

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 29, 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

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

Giving Thanks in 2020

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read a group of commands which I consider to be among the most difficult in all of Christianity: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

It's quite likely that somebody reading this lost a loved one this year, whether from Covid or otherwise. It's also likely that somebody reading this lost their job, or saw their business go under. Others have dealt with the pain of isolation from their families, friends, and church family or have watched their kids suffer the results of not being able to be around friends, classmates, grandparents, and everybody else. And, this week I'm sure there are plenty of readers who will miss out on having Thanksgiving (the greatest of all holidays, if you ask me) with family and friends.

Sometimes it's hard to read these three commands in 1 Thessalonians 5 without asking... "How?" How am I supposed to rejoice when the money is running out? How am I supposed to rejoice when someone I love is in the hospital? How am I supposed to give thanks in all things, when some of those things include a global pandemic and a life-altering lockdown? How am I supposed to pray with so little time and so many stressful things demanding my time?

But, sometimes the answer is not to ask "How?" but to just do it. That's what faith looks like.

When we act in faith, we see something really cool happen from these difficult commands. The beauty of the three of them is that they draw on past, present, and future to strengthen us each day.

Thankfulness points us to our past. Consider all the things God has done for you, all that you can thank Him for today. This is why Israel had so many feasts, and why we have a weekly memorial to Jesus. These things, along with every other blessing for which we can thank Him, point us back to the mountain of evidence we have that He loves us and cares about us. Difficult times might make it feel like God is distant, but a heart of thankfulness is a guard against those lies from Satan creeping into our minds.

Prayer solidifies us today. It gives us an action we can take instead of worrying, knowing that we can cast those anxieties on the One who cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). The answer to the stress of this world is not to close our eyes and pretend nothing is wrong, ignoring all the very real difficulty in front of us. The answer is instead to put it all in the hands of He who has power to do something about it.

Rejoicing keeps our eyes on the future. We can rejoice today because we know any suffering we go through now is being used by God to strengthen us and draw us nearer to Him (Rom. 8:28-29, Jas. 1:2-4). We can also rejoice because we know we have victory in Christ, and that no matter what happens here on earth, everything turns out alright in the end (John 16:33).

In every single case, when a commandment from God seems burdensome or impossible, putting our faith in Him and giving His way a try always ends up best for us. These commands that seem so difficult in uncertain, painful times are the perfect antidote to stress and worry.

Our God loves us and cares for us. Give thanks for that fact. Lean on Him in prayer. Rejoice in everything, knowing He has it all taken care of.

Jack Wilkie (focuspress.org)

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

Running in the Wrong Direction

Roy “Wrong Way” Riegels played center on the 1928 University of California football team, *The Golden Bears*, which had 6–1–2 record at the close of the 1928 regular season. On January 1, 1929, the Golden Bears faced the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, USA. Midway through the second quarter, Riegels, who played center on both offensive and defensive lines and who was then playing in a role similar to that of the modern defensive nose guard or nose tackle, picked up a fumble by Tech’s Jack “Stumpy” Thomason. Just 30 yards away from the Yellow Jackets’ end zone, Riegels was somehow turned around and ran 69 yards in the wrong direction. The following describes what transpired from Riegels’ perspective:

“I was running toward the sidelines when I picked up the ball,” Riegels told The Associated Press. “I started to turn to my left toward Tech’s goal. Somebody shoved me and I bounded right off into a tackler. In pivoting to get away from him, I completely lost my bearings. — Roy Riegels

Teammate and quarterback Benny Lom chased Riegels, screaming at him to stop. Known for his speed, Lom finally caught up with Riegels at California’s 3-yard line and tried to turn him around, but he was immediately hit by a wave of Tech players and tackled back to the 1-yard line. The Bears chose to punt rather than risk a play so close to their own end zone, but Tech’s Vance Maree blocked Lom’s punt for a safety, giving Georgia Tech a 2–0 lead.

