

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



February 7, 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 McCaghen

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Systemic Corruption (Part 1)

We're hearing a lot lately about "systemic" this or "systemic" that. What exactly does that mean? "Systemic refers to something that is spread throughout, affecting a group or system, such as a body, economy, market or society as a whole." Webster says, when used as a noun, it is "of, relating to, or common to a system. ... fundamental to a predominant social, economic, or political practice." Dictionary.com says: when used as an adjective, "of or relating to a system, especially when affecting the entirety of a thing: ... **relating to or noting a policy, practice, or set of beliefs that has been established as normative or customary throughout a political, social, or economic system.**"

I'm amazed, and not in a good way, how people look to themselves and society (political correctness) to define and determine what is good and what is bad, what is right and what is wrong, what is true and what is false. 2 Peter 2:19 calls those who practice these things, "*servants of corruption.*" However, the living and almighty God in heaven defines good and evil, right and wrong, true and false. "*But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation*" (Jer. 10:10). Men constantly reverse God's true judgment and substitute their own. Isaiah 5:20 says, "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*"

The holy Scriptures (earth's operation manual) reveal the truth about those who work iniquity and corruption. Proverbs 17:15, "*He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.*" Proverbs 24:24-25, "*He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him: But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.*" Isaiah 10:1, "*Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed.*" Matthew 6:23, "*But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*" Luke 16:15, Jesus "...said unto them, *Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*"

The world is full of systemic evils. As a matter of fact, every sin, every violation of God's word, is systemic. The world makes sin their belief and policy. They establish the practice of sin as normal and customary in society; and, they condemn everyone who opposes them.

A very radical movement is alive and well in the United States. It's marching forward with a banner to "cancel" our long established culture. It's origin is founded in **Marxism, Communism, Socialism**. It's not enough for them to have their view heard. They're determined to shut down (i.e. cancel) every dissenting voice. They even pledge to compile a list of those who have a contrary voice and destroy them! The day is upon us, yea is already here in many quarters, that speaking with authority and a "*thus saith the Lord*" is vigorously being silenced. "Freedom of speech" is dead and gone as far as they are concerned. The ONLY voice they allow is theirs! None the less, the faithful will continue to proclaim the "*oracles of God*" (1 Pet. 4:11). We will obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). We will stand in defense of the Gospel (Phil. 1:7,17). We will do what Isaiah was told, "*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins*" (Isa. 58:1). We will strive to be as Paul who said, "*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.*"

(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)

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:26-27). We may go down fighting the good fight of faith, but fight it we will! “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

The generation in which we live is no different than the generations before it — from the first sin of Adam and Eve, extending to the judgment day, the last day of this world’s existence. SIN is defined as the transgression, the violation, of God’s word/law. “...Sin is the transgression of the law” — the never changing law of God (1 Jn. 3:4). By inspiration, John wrote of his day saying, “...the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 Jn. 5:19). Our generation is no different.

What does the Bible say? If we want to learn the truth on any consequential matter, we must turn to the Bible. It never changes with the times or culture. It is **The Absolute Truth**. It’s never subject to one’s opinion or interpretation (cf. 2 Pet. 1:20-21). It is the same today as it was 2,000 years ago or 2,000 years from now — on to infinity.

The holy book of God, the New Testament particularly, condemns every sin. The world does not count these things as sinful (detrimental to one’s soul) but it does not change the truth of it.

We begin at this place to examine some of the many **systemic corruptions** in the world. They are ALL diabolic transgressions of what is true and holy. Each and every one will cause you to lose your soul and be cast out into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels (cf. Mt. 25:41; 22:1-14) — unless you repent.

Systemic Racism

Racism is defined as: “prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.” It is “the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.” Let me put it in simple terms. If I refuse to vote for someone because of the color of their skin AND/OR, if I vote for someone because of the color of their skin, that’s racism. Racism represses, restrains, curbs, those of a certain race AND/OR, it promotes, champions, elevates, those of a certain race. The wickedness of racism cuts both ways!

