

# 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 22, 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

**Please practice COVID precautions,  
for your own safety and the safety of your brethren.**

## Stumbling Over Simplicity

The apostle Paul rebuked the Corinthian church for stumbling over *"the simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Cor. 11:3). Chapter after chapter of the epistle of 2 Corinthians shows in how many areas of Christianity those first century brethren stumbled over simplicity. The apostle used the debacle with Eve in the Garden of Eden to illustrate the nature of stumbling over simplicity. The New Testament is longer and more comprehensive than the simple instructions God gave the first pair, but nevertheless, they stumbled over simplicity. After all, how hard could it have been for Adam and Eve (1) to tend or to till the Garden, (2) to keep or to guard it (Gen. 2:15) and (3) to refrain eating from a single tree (Gen. 2:17)? That's it! What could have been simpler?

There are several notable biblical examples of stumbling over simplicity. One such instance pertained to a Syrian commander named Naaman. He was a leper, and desiring to be healed, Naaman traveled to meet the prophet Elisha. However, the prophet did not respond as Naaman expected.

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. (2 Kgs. 5:9-14)

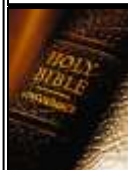
The stumbling over simplicity nearly foiled any hope Naaman had of being healed from his leprosy. Not only Adam and Eve as well as the Corinthian church but everyone to some extent stumbles over simplicity at some time.

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Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26

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



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One of the most far-reaching occasions of stumbling over simplicity in the world today pertains to evolution versus creation. The **theory** of evolution fails the foundation principles of science because it cannot be examined in a scientific manner (i.e., observing evidence as well as recreating a result in a controlled environment). Yet, almost every aspect of life has been affected by evolutionary theory (e.g., education, the back of cereal boxes, toys, media). Morality based on the no God evolutionary theory is debased, since thinking that we are merely descendants of a freak cosmic accident makes us creatures without intrinsic value and responsible to no one for our actions.

Conversely, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to pen the obvious regarding origins.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Rom. 1:18-23; cf., Col. 1:14-17)

Everything exhibiting design signals a designer. We know with surety that buildings, airplanes, ships and automobiles have discernible design, and therefore, we know without a doubt that designers are responsible for their existence. Further, we know that men and women are the designers of such things. At the same time, we look at this beautiful earth with all of its component parts – including our own bodies – and we realize three very important things. First, mankind is incapable of

designing and bringing into existence such things as our planet, trees, animals and people. Second, the earth and everything on it as well as what we view in the night sky evidences intricate design. Third, consequently, there is a Master Designer of the created universe.

Although the existence of God can be discerned from observation of the created universe, specifics regarding God, His promises and what He requires of humans cannot be known from observing the natural universe. Hence, God provided inspired instruction about three religious periods of human history: Patriarchy (commencing with Adam and Eve), Judaism (inaugurated by Moses) and Christianity (brought about by the sacrificial death of God the Son). Everyone now living lives under the scope of the Gospel or the New Testament in Christianity.

We might imagine if we were in the Garden and enjoying a personal relationship with God that we could have refrained from violating three simple instructions. The truth is, however, that everybody commits sin sometimes (Rom. 3:10, 23). Fortunately, under the New Testament to which everyone living today is amenable, God provided simple solutions to the sin problem for non-Christians and erring Christians, too.

Jesus Christ Himself summarized the plan of salvation when He said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”* (Mark 16:16). That’s as simple as 1 + 2 = 3; what could be simpler? Yet, most of the world stumbles over this simplicity regarding the salvation of their souls. How tragic and completely unnecessary!

Happily, God also provided a means by which erring Christians can solve the sin problem in their lives. The apostle John penned by inspiration, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Simple, right? Yet, many wayward children of God stumble over simplicity regarding their own salvation.

Though we humans view various types of sins differently (e.g., immorality, murder, lying), there is a sense in which God views all sins alike (Revelation

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

**Nov. 22** Ezekiel 7—9; Psalm 142  
**Nov. 23** Ezekiel 10—12; Psalm 143  
**Nov. 24** Ezekiel 13—15; Psalm 144  
**Nov. 25** Ezek. 16—18; Ps. 145 (video)  
**Nov. 26** Ezekiel 19—21; Psalm 146  
**Nov. 27** Ezekiel 22—24; Psalm 147  
**Nov. 28** Ezek. 25—27; Ps. 148 (video)  
**Nov. 29** Ezekiel 28—30; Psalm 149

*“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

- ◆ Please help to keep everyone safe, as COVID cases are rising substantially in Brown county and nationwide. Mask are encouraged. Hugs and handshakes are discouraged. Wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer (There are new sanitizer dispensers). Above all, if you feel sick, even slightly, please stay home.
- ◆ If you need to stay home, you can listen to the Sunday morning and evening services on our Facebook group: “4th and Stewart Church of Christ.”
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

