

# 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



November 1, 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

## Why I Believe The Bible Is The Word Of God (Pt. 1)

Make no mistake about it, the Bible claims to be the word of God. Over 2,700 times the writers of the Bible refer in one way or another to what the Lord said. With most Bibles being from 1,200 to 1,500 pages in length, this means that twice per page the reader is reminded that he is reading God's word. We must not miss the fact that the Scriptures are inspired or breathed of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Mt. 4:4).

By definition, faith is *"the substance of things hoped for"* and the *"evidence of things not seen"* (Heb. 11:1). Our faith has substance to it and evidence behind it. Furthermore, it has a rock-solid foundation beneath it. Although many are building without a foundation, we are not. We have dug deep to find the solid rock of absolute truth. We are building on a foundation that can withstand the heavy rains, strong winds, and battering floods of unbelief (Lk. 6:47-49).

As Christians, there are certain things that we must *"believe"* and be *"sure"* about (John 6:66). For example, we must believe and be sure that Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24). Furthermore, we must believe and be sure that the Bible is the word of God. Our lesson, as the title suggests, is concerned with the second of these convictions.

The evidences used to establish that the Bible is from God fall into two main categories: external and internal. External evidences include things like archaeological discoveries. Internal evidences include things like scientific foreknowledge. Generally, external evidences are accepted with little question. However, individuals often dismiss internal evidences by arguing that the Bible can't be used to prove itself. However, nothing could be further from the truth. If you found a bottle of liquid and wanted to know what it was, how would you go about finding out? No doubt, you would first examine the outside of the bottle. By reading the label and examining the shape of the bottle, you could likely glean some things. However, if you really want to know what the liquid was, you would have to eventually open the bottle and test its contents. In like manner, if you want to know whether or not the Bible is the word of God, you are going to have to eventually open it and examine what is on the inside.

As you know, there was a time, in the not so distant past, when virtually everyone believed that the Bible was the word of God. However, that is not the case today. Modernism, atheism, and relativism have all taken their toll. Generations have been produced who do not believe in absolute, knowable truth. With this in mind, we must prepare ourselves to give them a reason for the hope that is within us (1 Pet. 3:15).

I believe that the Bible is the word of God ... **Because Of Its Amazing Unity**

The Bible was written by about 40 men over the course of about 1,600 years. It was written in three languages – Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. The writers came from a host of backgrounds. Some were highly educated like Luke (Col. 4:14) and Paul (Acts 22:3), while others were unlearned and ignorant like Peter and John (Acts 4:13). Kings, cupbearers, soldiers, farmers, herdsman, publicans, and fishermen all penned parts of it. It contains a variety of literary forms – poetry, prophecy, proverbs, parables, etc. It is made up of two testaments and covers three dispensations of time – Patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian. Yet, in spite of all of these variations, there is amazing unity. No writer contradicts another writer. Although there are 66 distinct parts to it, it is one book. There is one central theme or scarlet thread that runs throughout it – the salvation of man.

Imagine a medical book written in 3 languages, over 1,600 years, by 40 men, from various backgrounds. How much unity would there be to that book? How many glaring contradictions would there be in it? No doubt, there would be many. Yet, such is not the case with the Bible. How do you explain that? I am convinced that it cannot be explained separate and apart from the all-powerful hand of an all-knowing God. Peter explained, *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Pet. 1:20-21). There is amazing unity in the Scriptures because the 40 men who penned it were all inspired by the same Spirit. Moses and Mark, David and Daniel, Micah and Matthew, all had the same God revealing truth to them.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

I believe that the Bible is the word of God ... **Because Of Its Remarkable Predictions**

The Old Testament established a simple test for how to tell if a prophet was from God or not. If the prophecies came to pass, the prophet was from God. If the prophecies didn't come to pass, then the prophet was not from God (Deut. 18:22). It seems to me that we can apply the same test to the Bible. If the predictions of the Bible came to pass, then it should be accepted as being from God. However, if its predictions did not come to pass, then it should be rejected.

Isaiah challenged the idolaters of his day to show things to come (Isa. 41:22). For sure, such would have been proof that they were from God. Of course, they couldn't do so. However, the writers of the Bible were able to do so. In fact, the Bible is filled with predictive prophecies. Perhaps, the most remarkable thing about the predictive prophecies of the Bible is that they were very specific in nature. Unlike generic predictions that may be said to have many fulfillments, the specific prophecies of the Scriptures have only one fulfillment.

Thus, when these prophecies come to pass, they reveal a Source greater than themselves. As you know, man is sorely lacking in his ability to predict the future. Even with high-tech radar and computer simulations, man struggles to predict the weather and stock market. Yet, Bible prophets and writers made very specific predictions that were fulfilled to the smallest detail.

Someone has estimated that there are approximately 800 prophecies in the Old Testament. Amazingly, over 300 of these prophecies are of Christ.

