Brandon left Bible class not feeling right and passed away at his home. A middle-aged man with a big bank account, a fancy car, and stories to tell counted those things as refuse for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. Is the gospel relevant today? It is to the man who searched his whole life for meaning and only found its purpose just a few weeks before he died.

One year (2010 I think) while doing campaign work in Jamaica, I hired a local Jamaican to drive for us. Soon after I met Mr. Butler, I learned he was a Christian who had left the church—a backslider in local terminology. Mr. Butler quietly drove us around from Bible study to Bible study.

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And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Matt. 28:18-20**

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

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Soon, he noticed some differences in our team and the tourists he regularly drove around. We dressed differently. We talked differently. We laughed and cried about different things. He saw that we were trying very hard to live the gospel and to teach it to the lost souls in Jamaica (Rom. 12:1-2). A few days in, Mr. Butler began asking questions, began attending the nightly gospel meetings, and coordinating some of our Bible studies to be more efficient. Before the week was over, he was restored (1 Jn. 1:8-10). He knew that tomorrow is never promised but Christ is indeed coming again (Jas. 4:14; 2 Pet. 3:10). The Jamaicans love to sing choruses like “give me that old time religion; it’s good enough for Jesus it’s good enough for me!” Is the gospel still relevant today? It is to my brother and co-worker who saw the gospel lived out and changed his life.

The same gospel that converted Saul from killer to Christian brought a Catholic into Christ after he visited the McCarty Center Center nearly a decade ago. He now labors as a preacher near Houston. The same gospel that gave hope to the Philippian jailor when he was in despair was (and is) very relevant to the young lady I studied with a few years ago when she chose to turn from the world of promiscuity, drug use, and worldliness. She and her husband are committed to faithfully serving the Lord. The examples, named and unnamed, could go on and on. I’ve watched the power of the gospel as I have sat across the table from agnostics, atheists, apathetics, sinners, backsliders, and devout denominationalists. An open bible and an open mind are powerful tools when used in tandem. The same gospel that was saved souls in Israel, Thessalonica, and Rome two thousand years ago still changes hearts, lives, and eternities in the US, Jamaica, Paraguay, Cambodia, Singapore, and across the world. I know, I’ve seen it with my own eyes.

Sin still separates, souls are still lost, God still reigns, the blood still saves, Christ is still coming, and the gospel is still relevant.

Trent Kennedy (Christian Worker, Sept. 2020, p. 1, 7)

There is Still Power in the Blood

The well-known hymn declares, “There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood of the Lamb.” As we study the New Testament, we identify numerous benefits of the blood of Christ.

1. **It has reconciling power.** The Gentile Ephesians were at one time “*aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise*” (Eph. 2:12), but they were “*made nigh by the blood of Christ*” (2:13); they were reconciled unto God by the cross (2:16). Even “*when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son*” (Rom. 5:10).

2. **It has redeeming power.** The very reason Jesus shed His blood and gave Himself for us is “*that he might redeem us from all iniquity*” (Tit. 2:14). The only thing valuable enough to redeem us back into God’s favor is “*the precious blood of Christ,*” Who is “*a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1:18-19).

3. **It has remitting power.** The blood of Christ is powerful enough to release us from the debt of our sins (Acts 2:22- 38). As the song says, “He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed someone to wash my sins away. And now I sing a brand new song—Amazing Grace—Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay!”

4. **It has cleansing power.** Jesus “*loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood*” (Rev. 1:5). John wrote of those who “*washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*” (7:14). Zechariah foretold that a fountain would be opened for sin and for uncleanness (Zech. 13:1). That fountain was opened on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and it has been flowing ever since. Consequently, we can triumphantly sing, “There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel’s veins. And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains!” Only the blood of Jesus is powerful enough to wash away our sins. Thus, we sing, “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”

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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. 27 Nehemiah 9—11; Psalm 88

Sept. 28 Nehemiah 12—13; Psalm 89

Sept. 29 Esther 1—5; Psalm 90

Sept. 30 Esther 6—10; Psalm 91

Oct. 1 Job 1—4; Psalm 92 (video)

Oct. 2 Job 5—8; Psalm 93 (video)

Oct. 3 Job 9—11; Psalm 94

Oct. 4 Job 12—15; Psalm 95

“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 **43** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat** is this Thursday through Saturday at Brady. Several of our ladies are going. I know they will be blessed.
- ◆ Our **Gospel Meeting** is only two weeks away! **Denny Wilson** will be our speaker. The theme will be “The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ: *Seven Sayings on the Cross.*”

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Oct. 17-18—“Back to the Bible” Lectures @ Hamilton. “*The Preciousness of Preaching.*”
- ◆ Oct 18-21—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Kerry Clark. “*7 Keys to Personal Growth.*” Flyer on bulletin board.

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5. It has sanctifying power. The Hebrews writer observed in Hebrews 9:13-14: “*For if the blood of bulls and of goats and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” Thus we read, “*Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate*” (13:12).

6. It has justifying power. Paul expressly affirms that we are “*justified by his blood*” (Rom. 5:9). We are “*justified*

freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood...” (Rom. 3:24-25). This passage leaves no doubt concerning what it is that justifies us—it is the blood of Christ.

7. It has purchasing power. The blood of Christ purchased the church of Christ (Acts 20:28). One cannot be saved apart from the blood of Christ, but since the blood purchased the church, one cannot be saved without being a member of the blood bought church of Christ.

Conclusion

The blood of Christ was shed so that all people of every kindred, tongue and nation might be saved (Rev. 5:9). The only beneficiaries of the blood of Christ are those who contact it by obedience to the gospel. The controversy has to do with when the blood of Jesus is applied to our sin stained souls.

