

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 25, 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

Note: It is not our desire nor our right to tell anyone who to vote for in the upcoming election; however, it is our right and obligation to point out godly principles that should be considered. That is the purpose of this article and the one last week.

Johnny

Morality, Freedom, Politics

The election in November is by far the most significant in our life-time. Our very freedom as a people and nation is at stake. Our freedom to think for ourselves, decide for ourselves and live as we want is at stake. Life in America as we've always enjoyed it is being swept away by the corrupt system of Socialism, Marxism, Communism.

The agenda is to squash freedom. It is touted that we (the general population) are not smart enough to think on our own, to decide for ourselves, pursue a life of peace and happiness. The current system of socialism being promoted is Marxist to the core. They are here to bring chaos and destruction — to whip the population into subjection (to them of course). We must think what they tell us to think, promote what they tell us to promote, destroy what they tell us to destroy. And, of course, the new rules they propose do not apply to them. Their system imposes a “lock down” but they ignore it and go about their business as usual. It’s about control! The ONLY one to whom we submit and give complete control to every facet of our life is king Jesus (cf. Jn. 18:37). He’s the one who truly loves us. He is the true one that seeks our best interest.

If you prize freedom, then stand up for it by following the Lord’s example. Jesus prayed for unity, not division, screaming, yelling, violence, burning (Jn. 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10). Jesus is the prince of peace (Isa. 9:6). The Bible, His eternal word, is the Gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15). His people are citizens of peace, not anarchy (Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:3).

Jesus did not march in the streets instigating insurrection and riots of uncontrollable mobs, wrecking, destroying and burning everything around them. Huge crowds today roam the streets seeking to destroy, calling for anarchy, mayhem, lawlessness, disorder and chaos — even getting paid to do it. That’s not so with Jesus. When the political parties of His day set out to destroy Him, He didn’t fight back in a physical way. He didn’t lead protests against them. He didn’t resort to the same tactics they used. He would have no part of their wicked deeds. His behavior of peace fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4. *“He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory”* (Matt. 12:19-20).

Notice the key words of Matthew 12:19-20. “Strive” — Jesus did not engage in strife or wrangling. “Cry” — He would not scream, yell, and shout to incite violence. “Voice in the streets” — You won’t find Him as a rabble rouser stirring up trouble, riots, anarchy and cruelty. “Bruised reed” — He is gentle, kind, helpful. He would not continue to demolish even a damaged reed (staff). “Smoking flax” — He was so caring and tender that He would not even extinguish a smoldering wick of a candle in its last moments before going out.

The Lord’s mission was a mission of saving souls — redeeming those who wanted to be redeemed (Lk. 19:10). His church/kingdom is not a kingdom of this world (Jn. 18:36). It is not a political, military or social empire. This world is temporary. It’s a training ground for those who seek to imitate Him in every aspect of His life. If we don’t do it, we won’t go to heaven.

At the end of this world there’s a judgment day (cf. Heb. 9:27). Jesus came in the first century as a Savior (lamb). The next time He comes it will be as a Judge (lion). Notice the last phrase of Matthew 12:20 above — *“till he send forth judgment unto victory.”* When Jesus comes again, it will be *“...with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”* (2 Thess. 1:7-9, read 10-12 also).

Socialism, Marxism, Communism (call it what you will) is incompatible with decency, dignity, morality, justice, uprightness; in other words, everything that is right and true (the Bible). The vast majority of both academia and the media is complicit with tearing down and destroying this nation and the freedoms we hold dear. For the most part, we have the freedom to worship and call upon the Creator. But how long will that last? Their mission is to destroy this country, and supposedly, build it back like they want it to be — repressive, controlling, and dominating every facet of our righteous lives. They want to make the populace to serve them while they sit in their ivory towers living off the ignorant. They are making headway by blocking and denying every viewpoint of conservative, righteous and ethical thought and behavior the Bible teaches.

They believe in free speech, as long as they are the one’s doing the talking. They seek to suppress, crush and cancel every voice different from theirs. This denies our first amendment right of free speech. For example, earlier this year, without warning or notice, a Representative in the state of Tennessee since 1995, was removed from the ballot by the Democratic Party’s executive committee. One of its members stated that this representative wasn’t “exemplifying the basic Democratic principles.” They ruled he is no longer welcome in the Democratic Party. What was his crime that led to being banned

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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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from the party? It wasn't misconduct, embezzling or anything akin to it as others have done. It was simply because he opposes the killing of little babies (abortion) and sometimes works across party lines.

