

# 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



October 4, 2020

## 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..... 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

## Masked In Church: An Age-Old Problem

No, this isn't an article about whether you should wear a face mask into the church building or not. This is instead about the metaphorical masks we've always worn – the masks that show a brave face and a well-put-together life, regardless of circumstances. The mask we wear when we answer "How are you doing?" with "Great!" – even when we are the furthest thing from great.

On a given Sunday, different men and women in the church family are struggling with strained relationships, financial concerns, besetting sin problems, worry or fear about health concerns, nervousness about upcoming work or school challenges, and any other number of difficulties. But, due to habit, a lack of time and privacy in the church foyer, pride, or whatever other reason, when asked, we all say it: "I'm doing well!"

We then go home to resume the battles on our own, despite the fact that we weren't equipped to fight it on our own. That mask must come off if we are ever to get the help we need. Naturally, there are two steps to this process.

### Let others lean on you.

Listening is a lost art. Because we all need someone to hear our problems, it takes focus and a love for others to keep from dominating conversations with stories about ourselves. But just about everybody has something they are struggling with. Many don't have anyone they can turn to. Be willing to be that person for others, restoring the sinful (Jas. 5:19-20), rejoicing with the rejoicing and weeping with the weeping (Rom. 12:15), bearing their burdens (Gal. 6:2). [Note: One should use wisdom and caution in becoming a confidant for someone of the opposite sex, especially when one or both are married.]

However, as difficult as it may be at times, being there for others is far easier for many of us than opening up and showing our own weaknesses.

### Lean on others.

The COVID experience alone has been enough to break a lot of people down. Safety concerns, financial concerns, loneliness, and the resulting depression and anxiety are weighing on a lot of us. Having been largely isolated all this time, the easiest thing to do is to keep trying to fight on our own. What we must do instead is take our masks off and let others see and share in our struggles.

We do not want to be seen as weak, even though it's only when we accept our weakness that we can begin to be strong (2 Cor. 12:9-10). For example, a drowning person who is still thrashing against the water is far harder to rescue than a person who has lost their strength. Jesus died for the helpless (Rom. 5:6-8). That's why the Gospel is such good news – we don't have to keep trying to prove ourselves as perfect, or even "good enough." It's when we admit that we aren't that we begin to move in the right direction. It's the same reason why the Beatitudes begin with the poor in Spirit. God desires people who have foregone their pride before Him and before others. In other words, God desires unmasked people.

As long as we are wearing our prideful masks before God and others, we cannot receive their help. Yes, it's humbling to admit to a sin problem. It's not fun to ask for help. But others can't bear our burdens if we won't let go of the straps.

You don't have to open up to anybody and everybody. Going forward during the invitation isn't really the best way to receive help. But look for and pray for the people you can count on. When they ask you how you're doing, answer them honestly. If they are true servants of Christ, they'll be more than happy to lovingly help you through your struggles.

Take your mask off. You'll be glad you did.

Jack Wilkie (focuspress.org)

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

# Satan Loves Our Fear

“I’m just scared....”

How many sentences have you heard over the last few weeks and months that start with that phrase, or something very similar?

- “I’m scared about what will happen if Biden gets elected.”
- “I’m scared about what will happen if Trump gets reelected.”
- “I’m scared about what this virus is doing to our country.”
- “I’m scared that some people will never come back to church, even when the coronavirus has a vaccine.”
- “I’m worried about kids not having a regular school year again.”

Certainly, we could go on, but are these—and many, many other similar sentiments—commonly heard and shared with the world right now?

And I want to suggest that our enemy, the devil, loves it.

Now, I am not saying that we should have no concerns whatsoever in this world. Simply by living here, we must have concerns for health and safety and for our cities and nation. We are concerned with sicknesses and with safety and with the direction of our nation. Those are legitimate concerns, and we are right to try to do things that we think are wise and Biblical to help make things as good as they can be.

But ... to worry? That’s a different, and very dangerous, thing.

True worry is a sign that we no longer trust in the Almighty God. When we worry about everything, we are placing our trust in things of this world and not in the God Who created this world. We are thinking that we have to solve everything and not trusting that, with pa-

tience and prayer, God can help us seek better solutions.

