

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



December 6, 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

Standing on Holy Ground

There is an ever-present disrespect for God and spiritual things in our world today. One of the areas that shows this disrespect for God is in the use of His name. As I listen to young and old alike, television shows, commercials, see texts and read emails, I am both appalled and offended at the disrespectful and vulgar way in which God's name is so flippantly and vainly used. Sadly, this vain use of God's name easily rubs off on Christians as well. In Exodus 3, Moses encountered God in the burning bush that was not consumed. God thundered from that fiery shrub, "*...Draw not hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground*" (v. 5). God placed a warning to Moses and to all mankind that when we deal with Deity, we are before Holiness and should stand in reverential awe before Him! There is no more "holy place" than the very name of Almighty God. Sadly, we are living in a time when instead of taking off our shoes regarding the name of God, mankind is tracking up His holy name. Consider with me this holy ground and our attitude toward it as we consider the name of God.

His name is revered! The Godhead was clear in giving the Law to Moses and Israel that God's name was to be respected. The third commandment was clear, "*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain*" (Exod. 20:7). When God restated the Law to the next generation, His command regarding the holiness of His name did not change (Deut. 5:11). Jesus reminded mankind in His model prayer that even in approaching God in prayer we must be careful of how we use His name, "*...Hallowed be Thy name*" (Matt. 6:9b). God's name is to be respected and revered! Therefore, we should never use God's name in vain. Examples of using His name in vain include but are not limited to: (1) swearing to God (when questioned as to the truthfulness of a statement, some say "I swear to God that is true"). This is a misuse and vain way to use the name of God! (2) OMG known as netspeak or chatspeak, which are letters standing for "Oh My..." (3) Oh G** or dear Jes**. (Often when something troubling or tragic happens, people will be heard to speak God's name vainly in this context). (4) Euphemisms of Deity's name are just as condemning. Euphemisms are simply the rewording of things to sound less offensive. For example, "go to powder your nose" means go to the bathroom. The words are different, but the meaning is the same. "He passed away" is a less offensive way of saying "he died." Euphemisms that take the name of Deity in vain include but are not limited to "Gol, Golly, Gosh, by George," all of which are euphemisms referring to God. "Geez, Gee, Sheez, Gee-wiz (Jesus-wizard), cripes (Christ), Jeepers, by Jingo, Jeezers, bejeezers (by Jesus)" are euphemisms referring to Jesus. "Jiminy Cricket, Jiminy Christmas, Jumpin' Catfish, Jeepers Creepers, Jeezy Creezy, Judas Christopher, Jason Crisp," etc. all refer to Jesus Christ as well.

(Continued on page 2)

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

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

(Continued from page 1)

Euphemisms have become so commonplace that we often have forgotten what some of them even mean. We must guard our tongue, for God’s name is revered!

His name is reserved! Humanity did not name God! God revealed Himself to us and allows us the blessed privilege to reverentially speak His name. God copyrights, trademarks and patents the name or names that refer to the Godhead! No man has the right to change, misuse or wear God’s Holy name. Can you imagine some man demanding to be called “God”? Yet, there are scads of so-called religious leaders who demand to be called “reverend”! Dear friends, only God is reverend! *“He sent redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant forever: holy and reverend is His name”* (Ps. 111:9). Not only “reverend” but God is also holy! There are no such things as holy cows, holy smokes, holy terror, holy mess, or holy hell! God’s name alone is holy (Ps. 99:9). We must reserve names that apply to Deity to the times in which we are praising, praying or preaching!

His name is rescuing! There is rescuing power in the name of Divinity, so much so that *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). We are to *“repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ”* (Acts 2:38), thereby *“calling on His name”* (Rom. 10:13-17; Acts 22:16) for salvation. The terrible sins of many Corinthians were washed away when they enacted the power of Deity’s holy name (1 Cor. 6:11). His name is “Wonderful” (Isa. 9:6). No wonder the wise man declared, *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe”* (Prov. 18:10).