The prophecies detail His lineage (Lk. 3:34; Heb. 7:14), His birthplace (Mic. 5:2), His betrayal (Ps. 41:9; Zech. 11:12), His death (Ps. 22:16), His resurrection (Ps. 16:10), and a host of other matters. Amazingly, these very specific prophecies were given hundreds of years before the time of Christ. The prophets were dead and gone by the time they were fulfilled. They were powerless to bring them about. However, they went off without a hitch. How can this be explained apart from the all-powerful hand of an all-knowing God? It simply cannot. Peter Stoner, a mathematician, estimated the probability of just 8 of these prophecies being fulfilled by accident at 1 in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power. That is a 1 followed by 17 zeros (1,000,000,000,000,000,000).

He illustrated this number by suggesting that it is equal to covering the state of Texas in silver dollars to a depth of two feet, marking one of the coins, and then asking a blind-folded man to find the marked coin the first try.

Of course, the Messianic predictions are not the only remarkable prophecies in the Old Testament. The prophecies concerning various nations are also remarkable. For example, Ezekiel gave a

remarkable prophecy concerning Tyre (Ezek. 26:3-14). Ezekiel predicted that Tyre's walls would be destroyed, her towers would be broken down, and that the dust would be scraped from her, leaving her as bare as the top of a rock. Tyre would become a place for the spreading of nets.

The prophecy was partially fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. He destroyed the city and left it in ruins. However, the stones, the timber, and the dust from the destruction remained. The complete fulfillment did not come until the time of Alexander the Great (332 B.C.). Concerned with leaving his rear flanks open to attack, he cast the rubble, including the dust, into the sea to build a bridge to the island of Tyre so that he could conquer it and protect himself.

I believe that the Bible is the word of God ... **Because Of Its Unbiased Treatment Of Heroes**

The Bible records its heroes warts and all. It does not gloss over their faults; but rather, it records them for our learning (Rom. 15:4). It shows them to be men and women of like passions as we are (Jas. 5:17). Few prominent characters escape the pages of Scripture without at least one negative detail from their lives being recorded. Of course, even in these rare cases, there was sin (Rom. 3:23). Only one man ever lived without sin, Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:15). The fact that the Bible records even the faults of its heroes is proof that it is of divine and not human origin. Consider a few examples with me:

Noah, one of the charter members of Faith's Hall of Fame (Heb. 11:7), found both grace and disgrace in the pages of Scripture. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8), but disgrace in the eyes of his own sons (Gen. 9:20-23). As you recall, this just man, who walked with God, and was perfect in his generations (Gen. 6:9), also planted a vineyard, drank of the wine, and was found uncovered in his tent. The Bible not only recorded Noah's faith, it also recorded his folly (Prov. 20:1).

Abraham, another hero of the faith, was also recorded warts and all (Heb. 11:8-19). This Friend of God and Father of the Faithful answered the call of faith and left home not knowing where he was going (Gen. 12:1-2; Heb. 11:8-10; Jas. 2:21-23; Rom. 4:11-12, 16). However, during a time of famine, he took a trip down into Egypt and forgot to pack his faith. He convinced his wife to tell a half-truth, or better yet, a whole lie, to preserve his life (Gen. 12:10-20). He was walking by fear, rather than by faith.

Of course, other heroes like Moses, David, and Peter, also received unbiased treatment in the Scriptures. Like the men we examined earlier, we see them warts and all.

I believe that the Bible is the word of God ... **Because Of Its Refusal To Cater To Human Curiosity**

(Continued on page 3)

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

- Nov. 1 Jer. 1—3; Psalm 121 (video)
- Nov. 2 Jeremiah 4—6; Psalm 122
- Nov. 3 Jeremiah 7—9; Psalm 123
- Nov. 4 Jeremiah 10—12; Psalm 124
- Nov. 5 Jeremiah 13—15; Psalm 125
- Nov. 6 Jeremiah 16—18; Psalm 126
- Nov. 7 Jeremiah 19—21; Psalm 127
- Nov. 8 Jeremiah 22—24; Psalm 128

*"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 **35** contacts were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ **Vote!!!**—And pray for our country.
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.

**Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart**

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

*(Continued from page 2)*

The Scriptures provide men with all that they need to know (2 Pet. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17), but not necessarily all that they want to know. It does not cater to human curiosity. The fact that the Bible does not cater to the curiosity of man shows that it is of divine origin. Consider a couple of examples:

There is only one occasion in Scripture when Jesus is recorded as writing anything; and, the Scriptures do not tell us what it was (John 8:6, 8). Wouldn't you like to know? I know that I would. However, we are not told. As you recall, the occasion involved a woman taken in the act of adultery. When Jesus stooped down, what did He write on the ground? Did he write the words grace, mercy, or forgiveness? Did he write a Scripture? Did he write the name of the man who was involved with her? Did he write the names of this poor woman's accusers? Did he write the sins hidden in the lives of those who wanted to stone her? We are not told. However, we are told the effect that Jesus' words, both spoken and written, had upon those gathered before him. John records that the men, convicted by their consciences, went out one by one, from the eldest of them to the youngest (John 8:9). I find it interesting that on the only occasion that Jesus wrote, He wrote on the ground. He wrote on a tablet that prevented that would quickly be stamped out. Can you imagine what would have happened if Jesus had been written on a scrap of paper? No doubt, the world would be filled with scraps of paper today all claiming to bear the handwriting of Jesus.

