

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 15, 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

Freedom, Law and Morals: What Is Freedom?

The sound bites have been flying for months, throughout the election cycle. There is talk everywhere about how to protect the **freedom** of Americans. There are those who will warn us of our impending loss of freedom, the loss of our American Heritage. They will point to invasive surveillance and unchecked illegal immigration and tell us to vote for them, but they will keep America strong and free.

In our society today, it is easy to get lost in the rhetoric of physical struggles for a *form* of freedom and meanwhile lose site of **true freedom**.

My challenge to you—**evaluate your concept of biblical freedom**. When you compare your concept to the Biblical concept, will they match, or will you find that you have bought into the earthly concept of freedom that our society adores?

No passage challenges the modern American concept of freedom more than Romans 6:18.

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Wait—the biblical concept of freedom is ... slavery? That is right. Just as when Jesus told His disciples that if they wanted to be great, they had to become the servants of all, so with freedom. God reveals its true form isn't found in unfettered choice, but in losing control.

The fundamental concept of slavery/servanthood is this: **I do not belong to myself. I belong to my Master.**

You will not be free if you support a particular candidate in the election. You will not lose freedom if you vote for a particular party in the election. You cannot lose freedom—if you become a slave to righteousness.

How will you do that? Look at verses 17 and 4,

"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Find true freedom today—begin walking the Christian life at baptism and enslave yourself to the righteousness of God. No man can take that away.

Aaron J. Cozart (Power, Jan. 2016)



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.

Freedom, Laws and Moral: The Tough Laws to Obey—When God’s Law Supersedes Man’s

It is the late 60’s A.D. and the Lord’s church is being broadly persecuted for the first time by groups other than the Jews. It is a dangerous time for Christians, many are being wronged simply because of their religious beliefs. The results were the loss of businesses, homes, and even lives. A number of the Lord’s apostles died during the latter half of this decade, including the apostle Paul.

It is in the midst of these events that Peter writes these important words:

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” (1 Pet. 2:11-17)

Peter reminds his brethren they are only pilgrims in the physical world. Therefore, it is important they do not get so bogged down in the physical fights they lose the spiritual war.

It is under this premise he tells them to, *“submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake”* (2:13). The word translated *“ordinance”* is the original term *ktisis*, meaning *“creation, institution”* (Rogers and Rogers, 572). What Peter is telling these Christians is every hurdle (whether from Caesar, a governor, or some other provincial leader) created –

jump it. If it is a tax, pay it. If they say you cannot have this business – change businesses. If they say you cannot live here – move. Notice that Peter does not say Christians are only obligated to fulfill these creations if they are legitimate, fair, and righteous. He says clear every hurdle.

Why? *“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”* (2:15). He put it another way in chapter 4: *“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf”* (1 Pet. 4:15-16). If Christians are going to suffer, let it be because they are Christians, not because they refused to uphold some man’s law when the observance of that law would not damage their relationship with God. We hear a lot of discussion in our world today about the Constitution, individual rights, states’ rights, and the like. In the midst of these discussions there is generally much bluster and bravado set on the table about the way we will or will not respond if such-and-such a law is passed. Yet, before we begin declaring our human rights under the Constitution there is a greater question that must be asked: What does God want me to do as a Christian?

God gave us the answer in another passage in the same book. In chapter 3, Peter states we are not to render evil for evil (v. 9). If we want to see good days, do not speak with evil or guile (v. 10). We must seek peace and pursue it, recognizing that the Lord is over all. He hears our prayers and sets his face against the evil-doers (vs. 11-12). If we are to suffer, it must be for righteousness’ sake, not because we have turned to doing evil like those around us (vs. 13-17).

Being pilgrims in this world, about which should we be more concerned – the physical laws our rulers pass, or the spiritual lives at stake each day? It is not wrong to fight (within the law) for a better town, state, or country. But let us never forget that God rules the kingdoms of men (Dan. 4:17). It is His laws and ordinances that must be upheld at all cost. Man’s rules and laws change constantly, but the laws of God abide forever.

Adam B. Cozart (Power, Jan. 2016)

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/

Nov. 15 Jeremiah 43—45; Psalm 135

Nov. 16 Jeremiah 46—48; Psalm 136

Nov. 17 Jer. 49—52; Ps. 137 (video)

Nov. 18 Lamentations 1—3; Ps. 138

Nov. 19 Lamentations 4—5; Ps. 139

Nov. 20 Ezekiel 1—3; Ps. 140 (video)

Nov. 21 Ezekiel 4—6; Ps. 141 (video)

Nov. 22 Ezekiel 7—9; Psalm 142

“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

- ◆ **Justin Hopkins** and family will be with us this morning to update us on their mission work. He will give the update during the Bible class time and will bring the morning sermon.
- ◆ **Neil Stidolph** will be graduating from Brown Trail School of Preaching soon. If you know of a congregation that might be looking for a good young preacher, please let Johnny know so can relay the information to Neil.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 14-17—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jon McCormack

What Is Freedom In Christ?