Our attitude toward Deity is clearly seen in the way we use or misuse the Holy name of God. One does not have to go far today to hear the disrespect that the world has for spiritual things through its offensive use of God’s name. Dear friends, may it never be so among us! May we understand that God’s name is revered, reserved and rescuing. The next time you open your mouth to use the name of God, consider carefully because you are standing on holy ground!

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, Dec. 2020, p. 2)

God Will Be with You

There’s no telling what a person carries within him or herself. No one really knows the pains one has experienced in life, how much one has suffered or how deep the hurt may go. No one knows through what a person is going while not giving up. If we are really honest, no matter the front we all may have before others, everyone has had matters in life that can be termed negative, hard, heart-breaking and discouraging. No one is immune to trials and temptations; how each one deals with what such brings to life is what makes us unique.

Those issues of life that bring such to a person may not always have to be life-threatening or fall in a severe category. We can be towers of strength at one time, but at another time, we may break down over similar matters. The cumulative effect of trials can wear one down as well. How much seems to be too much can depend on a great many factors, but it happens. Even some of God’s most faithful servants at times found themselves discouraged and in need of strength. Elijah needed God to help him regain a positive outlook on his ministry (1 Kgs. 19:4). The apostle Paul had times in his life when God encouraged him not to give up (Acts 18:9; 23:11).

Not letting go of God is a key ingredient in finding one’s way out of the struggles of life. Satan’s great tool of discouragement is often tied to the deception that God doesn’t care, that He isn’t faithful to His promises and that a person must go it alone. We will face defeat if we try to live only in our own strength, rather than in the strength of the Lord (Eph. 3:16). Jesus is with us always (Matt. 28:20). God never leaves us or forsakes us (Heb. 13:5). He gives us each other for support and encouragement (Heb. 10:24). *“The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”* (1 John 4:4).

We must be careful how we approach others who wrestle with the issues of life as they seek to live the Christian life. We don’t know what it’s like to be other people, to have their life experiences, their feelings or their weak-

(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/

- Dec. 6 Daniel 1—3; Prov. 6 (video)
- Dec. 7 Daniel 4—6; Proverbs 7
- Dec. 8 Daniel 7—9; Proverbs 8
- Dec. 9 Daniel 10—12; Proverbs 9
- Dec. 10 Hosea 1—3; Prov. 10 (video)
- Dec. 11 Hosea 4—6; Proverbs 11
- Dec. 12 Hosea 7—9; Proverbs 12
- Dec. 13 Hosea 10—12; Proverbs 13

“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

- ◆ Due to the active COVID cases within the congregation, we will only be meeting for Sunday morning worship only this week and next week. We will reevaluate at that time. Please continue to practice common sense prevention measures. (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.)
- ◆ We will continue to live-stream the worship service. In addition we will continue the Sunday evening series on the life of Christ and the Wednesday night class via live-stream. We will cancel our Sunday morning class on 1 Corinthians.
- ◆ Fellowship meals are cancelled, until further notice.
- ◆ A note of appreciation was received this week from Marcia Turnbull.
- ◆ Continue to pray for the church and our country.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

(Continued from page 2)

nesses. No matter how deep the pain may be or the degree of suffering one experiences, God is always there, offering His help to overcome. *“If God is for us, who is against us?”* (Rom. 8:31). We can find that help in prayer, in His Word, in serving, in worship, in fellowship and in all that keeps our focus on Him and eternity. Isolation, turning ourselves inward, only allows Satan to exploit our fears and doubts. We should never sever our relationship with God, who offers us His help if we come to Him, trust Him and take advantage of what He provides.

Our challenge in all this is to allow God be God in our lives. Don't be surprised that, if God isn't an integral part of your life, worldliness and discouragement will win battles you face. We weren't meant to go it alone. Even Paul, writing to Timothy in his last letter, awaiting what would turn out to be his demise, could say, *“At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me”* (2 Tim. 4:16-17). No matter what, the Lord will stand with us. May we encourage each other to remain committed in our faith, to have confidence in God and each other, and to know He is working His purposes out in our lives, for that which will last an eternity. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths”* (Prov. 3:5-6).

