

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



January 3, 2021

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

What Shall We Do With a New Year

Paul admonished the Corinthians to "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). As we come to the beginning of a new year, in fact, the beginning of a new decade, it is good to reflect on our accomplishments and failures of the past year so that we make resolve or purpose to do better in the New Year than in the past. It has been said, "That those who fail to plan, plan to fail."

With this thought in mind, let us "examine ourselves" and consider what we shall do with a New Year. A year is a definite period of time. 2021 will be composed of 52 weeks and 365 days. If we are allowed to live through these weeks and days they will either be used for our good or our detriment. Many have entered years of the past to have only used the year to wander away from God and are no longer pleasing to Him. I want to suggest five ways that we can make the "new year" a good year and a blessing to us spiritually.

Grow Spiritually – In Knowledge – In Grace

The necessity of growing spiritually as Christians is important (Heb. 5:11-14). In order to grow spiritually, we must determine to be faithful in our attendance in the services of the church. We must learn the value of taking time to study God's word with other Christians and receiving encouragement from others as well as extending encouragement to others. If we are to grow spiritually, we must be present when the local church of which we are a member assembles (Heb. 10:23-25).

We will not grow in knowledge and in grace when we place our jobs or other activities in front of our "assembling together" in order to be exhorted and to exhort and encourage others in love and good works. But spiritual growth also requires our participation in home Bible studies with others and the study of God's word on our own. Christians should be like the Bereans who "searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). Let us make time in our schedules this year to be pre-set at assemblies and Bible class periods, to participate in home Bible studies and to make time for personal Bible study at home. We make time for everything that we deem as important, and without a doubt there is nothing more important than doing those things which will help us to be faithful and grow spiritually.

Grow Deeper In Our Worship

One reason why we do not grow spiritually is because we lack depth in our worship. Many look at worship as just putting only enough time as necessary. As we think about this let me ask, "How many of the 8,760 hours this year will we spend in our worship—both public and private?" Some may think 52 hours a year is enough.

But, if one works 40 hours a week for a year, they will spend 2,080 in their work. We must understand the value in study, prayer, teaching in song, in giving and reflecting upon God's will and His marvelous grace. Reflecting on our worship and

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**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.

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putting the meaning in it that we should will help our perspective and help us to overcome sin and draw closer to God.

To Grow In Our Service To Others

Selfishness is condemned in the scriptures. Remember the rich fool in Luke 12, who was blessed with abundance in his harvest, but was condemned for thinking of self and not remembering God or others. Again, in Matthew 25:31-46, we have the judgment scene pictured and those that were condemned were those who had not remembered others when they had the opportunity to assist. The life of a Christian should be a life of putting God first, others second and self third (Matt. 6:33; Phil. 2:3-4). Let each of us determine to look upon the needs of others in the coming year. Let us truly exemplify Christ living in us as we forget about ourselves and look for opportunities to help others; physically and spiritually (Matt. 26:39).

To Make Our Homes As God Desires

If we are to have good homes in the world in which we live we must make them as God would have them. God is the designer of the home and He is the authority for how the home is to be ordered. We must determine as husbands, wives, and children to be what the scriptures teach us about our place in the home.

Make Our Lives Pleasing To God

We must make sure our lives are what God would be pleased with. If we have not done the things to bring about the forgiveness of our sins and reconciling us to God then we must do that immediately. We all must resolve to make our lives a living sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1-2). Let us determine to use what time we have in the "new year" to grow spiritually, deepening worship, grow in service to others, and to make our homes and lives pleasing to God. Let us do all that we can in 2021 for the cause of Christ and for the work we have been given to do. Let us all determine to use the "new year" for our good.

(mightyisthelord.com)

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT ABIGAIL?

Does the Bible character Abigail sound familiar to you? She is mentioned for the first time in the Bible in the book of 1 Samuel. One of the things about Abigail's life which many Bible students recall is that she had "a loser" for a husband, an Israelite by the name of Nabal. Following his death, "*Abigail the Carmelitess*" married David and later gave birth to David's second son, Daniel (1 Chron. 3:1).

But what about Abigail's character traits? We learn a number of things about her from the divine record found in 1 Samuel 25. Let's consider some different aspects of her mentality, speech, and conduct.

Abigail was **humble** when she encountered David for the first time. What did she do in that instance? "*Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground*" (1 Sam. 25:23). Is humility a lost trait in our time? The following two truths are relevant in every period of history: "*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*" (1 Peter 5:5).

Abigail was **honest** in her evaluation of her husband when she saw that he treated David rudely. She referred to him as "*this scoundrel Nabal,*" saying, "*For as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him!*" (1 Sam. 25:25). Nabal conducted himself foolishly. Abigail refused to support such behavior.

She was **generous**, as she brought a considerable amount of provisions to feed David and those men who accompanied him (1 Sam. 25:18, 27). Would it not be wonderful if all of God's people graciously shared their substance without expecting any type of payback? Having a spirit of hospitality is a quality that should characterize each Christian (Rom. 12:13).