Does God care about **justice**? Absolutely! Abraham was commended for keeping "the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment" (Gen. 18:19). David likewise "executed judgment and justice unto all his people" (2 Sam. 8:15). Solomon was made king of Israel "to do judgment and justice" (1 Kgs. 10:9). It is said of the Lord, "Touching the Almighty...he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice" (Job 37:23). "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face" (Ps. 89:14).

Does God care about **human life**? Most certainly! Life is life. Every human life has a soul. One's skin color or uniform makes no difference, whether black, white, red, brown, blue or green. Jesus died for ALL mankind — color is irrelevant (Heb. 2:9). Jesus was neither black or white. Abortion mills are running feverishly every day filling dumpsters with baby parts and big money in the pockets of those who take part in making it happen! The death toll since 1973 is more than 61 million innocent babies. Will your vote support and defend their continued slaughter? God hates "hands that shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6:17). "Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person" (Deut. 27:25).

The media, one of the worst enemies of freedom in America today because of their promotion of the lies of humanism and evolution, are contributing to depravity, especially in the sexual programming and total disregard of things godly and right.

Wake Up America!

It's later than you think. This country is burning through the acts of anarchists and people across the nation are more interested in seeing "Dancing With The Stars" than they are in learning and heeding God's Eternal Word! Evil has existed from the beginning and every generation has its share. The Bible plainly tells us that when men forget God, God will forget them and send them out to their eternal reward of punishment (Ps. 9:17; 50:22; Hosea 4:6).

America as a nation is so quickly removing itself from any sense of moral uprightness and decency. It's been in the works for a long time and when it reaches its fullness, how long will God allow it stand? We've heard warning after warning about it from faithful Gospel preachers. Yet wickedness and corruption is growing at an alarming rate all across the land. The hearts of people are turned toward themselves and growing worse by the day. Unless the moral climate of this nation is turned around, the whole country will continue to be engulfed in the bitter spiral of decline, farther and farther into the pits of degradation. Yea, it's already here!

Evil and wickedness are engulfing the land in a more brazen fashion than we've ever seen in our lifetime. As it was in the days of Jeremiah 5:31, so it is in our day. "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" Isaiah 5:20 reads, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

What Is The Truth?

The Lord's church is not in a political party nor does it have a political position. It has a Bible position —governed by the Bible. The church's role is in the spiritual realm. Its work is in promoting and defending the Truth, the Word of God, the Gospel of salvation (Jude 3; Phil. 1:7,17). It's work is done in spreading the saving Gospel by teaching, encouraging the saints and helping the down-trodden and needy. It stands for truth and uprightness. It stands with God in using the sword of the Spirit to condemn evil wherever it is found. That's not politics, that righteousness. When men do evil, they can expect righteous men to oppose it and expose it (Eph. 5:11). When a person, a people or organization teaches, promotes, defends and practices evil, denying truth and righteous principles, those faithful in the Lord will speak out against it and teach the truth about it just as Jesus did (Matt. 23). You can't be faithful if you don't.

As the Lord's people are "color blind," they are also "political party" blind. So many political leaders do not want to have anything to do with God or righteous principles. So many within the Democratic platform have denounced God and say there is no room for Him in their party. Can you think of anything more blasphemous than that? But, it makes no difference whether such things are among Democrats, Republicans or Independents. Error must be exposed because **this is not a political issue. This is a biblical, moral, eternal issue.** These things affect the souls of men! Will you stand with the Lord or will you stand with party?

As Christians, we have the privilege to exercise our right at election time to vote for those candidates who have a moral sense of decency in following Biblical teaching and principles and oppose those candidates who do not. Don't leave your "Christianity" at home when you vote. It is strange indeed when people vote merely because of political party or a promise for "this or that." It's impossible to separate God from our actions. We don't love the Lord, nor are we His friend, when we do the very opposite His word teaches (Jn. 14:15,23; 15:14).

There is a vast difference between politicians and political parties regarding their stand on moral issues. The Democratic platform not only defends, it promotes the "right" of mothers to kill their babies (while still in the womb). Can a human being sink any lower than that? This is the most depraved, debased, immoral, wicked, evil, corrupt, behavior that can ever be imagined. It appraises and considers that unborn human life has no inherent, intrinsic, or fundamental value. Say what? Unborn children are worthless? They are considered to be like a "cancer" that is to be cut out at will! If this offends your sensibility, do you take comfort in the fact that, at least for now, killing little children is limited to those in the womb; and even killing them after birth in what's called a "botched abortion." Either way, they make sure the baby dies and is thrown out with the trash.