Robert Johnson (Gospel Gazette Online, Dec. 2020, p. 3)

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: Kaci Churchwell (18).

December Anniversaries: David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Manger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 22, 2020	Nov. 29, 2020
Bible Class	27	33
AM Worship	35 + [6]	37 + [10]
PM Worship	19 + [5]	33 + [6]
Wednesday PM	22	Cancelled
Contribution	\$1,682	\$1,670

	This Week: 12/6/20	Next Week: 12/13/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>December 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p> <p>January 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Barnum</p>	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Cancelled	Cancelled		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 9 Cancelled	December 16 Cancelled	December 23 Ryan Rudloff	December 30 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 December 6, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Exodus 26:15**

<p><u>Does God Exist? Or, Are We Merely the Products of Evolution?</u></p> <p>I. The Cosmological Argument. Hebrews 3:4 <i>For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.</i> Genesis 1:1 <i>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.</i> Psalm 19:1 <i>The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.</i> Romans 1:20 <i>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,</i> Hebrews 11:3 <i>By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.</i></p> <p>A. The Essential Argument.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everything is an effect of some cause. 2. Unless there is "infinite regression," there must be a first cause. 3. Nothing comes from nothing, and something cannot arise from nothing. 4. Since there is a world, there must be some infinite force behind it. <p>B. Four Alternatives to the World's Origin.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is an illusion. 2. It spontaneously arose out of nothing. 3. It had no origin, but has existed eternally. 4. It was created. 5. The first two are absurd, the third does not fit the evidence, leaving creation as the only valid alternative. <p>C. An Objection: "If everything must have a cause, then God must have a cause. If there can be anything without a cause, it may as likely be the world as God."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is not matter but spirit; He is self-existent. 2. The law of entropy does not apply to God; He is self-perpetuating. <p>II. The Teleological Argument.</p> <p>A. The universe demonstrates order, purpose, and design.</p> <p>B. Examples of Order and Design.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Human Body. (Psalm 139:14) 2. The Physical Earth. 	<p><u>Jesus Healed a Man on the Sabbath and Defended the Act: Part 2</u> (Jn. 5:19-47)</p> <p>III. A Sermon of Jesus' deity and credentials (19-47).</p> <p>This is one of the clearest declarations of Jesus' deity and credentials, but it is couched in Jewish idioms; to fully understand it one must think like a Jew. It can be divided into three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comparison between Jesus and the Father (19-23), • Resurrection unto life and unto judgment (24-30), and • Various witnesses to Jesus (31-47). <p>A. Verses 19-23 can be summarized with the slogan: "Like Father, Like Son."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus makes what the Jews would consider to be outrageous claims: to share God's omnipotence, omniscience, power to create and to condemn. 2. Even so, the most outlandish claim comes in v. 23: "... all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father." 3. The implications of this are astounding! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus has the <i>ability</i> and the <i>authority</i> of the Father. b. If this premise is accepted, Jesus is the end of man's search for God. <p>B. Verses 21-23 launch Jesus into another discussion: Resurrection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our minds naturally gravitate to "end time" events. 2. But let's not miss the very real and very present truth that Jesus gives life to the spiritually dead now—as in today. 3. The spiritually dead will be brought to life by the preaching of Jesus. <p>C. In this final phase of Jesus' sermon, He outlines the various witnesses He has.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First, Jesus is His own witness. 2. Second, the Father Himself testified of Jesus. 3. Third, John's testimony was surprisingly thorough and theologically "mature." 4. Fourth, Jesus' works testified about Him. 5. Fifth, the Scriptures themselves testify about Jesus. 6. When all is said and done, Jesus' witnesses are all divine; thus, the religious leaders won't accept a single one of them. <p>D. Not only were the Pharisees upset with Jesus, He was upset with them!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He rebukes them harshly, not from cruelty but from clarity. 2. He knows that the stakes are high – eternity is in the balance.
--	--