Further, as Jesus Himself reminded us, worry really does no good anyway. *“And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”* (Matt. 6:27, ESV) When we worry, we take the focus off of God and place it on ourselves and other people ... and, maybe, that should worry us, because we aren’t that great at solving things without Him!

Also, worry is not something God gives us anyway! *“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control”* (2 Tim. 1:7). In context, Paul was telling Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God” (v. 6) so that young preacher would stay strong in the faith. Worry—or, as Paul put it here, “fear”—holds us back from that strength.

When we are filled with worry...

...we will be less likely to be evangelistic, because we will believe that no one wants to hear the Gospel anymore.

...we will waste time, because we will sit and stew over things we can’t change anyway, instead of reading our Bible, praying, or helping a neighbor.

...we will more easily give into other temptations, because we will be worried about what others think instead of what God desires.

...we will NOT be seeking first the kingdom, because our minds will be too centered on earthly things.

Yes, let’s be concerned and think through issues. Yes, let’s try to be wise and discerning in how we deal with various issues, from day-to-day pressures to huge and worldwide struggles.

But let’s not worry. Let’s focus on our main task, which is glorifying the only One Who is over all and in charge of it all.

*Adam Faughn* (faughnfamily.com)

## 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 (Gbn.tv.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/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Oct. 4** Job 12—15; Psalm 95

**Oct. 5** Job 16—19; Psalm 96

**Oct. 6** Job 20—23; Psalm 97

**Oct. 7** Job 24—27; Psalm 98

**Oct. 8** Job 28—31; Psalm 99

**Oct. 9** Job 32—34; Psalm 100

**Oct. 10** Job 35—37; Psalm 101

**Oct. 11** Job 38—42; Psalm 102

*“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 **55** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Our **Gospel Meeting** begins next Sunday! Flyers are available at the exits. Please take some and use them to invite others to come.
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal today** at noon. We will also have a fellowship meal next Sunday as we begin our gospel meeting.
- ◆ Our ladies that attended the Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat this week, all had an educational and encouraging time. They wanted to thank the elders and the congregation for paying their registration fee.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Oct. 12-15—Gospel Meeting @ Meridian w/ Mike Bonner.
- ◆ 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.

## God's Family Plan

	Jesus Said	Peter Preached	Other New Testament Writers
<b>Hear</b>	Matt. 7:21-27; Luke 6:46-49	Acts 2:14-36	Rom. 10:8-15
<b>Believe</b>	John 8:24; Mark 16:16	Acts 2:37 demonstrated	Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:13-14
<b>Repent</b>	Luke 13:3, 5	Acts 2:38	Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10, 2 Pet. 3:9
<b>Confess</b>	Matt. 10:32-33	Acts 2:37 demonstrated	Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10 Acts 8:35-38; 10:47-48; 16:25-34; 22:6-16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:12;
<b>Baptized</b>	John 3:5; Mark 16:16	Acts 2:38-41 Added to the Lord's	1 Pet. 3:21
<b>Result</b>	Saved, Mark 16:16; Sins remitted, Acts 2:38	church by Jesus Christ, Acts 2:41-47	Sins washed away, Acts 22:16; Rejoicing, Acts 8:39

## 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. 20, 2020	Sept. 27, 2020
Bible Class	37	36
AM Worship	39	42 + [4]
PM Worship	30	28 + [3]
Wednesday PM	22	24
Contribution	\$2,277	\$1,714



# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 10/4/20	Next Week: 10/11/20			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>October 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren <b>Clean Building:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren  <b>November 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, John Barnum Chase Churchwell, Rafe Smith	Randy Huckaby*, Dex Dennard Coyce Reed, Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dex Dennard	John Barnum			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Chase Churchwell			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Tom Wilcox			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	October 7 Prayer Night	October 14 Gospel Meeting	October 21 Dex Dennard	October 28 Don Smith	