The prevailing teaching among denominations is that, when one says the sinner’s prayer, he is saved. However, the fabled “sinner’s prayer” is a concoction of the doctrines and commandments of men. Where is the verse where an inspired preacher ever instructed a sinner to say the sinner’s prayer in order to be saved?

Peter did not invite the hearers on Pentecost to bow their heads and invite Jesus into their heart. Rather, he commanded them to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The blood of Christ is what gives us remission of sins (Mt. 26:28) and being baptized in water, as a penitent, confessing, believer, is when this remission of sins is granted. The blood of Christ is what washed Saul’s sins away (Rev. 1:5), but Saul’s baptism in water (preceded by his faith and repentance) is when they were washed away (Acts 22:16). The blood of Christ is what purges our conscience from sins (Heb. 9:14), and the moment when we, as penitent, confessing, believers, are baptized is when we obtain that good conscience (1 Pet. 3:21).

Some falsely accuse us of believing in “water salvation.” In truth, we believe in “blood salvation.” However, just as Naaman had to dip in water in order to contact the power of God to wash away his leprosy (2 Kgs. 5), we must, as penitent, confessing, believers, be dipped in water to contact the blood of Christ and enter the church of Christ.

B. J. Clarke (Christian Worker, Sept. 2020, p. 3)

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14).

October Anniversaries: Rafe and Becky Smith (16), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Sept. 13, 2020	Sept. 20, 2020
Bible Class	37	37
AM Worship	45 + [7]	39
PM Worship	28 + [4]	30
Wednesday PM	34	22
Contribution	\$1,471	\$2,277

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 9/27/20	Next Week: 10/4/20		
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	John Barnum	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	Dex Dennard*, Randy Huckaby Coyce Reed, Don Smith	James Fuller*, John Barnum Chase Churchwell, Rafe Smith		
Closing Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Dex Dennard		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Dex Dennard	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 30 Don Smith	October 7 Prayer Night	October 14 Gospel Meeting	October 21 Dex Dennard

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 27, 2020

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 12:13*
 Wed. Class *Exodus 22:1*

Honesty in Proverbs

- I. **Dishonesty for the Sake of Gain.**
 - A. "Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His delight" (11:1).
 - B. God demands His people deal honestly in business (16:11; *LEV. 19:35-36, DEUT. 25:13-16*).
 - C. All those who would resort to dishonesty in business are an abomination to the Lord (11:1; Deut. 25:13-16).
- II. **Dishonesty That Perverts Justice.**
 - A. No human system of justice, even ancient Israel's, can produce justice when its participants substitute dishonesty for the truth.
 - B. "A faithful witness does not lie: but a false witness will utter lies" (14:5).
 1. Honesty is not situational, and it is not relative.
 2. A man who cannot be relied on *always* to tell the truth cannot be relied on ever to tell the truth.
 - C. "A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow" (25:18).
 - D. One can pervert justice/practice dishonesty by remaining silent (29:24).
 - E. What about those who sit in judgment of such matters? "To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress" (28:21).
- III. **Dishonesty's Bitter Fruit.**
 - A. As viewed by our fellowman: "Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain" (25:14).
 - B. More importantly, as viewed by God: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (12:22).
- IV. **Dishonesty's Taproot Motive.**
 - A. "He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself" (26:24).
 - B. "A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin" (26:28).
- V. **Exhortation to Honesty.**
 - A. "Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way" (23:19).
 - B. "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Rev. 21:27).

The First Passover of Jesus' Ministry (John 2:13 – 3:21)

- John alone allows us to date Jesus' ministry based on the various feasts he attended. This first Passover Feast of Jesus' ministry is most likely in the spring of A.D. 27.
- I. **Cleansing the Temple** (Jn. 2:13-25).
 - A. Two occurrences of cleansing the temple, open and close Jesus' public ministry.
 - B. The corruption.
 1. As Jesus walked into the temple, it looked and smelled like a stockyard/circus.
 2. Temple commerce had resulted from the coming of Jews from all over the world for the major Jewish feast days (see Acts 2:5, 9-11a).
 - a. What may have originated as a service to world-travelers, had deteriorated into a money-making scheme controlled by the priests.
 - b. The transactions were evidently carried on in the Court of the Gentiles.
 - C. The cleansing.
 1. When Jesus enters the temple, He is immediately enraged.
 2. The first public act of Jesus made a statement concerning His zeal for God's will.
 3. It also made a statement regarding His God-endorsed authority (Mt. 3:17).
 - D. While Jesus was in Jerusalem, He did His first public miracles.
 - II. **Teaching Nicodemus** (Jn. 3:1-21).
 - A. "A ruler of the Jews" named Nicodemus came to see Jesus one night.
 - B. Jesus knew why Nicodemus had come.
 1. The Jewish leader evidently had questions about the Messianic kingdom.
 2. He also had the common Jewish misconceptions of the kingdom.
 - C. Christ answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (3).
 1. The figure of being "born again" expresses the dramatic change that must characterize anyone who would be Jesus' disciple.
 2. Christ's purpose was not to outline the conditions of discipleship.
 - a. After the church was established, no one was ever told to "be born again" to become a Christian. (They were told to believe, repent, and be baptized.)
 - b. When they obeyed these commands, they were "born again" (1 Pet. 1:22-23).
 - D. Jesus' purpose was to emphasize that the Messianic kingdom was not an earthly kingdom entered by an earthly birth (as the kingdom of Israel had been).
 - E. Jesus' basic message is followed by an extended "reflective" section.
 1. The lesson to be learned is this: In order to truly understand the heart of God, we must listen and submit to the person of Jesus.
 2. This section includes the so-called "golden text of the Bible" – John 3:16. (This text does not contain all we need to know about salvation; it is, however, a beautiful and powerful statement concerning God's love for us.)