Abigail was **God-revering**, using her tongue to speak with respect and honor about Jehovah (1 Sam. 25:28-31). Would it not be wonderful if all modern-day men and women alike would do the same?! So many people of our

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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/

Jan. 3	Matthew 8—10; Ps. 3 (video)
Jan. 4	Matthew 11—12; Psalm 4
Jan. 5	Matthew 13—15; Psalm 5
Jan. 6	Matthew 16—18; Psalm 6
Jan. 7	Matt. 19—20; Psalm 7 (video)
Jan. 8	Matthew 21—22; Psalm 8
Jan. 9	Matthew 23—24; Psalm 9
Jan. 10	Matt. 25—26; Ps. 10 (video)

"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 continued presence of the COVID virus within the congregation, we will continue to reevaluate our meeting schedule on a week by week basis. **We will continue to assemble for Sunday morning worship.** Our Sunday evening and Wednesday evening lessons will continue to be live streamed until further notice.
- ◆ **Please continue to practice common sense prevention measures.** (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.)
- ◆ We are thankful for **Dr. Charles Hall** being with us this morning to bring the lesson. Sunday and Wednesday evening lessons have been prerecorded, and are available on the 4th and Steward church of Christ Facebook group.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

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day flippantly and disrespectfully refer to the Creator. Among God’s children, this should never happen. Instead, we ought to speak and “*serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*” (Heb. 12:28).

The woman Abigail was **perceptive**, understanding that it was God’s will for David to reign over Israel. She knew that God had spoken something concerning David’s future on the throne, telling David, “...*when the LORD...has appointed you ruler over Israel*” (1 Sam. 25:30).

For me personally, the one aspect of Abigail’s character which stands out more than anything else is this: this wise woman had **the heart of a servant**. In most cases in ancient times, who was it that had the responsibility of washing the feet of guests and dignitaries? It was the lowest of the servants, right? Listen to what the Bible tells us what Abigail did and said when she came before David: “*Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord*” (1 Sam. 25:41). Abigail basically said, “I

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Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Kyle Duaine (11), Rachel Smith, (15), Bruce Blasingame (16), Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Jaceten Evetts (20), Mattison Churchwell (25), Jacey Dennard (27), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 20, 2020	Dec. 27, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	30 + (14)	15 + [25]
PM Worship	[16]	[16]
Wednesday PM	[16]	{18}
Contribution	\$1,567	\$829

	This Week: 1/3/21	Next Week: 1/10/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>January 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Barnum</p> <p>February 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Duaine Clean Building: Duaine</p>	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Communion	Dex Dennard*; Kyle Duaine	James Fuller*; Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Online	TBD		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 6 Online	January 13 TBD	January 20 TBD	January 27 TBD

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 January 3, 2021

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Exodus 32:1**

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will wash the feet of the foot-washers. Count me as the lowest servant.” In an age when people have “gone nuts,” so to speak, spreading selfies (a photo one takes of him/herself) and self-exalting statements on social media or in any forum where they can get some “Likes” to stroke their egos, it seems to me that we could use a whole lot more hearts like Abigail’s — the heart of a humble servant. Jesus, the Master, came to serve others (Mark 10:45), and He plainly proclaimed, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35).

What we read in the Bible about Abigail reminds us that one does not have to be well-known in order to make an impression on and influence others. Though she would not be categorized as a “major” character in Bible history, and although she lived about three thousand years ago, she continues to send a message to you and me by her attitude, words, and behavior, much like Abel by his faith, speaks to us (Heb. 11:4).

Abigail was *not a perfect person*. She did, however, manifest some admirable qualities: she was humble, honest, generous, God-revering, perceptive, and possessed a servant’s heart. In every generation, people of both genders, young ones and older ones, too, can learn from her. The Old Testament was recorded and preserved for our learning (Rom. 15:4). We are blessed to have its record about Abigail. Let us be thankful for it.

Roger D. Campbell (Seek The Old Paths, Jan. 2021)

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12; Lk. 6:20-26)

- I. **The Comparison of the Beatitudes in Matthew and Luke.**
 - A. Matthew’s beatitudes are structured differently than Luke’s.
 1. Matthew presents 8 blessings.
 2. Luke presents 4 blessings (similar to Mt. 5:3, 6, 4, & 11) and 4 woes.
 - B. Luke phrases his beatitudes, not as spiritual conditions, but as physical.
- II. **The Nature of the Beatitudes.**
 - A. The beatitudes are structured like proverbs.
 - B. Another structural device Matthew uses is to repeat the blessing, “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” with the first and last beatitude (vv. 3, 10).
 1. This shows us that vv. 11–12 are explanations of the 8th beatitude.
 2. More importantly, it ties the whole section together under a common theme – the kingdom of heaven.
 - C. “Divine passives.” – i.e., it is God who gives the blessing.
- III. **Application of the Beatitudes.**
 - A. The beatitudes do **not** describe **8 different kinds of people**; instead, they ideally describe **each citizen of the kingdom**.
 - B. Are these blessings present or future? Both!
 - C. In Matthew’s account, the first 4 beatitudes deal with **our humility before God**; while the last 4 will deal with **mercy towards men**.
- IV. **The Beatitudes in Jewish Literature.**
 - A. Found frequently in Jewish literature (including Psalms and Proverbs).
 - B. There is a striking difference: Jesus blesses the weak and humble.
- V. **Humility Before God.**
 - A. 5:3 “... the poor in spirit, ... theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - B. 5:4 “...those who mourn, ... they shall be comforted.”
 - C. 5:5 “...the meek, ...they shall inherit the earth.”
 - D. 5:6 “...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, ... they shall be filled.”
- VI. **Mercy Towards Men.**
 - A. 5:7 “...the merciful, ... they shall obtain mercy.”
 - B. 5:8 “...the pure in heart, ... they shall see God.”
 - C. 5:9 “...the peacemakers, ... they shall be called sons of God.”
 - D. 5:10–12 “ those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, ... theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”