## 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 October 4, 2020

Sunday Class ..... I Corinthians 12:18  
Wed. Class ..... Exodus 22:18

<u>"God So Loved the World"</u>	<u>First Ministry in Judea; Shift from Judea to Galilee</u>
<p><i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Jn. 3:16)</i></p> <p>This is likely the most popular text in the Bible – the "golden" verse. It is one of the greatest verses in the Bible for at least two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It touches on the entire scope of God's plan (though not all the details).</li> <li>• It is filled with words suggesting the most wonderful themes known to man.</li> </ul> <p>I. <b>"For God": The Greatest Being.</b> Speaking of God, Paul wrote that He "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..." (Eph. 3:20).</p> <p>II. <b>"So Loved": The Greatest Trait.</b></p> <p>A. Love is the greatest trait in the world: "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13).</p> <p>B. Ephesians 3:17-19 announces that God's love has dimensions: "... that you ... may be able to comprehend ... what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...."</p> <p>III. <b>"The World": The Greatest Company.</b> All who have lived, all who are now living, and all who will live in the future.</p> <p>IV. <b>"That He Gave": The Greatest Act.</b></p> <p>V. <b>"His Only Begotten Son": The Greatest Gift.</b> "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15).</p> <p>VI. <b>"That Whoever": The Greatest Opportunity.</b></p> <p>A. The provisions of God's love are for all.</p> <p>B. However, the word "whoever" places the responsibility on us.</p> <p>VII. <b>"Believes": The Greatest Foundation.</b></p> <p>A. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Heb. 11:6).</p> <p>B. Building on the foundation of faith, motivated by love, one will repent of his sins (Lk. 13:3), confess his faith before men (Mt. 10:32), and be buried in baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).</p> <p>VIII. <b>"In Him": The Greatest Attraction.</b> Our faith is in Christ.</p> <p>IX. <b>"Should Not Perish": The Greatest Tragedy.</b> Our obedient faith will prevent the greatest tragedy that can befall a man.</p> <p>X. <b>"But": The Greatest Difference.</b></p> <p>XI. <b>"Have Eternal Life": The Greatest Promise.</b></p> <p>Here is the heart of the gospel story in a single verse:</p>	<p>I. <b>The First Ministry in Judea</b> (and further testimony by John) (Jn. 3:22-36).</p> <p>A. After the feast in Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples moved into the Judean countryside to preach and teach.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are given two bits of information concerning this period.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus "remained with" [was spending time with] His disciples.</li> <li>He "baptized" as His forerunner had done.</li> </ol> </li> <li>John's popularity was falling off as quickly as Jesus' was growing.</li> </ol> <p>B. Some Jews confront John's disciples about the issue of purification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Likely about the nature of John's baptism and the forgiveness of sin.</li> <li>Jesus' success was welcomed by John, but not by the disciples.</li> </ol> <p>C. Verses 27-36 contain the last recorded words of John the Baptist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They show John's dignity and Jesus' superiority.</li> <li>"A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven."</li> <li>John's picture of the bridegroom and his friend in v. 29.</li> <li>"He must increase, but I must decrease."</li> </ol> <p>D. Once again, John's theology of Jesus astounds us.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Here we have a fully developed understanding of Jesus' divinity and Sonship, as well as obedient faith in response to Him.</li> <li>John emphasized the importance of believing in Jesus as the Messiah.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concepts of believing and obeying are used interchangeably.</li> <li>The faith that saves is an obedient faith (Jas. 2:20; see Rom. 1:5; 16:26).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>II. <b>The Shift from Judea to Galilee</b> (Mt. 4:12; Mk. 1:14; Lk. 3:19-20; Jn. 4:1-45).</p> <p>A. <b>Reasons for the move to Galilee</b> (Mt. 4:12; Mk. 1:14; Lk. 3:19-20; Jn. 4:1-3).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus and His disciples had been enjoying success in Judea.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yet, at the height of this success, Jesus decided that it was time to leave Judea and go back to Galilee.</li> <li>Two factors contributed to the move at this particular time.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee" (Mt. 4:12; see Mk. 1:14).</li> <li>"The Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John..." (Jn. 4:1).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>"Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples)."</li> </ol>