Do you realize that even members of the Lord's church (being more concerned with their political affiliation than God's truth) even lend their support to admitted humanists to lead our nation? When so-called "Christian" people act like that, what direction do you think the nation is going?

Do you recall what Jesus said when infants and little children were brought to Him? "And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come

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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/

Oct. 25 Isaiah 33—36; Psalm 116

Oct. 26 Isaiah 37—41; Psalm 117

Oct. 27 Isaiah 42—46; Psalm 118

Oct. 28 Isaiah 47—53; Ps. 119:1-60

Oct. 29 Isaiah 54—58; Ps. 119:61-120

Oct. 30 Isa. 59—62; Ps. 119:121-176

Oct. 31 Isaiah 63—66; Psalm 120

Nov. 1 Jer. 1—3; Psalm 121 (video)

"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 **31** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There are two **new Spiritual Swords** available on the back table: **“A Handy Guide to Pioneer Preachers”** (July) and **“Churches of Christ: Who Are We?”** (October)
- ◆ **Time Change—Next Sunday—Fall back 1 hour.**
- ◆ **Next Sunday** will be our **First Sunday Fellowship Meal.**

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ Nov. 15—Justin Hopkins—mission update.
- ◆ March 14-17—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jon McCormack

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unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Lk. 18:15-16). He didn’t consider them to be little blobs, lumps, tumors or a clump of cells. They were **INFANTS**. They were little **CHILDREN**. The Greek word for “babes,” “infants,” and “little children” includes both the born and unborn. Some of the women in the massage crowds that followed Jesus were surely pregnant. He was talking to them too (cf. Matt. 4:25; 8:1; 9:36).

There is nothing more innocent and precious than a newborn baby. But, are they not innocent and precious before they’re born? Who in their right mind would argue that is not so? When Mary visited Elizabeth we read: **“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy”** (Lk. 1:41-44).

Had Mary (mother of Jesus) and Elisabeth (mother of John the baptizer) lived today, would have either Jesus or John been born? Herod was of the political party who sought to kill Jesus as an infant (Matt. 2:13). To make sure the babe did not escape death, Herod ordered that all the children in Bethlehem, from two years old and under, be killed. Had he known Mary was the one to give birth to the savior, he would not have hesitated to kill her to make sure the child would never be born.

Aren’t you glad Herod did not kill Jesus as an infant or even before He was born? By what depraved thinking do millions consider it acceptable to kill unborn babies now? Out of sight, out of mind. That’s why abortionists desperately do not want mothers to see, to hear, or be educated about what they are doing to their baby. These expectant mothers would be appalled and surely would not go through with their murderous deed. Thousands have bemoaned the day they killed their baby.

Thousands and thousands run their political campaign on the promise of defending the “right” of mothers-to-be to kill their unborn child. God forbid! Such thinking as this is twisted and warped and void of any moral decency! Those who support and defend the practice of killing infant children is disastrous to the moral climate of our county and one’s own soul. Don’t be guilty of contributing to moral decay. Learn where the candidates stand on moral issues and vote according to moral uprightness.

Proverbs 14:34 says, **“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”** God desires we contend for righteousness and moral decency. God will bless this nation when its morals rise to meet His standard. But if we continue our downward plunge into debauchery, immorality, wickedness and corruption, this nation will not be blessed by God nor will He allow it to stand forever. God will bring it low.

Do your research to find out what the candidates that want your vote stand for and defend. Do they defend saving babies (pro-life) or do they stand for killing babies (pro-death, they try to soften it by calling it “pro-choice“). Don’t become a part of their wickedness by helping them kill innocent little babies.

All that wickedness needs to succeed is for good people to do nothing! To do nothing is in effect supporting the evil because you are allowing it to succeed. Are you having a part in America’s moral decline or its rise? Which?

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2020)

The US Constitution does not grant “rights.” God is the One who grants “rights.” The Constitution simply protects our rights.