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21:8). No matter the sin, God will forgive whomever turns from those sins (repents) and obeys the Gospel. That was so with the Corinthians.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

Self-inspection or examining one’s self is an important periodic procedure that each of us, regardless of who we are, needs to undergo. “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5). For what are you guilty of stumbling over simplicity? Christian living? Christian service? Your home? Your job? Congregational peace, work, attendance, giving or leadership? Are you a scofflaw? Stumbling over simplicity is always unnecessary, not beneficial, unwarranted and tragic. **Let each of us try harder not to stumble over simplicity!**

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Nov. 2020, p. 2)

## 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 (17), **Marcia Turnbull (24)**.

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	Nov. 8, 2020	Nov. 15, 2020
Bible Class	49	39
AM Worship	59 + [5]	46 + [8]
PM Worship	42 + [6]	26 + [4]
Wednesday PM	27	28
Contribution	\$2,262	\$1,997



# Privileged To Serve

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

	<b>This Week: 11/22/20</b>	<b>Next Week: 11/29/20</b>			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>November 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      John Barnum  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Bannister  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Bannister</p> <p><b>December 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Wilcox  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Huckaby</p>		
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith			
<b>Communion</b>	Rafe Smith*, Don Smith Randy Rudloff, Coyce Reed	Dex Dennard, John Barnum Randy Huckaby, James Fuller			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Dex Dennard	Rafe Smith			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Communion</b>	Rafe Smith	Dex Dennard			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 25 Don Smith	December 2 Prayer Night	December 9 Ryan Rudloff	December 16 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 November 22, 2020

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 13:7*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Exodus 25:17*

#### The Call to Discipleship (Luke 5:1-11)

One of the most commonly used terms in the Bible for a follower of Jesus is "disciple" (Mt. 5:1; 8:21, 23; 9:19; Acts 6:1-2, 7, 9:1). In the fullest sense, a disciple was one who followed a teacher (Mt. 16:24), learned from the teacher (Mt. 11:29), and then followed the dictates of that teacher (Jn. 8:31). A close teacher/disciple relationship existed. A true disciple became like his teacher (Mt. 10:25a).

Our text tells of the occasion when Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John.

- I. **We Must LEARN Something** (Lk. 5:1-3). We must be students of the Word of God.
- II. **We Must UNDERSTAND Something** (Lk. 5:4-7). We must understand that Jesus is the Master of our lives.
- III. **We Must ACKNOWLEDGE Something** (Lk. 5:8-10a). We must admit our own inadequacies and our dependence on Christ.
- IV. **We Must CHANGE Something** (Lk. 5:10b). We must change the focus of our lives. We must live to glorify the Lord and to bring others to Him.
- V. **We Must GIVE UP Something** (Lk. 5:11). We must be willing to give up anything that would keep us from wholehearted service, and be ready to trust the Lord.
- VI. **We Must DO Something** (Lk. 5:11). We must be ready to follow Him wherever He wants us to go.

#### Christ's Ministry from the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover to the 2<sup>nd</sup>: Part 8

- I. **Back at Capernaum: Healing a Paralytic** (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:1-12; Lk. 5:17-26). As Jesus draws His first Galilean tour to a close we find him again in Capernaum, most likely in Simon Peter's house (Mk. 1:29).
  - A. Somehow Jesus manages to enter the city unnoticed, but soon the news spreads, and there is a crowd at His door.
  - B. He takes the opportunity to teach them.
  - C. Luke (5:17) notices what will soon be evident to the entire crowd, that "the power of the Lord was present to heal them."
    1. Four men carry in a paralytic on a "bed."
    2. Jesus, respecting the faith of the four men, declares this paralytic forgiven of his sins (cf. Lk. 7:48; 23:43).
  3. **Jesus is acting like God!**
  - D. When Pharisees hear this, they ask, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
  - E. Jesus responds, not with mere argumentation, but with undeniable evidence: "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'" (Mk. 2:9).
    1. The fact is, they are both easy to say but quite impossible to do.
    2. Anyone could say your sins are forgiven and there is no way to prove whether they are or not; but if someone should say, "Arise, take up your bed and walk," that is immediately verifiable.
  - F. Immediately the man obeys Jesus, taking up his cot and going home.
    1. The crowd is "amazed and glorified God."
    2. "We have seen strange things today!"; "We never saw anything like this!"
- II. **Near Capernaum: The Call of Matthew** (Mt. 9:9; Mk. 2:13-14; Lk. 5:27-28).
  - A. One of Jesus' favorite spots in the vicinity of Capernaum was the seashore.
  - B. After a day of teaching, Jesus passes a tax collector sitting at his booth.
  - C. Luke and Mark call him **Levi** (Hebrew); He calls himself **Matthew** (Aramaic).
  - D. He was the most unlikely candidate.
  - E. As Jesus passes by, He "saw" Levi.
  - F. Matthew responds immediately and radically – he has no option to return to his business.