As Americans, we know a great deal about freedom. We love and cherish freedom. After all, we live in "the land of the free!" Freedom grants certain rights and demands certain obligations. Our rights or privileges are based not upon our own desires, but upon the limits placed on society and the resulting order. Just so, we live in peace because of "law and order." Law is that legislation formulated and handed to the people. Order is that law enforced. The result is peace in a civilized society. The opposite is chaos, anarchy, rebellion and turmoil. Every straight-thinking person wants the former, not the latter.

As Christians we enjoy the best freedom. This is the freedom which is rich beyond compare and endures forever. This is the freedom from sin, the freedom as found only in Christ! Sadly, American Christians understand more about democratic freedom than they do Christian freedom. This is fairly easy to prove. In fact, you can prove this to yourself even now as you read. Do you agree with the basis of freedom in our country as described in the first paragraph? If so, you are capable of understanding Christian freedom. But, are you willing to apply these same two principles of law and order? Are you willing to recognize that Christian freedom is based upon law, the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:21), and upon order or enforcement of that law, effected through obedience (Heb. 5:9; Jn. 8:36)?

Too many believe in a different form of freedom. Many who claim to be Christians preach and teach a freedom

(Continued on page 4)

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

	Nov. 1, 2020	Nov. 8, 2020
Bible Class	43	49
AM Worship	51 + [8]	59 + [5]
PM Worship	31 + [9]	42 + [6]
Wednesday PM	28	27
Contribution	\$1,554	\$2,262

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 11/15/20	Next Week: 11/22/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>November 2020 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister</p> <p>December 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Clean Building: Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Rafe Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	Chase Churchwell*, John Barnum James Fuller, Randy Huckaby	Rafe Smith*, Don Smith Ryan Rudloff, Coyce Reed		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Dex Dennard		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Chase Churchwell	Rafe Smith		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 18 Rafe Smith	November 25 Don Smith	December 2 Prayer Night	December 9 Ryan Rudloff

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 15, 2020

Sunday Class Justin Hopkins
 Wed. Class Exodus 25:17

(Continued from page 3)

that is based on what they call a freedom from law, a freedom built upon a perverted view of God's love, a "law of no law." They say, "We have the right to believe and practice as we choose."

This rebellion against God's law is also a form of freedom. It is the freedom Paul speaks of in Rom. 6:20, "For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard of righteousness." When anyone, Christian/or non-Christian, presents themselves to sin as obedient servants, they are free regarding righteousness. Of course, we understand that Paul is teaching that this kind of freedom is actually bondage!

Do not be fooled into believing in this sort of "freedom" as though you may live as you please, while naming the name of Christ. "For freedom did Christ set us free" (Gal. 5:1). "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh" (Gal. 5:13). Please understand that when you became a Christian, you were called to freedom, but not to freedom from law nor to do as you please! Remember the words of Galatians 5:16-17, "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish" ["that you please," NASB].

Robin W. Haley (Power, Jan. 2016)

In Galilee: Jesus' First Teaching & Healing Tour; Healing a Leper

- I. **In Galilee: Jesus' First Teaching and Healing Tour** (Mt. 4:23-25; Mk. 1:35-39; Lk. 4:42-44).
 - A. Early the next morning, Jesus went outside Capernaum to a secluded place to pray.
 - B. His disciples sought Him out and said, "Everyone is looking for You."
 - C. Jesus' vision was greater than Galilee.
 - D. Against the will of the crowds, Jesus embarks on His first Galilean tour.
 - E. Jesus' fame spreads like wildfire.
- II. **In Galilee: Healing a Leper – and Resultant Excitement** (Mt. 8:2-4; Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-16).
 - A. One miracle on the preaching tour in Galilee is recorded in detail: the healing of a leper.
 1. Leprosy was one of the most dreaded diseases of ancient times.
 2. As Jesus traveled in Galilee, a leper came to Him.
 - a. The man was "full of leprosy."
 - b. The leper came up to Jesus, knelt down before him and then fell on his face.
 - 1) Instead of keeping the required legal distance, this leper approached Jesus, begging Him, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."
 - a) There is no precedent for this man's request.
 - b) It is of interest that there was never a case of leprosy healed outside of the direct agency of God.
 - 2) Jesus, "moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him."
 3. In keeping with the Law, Jesus commanded the man, "Show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."
 - B. Jesus also strictly warned him, "See that you say nothing to anyone"; nonetheless, the excited man "went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter."
 - C. In the midst of all this popularity, Jesus frequently withdrew into the wilderness to pray (Lk. 5:16).