God’s word is clear and plain — RACISM is sinful. Those who think they are superior to others do not please God and never will — unless they repent of it in their heart. A change in prac-

tice follows repentance. We ought to have the mind-set and attitude like that of a little child.

The apostle Peter announced a great truth at the house of Cornelius when he said, “...Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons**: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35). Romans 2:11, “For there is no respect of persons with God.” Romans 10:12, “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.” Galatians 2:6, “God shows personal favoritism to no man” (NKJV). Ephesians 6:9, “And, ye masters, ...forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.” Colossians 3:25, “But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” James 2:8-9, “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” 1 Peter 1:17, “And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work.”

Every person on the planet is of the human race. To not count all men equal is racist. Every person has a soul created in the image of God. That soul will one day stand before the judge of all the earth and give account of their life, no matter how they’ve lived and no matter what their ethnic origin. We all came from the same source — Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:26-28). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). The judge of all the earth will do right (Gen. 18:25).

God is color blind. As his people, we are color blind also. It is man who makes distinction between races, not God. By what reasoning or logic can one race say to another, ours is superior to yours? There’s no such thing! It’s absurd. What color were Adam and Eve? That’s a silly and irrelevant question. Every human being on the planet came from that one source. God did not make different races to populate the earth. He only made one human pair. Read heaven’s words in Acts 17:24-27, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath **made of one blood all nations of men** for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.”

(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/

Feb. 7 John 15—17; Psalm 38
Feb. 8 John 18—21; Ps. 39 (video)
Feb. 9 Acts 1—2; Psalm 40 (video)
Feb. 10 Acts 3—4; Psalm 41
Feb. 11 Acts 5—7; Psalm 42 (video)
Feb. 12 Acts 8—9; Psalm 43
Feb. 13 Acts 10—11; Psalm 44 (video)
Feb. 14 Acts 12—13; Psalm 45

“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 **28** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Beginning today we will be resuming our normal Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services.** We will continue to livestream all of the services for those who are not able to be here in person.
 - We will not be resuming our Sunday morning Bible class until further notice. (Hopefully soon!)
 - We will not be resuming our Fellowship Meals or other social functions until further notice.
- ◆ **Please continue to practice common sense prevention measures.** (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.)

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ February 26-28—Arise Spiritual Growth Workshop @ Southwest in Austin, “Biblical Principles for Congregational Growth”

(Continued from page 2)

When humankind corrupted themselves to such a degree they could not be tolerated any longer (Gen. 6:5), God destroyed the entire earth with a global flood. However, Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of God (Gen. 6:8). Only one human family was spared. When Noah and his wife, along with his three sons and their wives (eight people all together) stepped off the ark, “*God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth*” (Gen. 9:1). As it did with Adam and Eve, the population of the earth today came from Noah. What color was he? That’s a moot question — immaterial. What difference does it make? None.

What matters is that every human being has a soul. Systemic racism is man-made. It is evil. The answer to racism is not found in a law made by man. The real answer is to go to the Bible and follow the teaching of the New Testament. As the foundation of society is the home, it’s in the home where refuting racism is going to be found. When right and proper teaching is grounded in the principles of righteousness, society will reflect it and racism will disappear. When righteousness is abandoned, society will be filled with corruption — just as we see it in the world today.

YOU have a choice. What will it be? If you keep looking for the answer in the wrong place, you’ll never find it. The answer is heaven made. It’s in the Bible.

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2020)

Celebrate

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

February Birthdays: Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Carol Wilcox (5), **Lunday Maninger (8)**, Patti Bannister (14), Aaron Smith (21), Maylaine Duaine (28).

February Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Jan. 24, 2021	Jan. 31, 2010
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	40 + [15]	41 + [18]
PM Worship	[20]	[32]
Wednesday PM	[23]	[30]
Contribution	\$2,228	\$2,001

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/7/21	Next Week: 2/14/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	February 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Duaine Clean Building: Duaine March 2021 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: McCaghren Clean Building: McCaghren	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Don Smith*, Rafe Smith Chase Churchwell, John Barnum	Randy Huckaby*, Kyle Duaine Dex Dennard, Daniel Edwards		
Closing Prayer	John Propst	Ryan Rudloff		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Chase Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 10 Prayer Night	February 17 Rafe Smith	February 24 Don Smith	March 3 Prayer Night

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 February 7, 2021

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Leviticus 1ff**

A Holy Nation

Israel was to be to God "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6). Peter plainly said that the command for Israel to "be holy" applies to the church as well (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). What does it mean to be "a holy nation"?

I. God's Holy People Then.

A. Separated From Other Nations.

1. This fact is stressed in 11:44-45, where it is stated that God brought the Israelites out of Egypt.
2. Because they were God's special people, the Israelites were to keep themselves undefiled by the sins of the nations around them.
3. We often think of compromise as a good thing. However, in OT times, compromise was the major tactic the devil used to try to destroy God's people and thwart God's plan.

B. Separated For God's Use.

1. The idea of holiness means being consecrated to God's mission.
2. They were to be fully dedicated to Him!
3. When the Israelites were called to be a holy nation, they were called to be a people dedicated to the Lord.

II. God's Holy People Today.

The word for "holy" in the Greek NT (ἅγιος) means the same as the Hebrew word *qādōsh* in the OT. As Christians, we have been made holy just as Israel was holy.

A. Separated From the World.

1. The NT teaches that, when we became Christians, we were redeemed and transferred out of the world into Christ's kingdom (Col. 1:13-14).
2. Like the Israelites of old, we may think there is no problem if we just compromise a little with the world.
3. To be holy, then, we must be separate, distinct from the world.

B. Separated For God's Use.

1. Being holy today also requires that we be separate for God, and that means we must be totally dedicated to Him.
2. Our Christianity must affect everything we do.
3. Besides abstaining from sin, it means giving ourselves completely to the Lord.

The Conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 7:1-29; Lk. 6:31, 37-49)

I. Teaching on Judging (7:1-6; cf. Lk. 6:37-42).

- A. The word translated "judge" can mean "to analyze" or "evaluate" or even "to condemn."
1. Christians are expected to analyze and evaluate people and their behaviors (Mt. 7:5-6, 16; 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Jn. 4:1).
 2. At the same time we have no right to condemn others.

II. Teaching on Prayer (Mt. 7:7-11).

- A. Our prayer lives are a great barometer of our faith.
 B. God is comparable to a perfectly loving human father.

III. The Golden Rule (Mt. 7:12; cf. Lk. 6:31).

- A. This Golden Rule sums up an enormous body of material.
 B. The negative of this rule, sometimes called the Silver Rule, is frequently found in religious literature.
1. We can do nothing and completely satisfy the demands of the Silver Rule.
 2. But the Golden Rule demands my constant and utmost action.

IV. The Two Ways – and False Prophets (Mt. 7:13-23; Lk. 6:43-45).

A. Destruction or Life (Mt. 7:13-14).

1. Jesus encourages us to choose the narrow/difficult way that leads to life, rather than the wide/broad way that leads to destruction.
2. The path that appears so constricting, is actually the more liberating.

B. Bad Fruit or Good (Mt. 7:15-20; Lk. 6:43-45).

1. A prophet receives a revelation from God and speaks it to people.
2. How does one recognize a false prophet?
 - a. First, by their fruit.
 - b. Second, we must consider the context of the narrow vs. broad way.

C. Saying and Doing (Mt. 7:21-23).

1. Jesus' words suggest that it is possible to be self-deceived.
2. To be sure that Jesus knows us, we will do what the Lord tells us to do.

V. Two Builders/Houses (Mt. 7:24-27; Lk. 6:46-49).

- A. It is much easier to build on the sandy surface than to dig down to bedrock.
 B. These two houses will look the same to the passerby; but the difference will be obvious enough in the storm.

VI. Response (Mt. 7:28-29). This silenced crowd was amazed at Jesus' teaching.