Although the Bible records that Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to buffet him and to keep him from being exalted above measure (2 Cor. 12:7), we are not told what the thorn was. I would like to know, wouldn't you? I could write a best-selling book if I knew. Was it poor eyesight as many suggest? We don't know. We aren't told. The Bible does not cater to our curiosity. All that we know is that it must have bothered Paul immensely. After all, he besought the Lord three times to remove it (2 Cor. 12:8-9).

As you know, the Bible records many occasions when individuals were brought back from the dead (1 Kgs. 17:17-24; Lk. 7:11-18; John 11). However, these individuals tell no tales. Wouldn't you like to know what it was like where they were? I know I would. However, the Bible doesn't tell us. It does not cater to our curiosity.

Of course, many other mysteries remain. However, these matters of curiosity point to the fact that the Bible is of divine and not human origin.

*Wade L. Webster (Power, April 2011)*

**Celebrate**

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

**November Birthdays:** Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Terry Teague (15), Marcia Turnbull (24).

**November Anniversaries:** Coyce & Connie Reed (7), Charles & Bennie White (19).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



**Records**

	Oct. 18, 2020	Oct. 25, 2020
Bible Class	44	37
AM Worship	52 + [4]	38 + [4]
PM Worship	42 + [2]	36 + [6]
Wednesday PM	37	30
Contribution	\$1,927	!,711

	This Week: 11/1/20	Next Week: 11/8/20		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>November 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> Bannister  <b>December 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Maninger <b>Clean Building:</b> Huckaby	
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum*, Chase Churchwell Dex Dennard, Randy Huckaby	Ryan Rudloff, Rafe Smith Coyce Reed, Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Dex Dennard		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 4 Prayer Night	November 11 James Fuller	November 18 Rafe Smith	November 25 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 November 1, 2020

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 13:1*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Exodus 23:27*

#### Sometimes I Struggle, When I Kneel at the Throne of God's Grace

"I talk to God; but, nothing happens!" "God, are You really there?" "God, do You really care?" "God, why don't you do something?" Have you ever asked, or at least wanted to ask, such questions? If so, please consider the following.

I. The "Person" Praying Might Be the Cause of My Struggles. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (Jas. 5:16).

- A. We might be expecting too much from prayer.
- B. We might not be expecting enough from prayer.
- C. We might not be living right.
- D. We might be trying too hard to live right and have, thus, become self-righteous.
- E. We might be at odds with another Christian.

II. The "Prayer" That Is Prayed Might Be the Cause of My Struggles.

- A. We might not be asking. "You do not have because you do not ask" (Jas. 4:2).
- B. We might have quit asking.
- C. We might be asking for the wrong thing.
- D. We might be asking for the wrong reasons. "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (Jas. 4:3).
- E. We might be asking in the wrong way.

Sometimes I Struggle, When I Kneel at the Throne of God's Grace; but, if I am the right kind of person ["righteous"] expressing the right kind of prayer ["fervent"], I can be certain of two things.

- First, I can know that I capture God's attention with my prayer.
- Second, I can know that God will act on my requests in ways He deems best.

#### The Shift to Capernaum in Galilee and The Call of Four Fishermen

- I. The Shift to Capernaum in Galilee (Mt. 4:13-16).
  - A. Most harmonies insert Luke 4:16-30 at this point. (We will include it later, with Matthew 13:54-58 and Mark 6:1-6.)
  - B. One of Jesus' first acts in Galilee was to establish Capernaum as His base of operations.
    1. This move was significant, giving Jesus more visibility and more opportunity to preach.
    2. In Jesus' day Galilee was about 50% Gentile.
    3. "... He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea."
      - a. From this time on, Jesus would never be gone long from Capernaum.
      - b. He would leave from that city on tours, then He would return there.
    4. Matthew informed his readers that Jesus' move fulfilled part of a familiar Messianic prophecy (Mt. 4:14-16; see Isa. 9:1-2).
- II. The Call of Four Fishermen (Mt. 4:18-22; Mk. 1:16-20; Lk. 5:1-11).
  - A. There were three stages in Jesus' call to discipleship.
    1. Stage 1 was an invitation to follow Him and learn from Him.
    2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage was full-time discipleship.
    3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> stage was when Jesus chose 12 of His disciples to be apostles.
  - B. Simon and Andrew are the first Jesus encounters.
    1. Jesus employs Peter's fishing boat as a pulpit.
    2. After speaking to the crowd, Jesus directs Peter to "launch out" into the deep and let down his net.
      - a. To Peter, a professional fisherman, Jesus request must have seem absurd; but, because of his trust in Jesus, he obeys.
      - b. The catch is so great it nearly sinks the boat, and also the second boat that comes to help!
    3. Peter falls before Jesus and says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (Peter has truly seen Jesus for the first time.)
    4. Jesus uses this moment to call them in a way they can visualize.
      - a. Matthew and Mark both say, "I will make you fishers of men."
      - b. Luke says, "From now on you will catch men."
  - C. Next they encounter James and John, who likewise respond to Jesus' call.
  - D. In this way, Jesus called them to permanent and uninterrupted discipleship.