During Roy’s wrong way run, Georgia Tech’s coach Bill Alexander said to his excited players who were jumping up and down near the Tech bench: “Sit down. Sit down. He’s just running the wrong way. Every step he takes is to our advantage.” Broadcaster Graham McNamee, who was calling the game on the radio, said during Roy’s wrong way run: “What am I seeing? What’s wrong with me? Am I crazy? After the play, Riegels was so distraught that he had to be talked into returning to the game by coach Nibs Price for the second half. Riegels did play, and he turned in a stellar second half performance, including blocking a Tech punt. In addition, Lom passed for a touchdown and kicked the extra point, but that was

not enough. Tech would ultimately win the game and their second national championship 8–7. Georgia Tech’s safety score after the wrong way run made the difference in the outcome of the game, which increased the significance of Roy’s mistake.

Will Rogers, well known actor, comedian, newspaper writer and author picked up on the story and came to Riegels’ aid. Mr. Rogers wrote the following: “Why heap criticism upon this unfortunate fellow for running with a ball in the wrong direction? Is it not a fact that a vast majority of us are headed in the wrong direction and running at top speed toward the wrong goal?”

Over the past weeks I have heard numerous friends, work associates, preachers and pundits point out that this year has been one for the books; and indeed, it has! It is becoming increasingly evident that the world is running in the wrong direction. In 1985 *The Judds* released an album containing the song “Grandpa, Tell Me About The Good Old Days.” The first stanza in that song contained the following lyrics:

*Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days
Sometimes it feels like this world's gone crazy
And Grandpa, take me back to yesterday
When the line between right and wrong
Didn't seem so hazy!*

That was in 1985, almost four decades ago. The scene has only gotten worse. Political leaders running so far to the left it staggers the mind. Theologians upholding abortion, homosexuality, and same-sex marriages. The list goes on! It is full speed ahead toward a goal that can only bring ruin and regret. The vast majority (Matt. 7:13–14) are plunging over the precipice into eternity every day. Blinded by the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), they are running toward the goal of sensual pleasure, material wealth, and personal glory, thinking all the while they are running toward victory and some imaginary utopia. And what can the righteous do? Preach the gospel! Let us, like Benny Lom, Riegel’s teammate, do all we can to rescue them before they cross the line into eternity. Let us run the race, and scream at the top of our lungs, “You are running the wrong direction!” Maybe, just maybe, we can reach them before they cross the line into eternity.

Tom Wacaster

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. 29 Ezekiel 28—30; Psalm 149
Nov. 30 Ezekiel 31—33; Psalm 150
Dec. 1 Ezekiel 34—36; Proverbs 1
Dec. 2 Ezekiel 37—39; Proverbs 2
Dec. 3 Ezekiel 40—42; Proverbs 3
Dec. 4 Ezekiel 43—45; Proverbs 4
Dec. 5 Ezekiel 46—48; Proverbs 5
Dec. 6 Daniel 1—3; Proverbs 6

“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 **34** 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.”
- ◆ Fellowship meals are cancelled are cancelled, until further notice.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Searching for God

Researchers report they have found what may be liquid on Mars, according to an article on the website for *Popular Science*. I have rarely read an article filled with so many “mights” and “maybes.” It is obvious they are desperate to find the possibility of life on another planet.

Their time could be much better spent looking for God and His will for their lives. These well-educated men seem to be following the path of the Gentiles’ in their downward spiral into the depths of sin.

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. (Rom. 1:18-21)

Scientists and researchers who work so hard to find evidence of life on another planet overlook the truth right before their eyes — God exists! The Psalmist sang, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork*” (19:1). “*For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God*” (Heb. 3:4). God created the universe with such precision that men can calculate the exact day, hour and minute of the next lunar or solar eclipse. Halley’s Comet has an orbital path that brings it within view of the earth every 75 years, with the next appearance expected in 2061.

It is no wonder that the singer of Israel wrote, “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God*” (Ps. 14:1-2). May all open their eyes to the design all around us and seek the will of the Designer.

Gary C. Hampton (Gospel Gazette Online, Nov. 2020, p. 3)

Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

December Birthdays: Kaci Churchwell (18).