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), Royce & Susan Ford (23), **Mike & Patti Bannister (27).**

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 11, 2020	Oct. 18, 2020
Bible Class	44	44
AM Worship	51 + [3]	52 + [4]
PM Worship	39 + [3]	42 + [2]
Wednesday PM	40	37
Contribution	\$1,609	\$1,927

	This Week: 10/25/20	Next Week: 11/1/20			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	October 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: McCaghren Clean Building: McCaghren November 2020 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister		
Greeters	_____	_____			
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister			
Communion	Rafe Smith*, Coyce Reed James Fuller, Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum*, Chase Churchwell Dex Dennard, Randy Huckaby			
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff			
Attendance Cards	_____	_____			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller			
Scripture Reading	_____	_____			
Communion	Rafe Smith	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 28 Don Smith	November 4 Prayer Night	November 11 James Fuller	November 18 Rafe 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 25, 2020

Sunday Class I Corinthians 12:24
 Wed. Class Exodus 23:14

<p>Lord, Teach Me What to Do, When I Kneel at the Throne of God's Grace <i>"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."</i> (Mt. 6:9-13)</p> <p>I. The "Heart" of Prayer.</p> <p>A. We should pray with the heart of a child: "Our Father in heaven..." (Mt. 6:9).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God is called "Father" 42x in Matthew; 17x in the Sermon on the Mount. As His children, we can anticipate three wonderful blessings when we pray. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He is "there" with us. He is "aware" of us. He really "cares" for us. <p>B. We should pray with the heart of a plaintiff: "Our Father ... Hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done Give us Forgive us Deliver us" (Mt. 6:9-13).</p> <p>C. We should pray with the heart of a sinner: "Our Father ... forgive us ... and ... deliver us from the evil one" (Mt. 6:12-13).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We should pray about the sins we have already committed (1 Jn. 1:7, 9). We should pray about the sins we might commit (Ps. 19:13; Jas. 1:14-15). <p>II. The "Parts" of Prayer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We should "pray" when we pray. We should "praise" when we pray. We should "plead" when we pray. <p>III. The "Art" of Prayer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus prayed after He was baptized (Lk. 3:21-22). Jesus prayed after a surge in His popularity (Lk. 5:12-16). Jesus prayed after one of His encounters with the Pharisees (Lk. 6:2-12). Jesus prayed before He had to make difficult decisions (Lk. 6:12-16). Jesus prayed after a long day's work (Lk. 9:12-18). Jesus prayed when He was burdened (Lk. 9:29). Jesus prayed when He anticipated disappointment (Lk. 22:31-32). Jesus prayed when His heart was broken (Lk. 22:39-46). Jesus prayed when He was dying (Mt. 27:46; Lk. 23:34, 46). 	<p>Arrival in Galilee; A General Account of Jesus' Teaching in Galilee; and A Second Miracle at Cana</p> <p>I. The Shift from Judea to Galilee (Mt. 4:12; Mk. 1:14; Lk. 3:19-20; Jn. 4:1-45).</p> <p>C. Arrival in Galilee (Lk. 4:14; Jn. 4:43-45).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus would do His greatest work in this province. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately December, A.D. 27 – April, A.D. 29. Here Jesus will call most of His apostles, preach the Sermon on the Mount, do most of His miracles, feed the thousands, walk on water, set up "home-base" in Capernaum, and many other wonderful works. News of Jesus' ministry in Judea preceded Him (Jn. 4:45). Jesus was still not ready to tackle His hometown of Nazareth, for "a prophet has no honor in his own country" (Jn. 4:44). <p>II. A General Account of Jesus' Teaching in Galilee (Mt. 4:17; Mk. 1:14-15; Lk. 4:14-15).</p> <p>C. Jesus "came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'" (Mk. 1:14-15)</p> <p>D. Two things strike us about Jesus' early preaching.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> First, His message was identical to John the Baptist's: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Mt. 4:17) Second, we are struck with the eager reception of Jesus: "He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by [and was praised by] all." (Lk. 4:15) <p>III. The Second Miracle at Cana [Healing the Nobleman's Son] (Jn. 4:46-54).</p> <p>C. Jesus makes another visit to Cana, "where He had made the water wine."</p> <p>D. In nearby Capernaum, "a certain nobleman" had a son "who was sick ... at the point of death."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Learning that Jesus was in Cana, he hurried to ask Him to heal his son. Jesus' initial response to the official is rather unusual: "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." <p>E. The nobleman is urgent; he pleads for help.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus responds to this urgent father: "Go your way, your son lives." Likewise, the nobleman responds to Jesus: "So the man believed ... and he went his way." <p>F. His fever broke at 1:00pm; the exact time Jesus has said "Your son lives."</p> <p>G. The result: the nobleman "himself believed, and his whole household" (53).</p>
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