November Anniversaries: David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 15, 2020	Nov. 22, 2020
Bible Class	39	27
AM Worship	46 + [8]	35 + [6]
PM Worship	26 + [4]	19 + [5]
Wednesday PM	28	22
Contribution	\$1,997	\$1,682

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 11/29/20	Next Week: 12/6/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2020 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister December 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Huckaby	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Dex Dennard, John Barnum Randy Huckaby, James Fuller	Ryan Rudloff*, Chase Churchwell Kyle Duaine, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Dex Dennard		
Opening Prayer	Rafe Smith	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	—	—		
Communion	Dex Dennard	Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 2 Prayer Night	December 9 Ryan Rudloff	December 16 Rafe Smith	December 23 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 29, 2020

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 14:1*
 Wed. Class *Exodus 26:15*

<p>"All Were Amazed and Glorified God": The Healing Ministry of Jesus</p> <p>I. The REASONABLENESS of Jesus' Miracles. The miracles of Jesus actually happened just as they are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.</p> <p>A. We believe this to be true <i>because we believe in God.</i></p> <p>B. ... <i>because we believe in the Bible.</i></p> <p>C. ... <i>because the miracles of Jesus were recorded by trustworthy witnesses.</i></p> <p>D. ... <i>because miracles are consistent with who Jesus was / who He claimed to be.</i></p> <p>E. ... <i>because there is no other way to explain Jesus and His influence apart from His miracles.</i></p> <p>F. ... <i>because not even Jesus' enemies could deny that He performed miracles.</i></p> <p>G. ... <i>because even today we cannot explain them away.</i></p> <p>II. The REALITY of Jesus' Miracles.</p> <p>A. Jesus' Miracles Then.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Biblically the word "miracle" has a special meaning. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It was supernatural – for the moment natural laws were laid aside and the supernatural predominated – but it was even more than that. It was the supernatural working in the natural world in a way that all could see and hear and acknowledge that a miracle had occurred. <u>Jesus was not limited in His miracles.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He was not limited by the faith of others. ... regarding the type of physical problems He could heal. ... by the number of people who needed to be healed. <u>Jesus' healings had certain distinctive characteristics.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The healing was <i>immediate</i>; people did not get well gradually. The healing was <i>complete</i>; people were not healed partially. The healing was <i>convincing</i>. <u>Jesus' aim was primarily spiritual.</u> <p>B. So-called Miracles Now.</p> <p>III. The RESULT of Jesus' Miracles.</p> <p>A. Jesus' miracles proved Him to be God's Son and our Savior.</p> <p>B. His miracles had a powerful impact on those who saw them.</p>	<p>Jesus Healed a Man on the Sabbath and Defended the Acts: Part 1 (Jn. 5:1-18)</p> <p>We now begin to focus on the events that occurred between the 2nd and 3rd Passovers of Jesus' ministry. The reference in John 5:1 to "a feast of the Jews" likely refers to the Passover, but we cannot be certain.</p> <p>I. A lame man healed at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath (1-9).</p> <p>A. Jesus goes to go to Jerusalem for a religious feast (1).</p> <p>B. He goes to the pool of Bethesda, where many gathered hoping for healing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One of the invalids at the pool had suffered an infirmity for 38 years. Jesus could have healed all of the people, but He selects only one. It seems that He is deliberately antagonizing the religious leaders over the Sabbath controversy. <p>C. In v. 6 Jesus asks an odd question, "Do you wish to be made well?"</p> <p>D. He then deliberately heals the man on the Sabbath; and then, to make matters worse, instructs him to pick up his bed and leave.</p> <p>II. Controversy over the Sabbath healing (10-18).</p> <p>A. First, the Jewish leaders assailed the man carrying his bed; but learning it was Jesus who had told him to do this, their attack turned on Him.</p> <p>B. Jesus never broke a single God-given Sabbath regulation; but He constantly challenged and disregarded the Pharisaic traditions.</p> <p>C. The Jews do not ask the man, "Who healed you," but "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They preferred to concentrate on the offense, rather than the miracle. The man "did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn." <p>D. Sometime later Jesus finds the man in the temple.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He tells him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man then "told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well." <p>E. "For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus answered, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." (Like Father, like Son.) "Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God." <p>The stage is now set for one of Jesus' greatest discourses (5:19-47).</p>
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