

# 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 14, 2021

## Contact Us:

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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

## The Greater Tragedy

Dictionaries define "tragedy" as, "a disastrous event: calamity" ("Tragedy," *Marriam-Webster.com Dictionary*) or "a lamentable, dreadful, or fatal event or affair ... disaster" ("Tragedy," *Dictionary.com*). There have been too many tragedies throughout human history to even begin to list them, but let us briefly note a few of them to demonstrate the nature of human tragedies that, unfortunately, have plagued and will continue to beset mankind.

**The American Civil War** spanned the years 1861 to 1865, and between 620,000 to 850,000 died directly and indirectly as a result (Daniel Nasaw, "Who, What, Why: How many soldiers died in the US Civil War?," *BBC News*, April 3, 2012). That tragedy was one of the topmost catastrophic events ever to transpire in the western hemisphere, and its ramifications continue to this day in the United States of America.

"The RMS **Titanic**, a luxury steamship, sank in the early hours of April 15, 1912, off the coast of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic after sideswiping an iceberg during its maiden voyage [from South Hampton, England to New York, USA]. Of the 2,240 passengers and crew [of 900] on board, more than 1,500 lost their lives in the disaster." Only about 705 persons survived. ("Titanic," *History*, Mar. 10, 2020).

The Titanic and the Lusitania were the two largest luxury ocean liners ever constructed at the time they were put into service. "**Lusitania** met its tragic end on May 7, 1915, when a torpedo fired by a German U-boat sunk the ship, killing nearly 1,200 of the 1,959 people on board and precipitating the United States' entry into World War I" ("Titanic").

**World War I** from 1914 to 1918 resulted in 20 million deaths, a little over half of whom were civilians. **World War II** from 1939 to 1945 caused over 70 million deaths, over 50 million of whom were civilians.

Interestingly, "war is defined as an active conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives. ... Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history. ... At least 108 million people were killed in wars in the twentieth century. Estimates for the total number killed in wars throughout all of human history range from 150 million to 1 billion" (Chris Hedges, "What Every Person Should Know About War," *The New York Times*, July 6, 2003).

The infamous **9/11** stunned a nation and the world.

During the September 11 attacks of the year 2001, 2,977 people were killed, 19 hijackers committed murder-suicide, and more than 6,000 others were injured. The immediate deaths included 265 on the four planes (including the terrorists), 2,606 in the World Trade Center and in the surrounding area, and 125 at the Pentagon. The attacks remain the deadliest terrorist act in

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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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world history. Most of those who perished were civilians except for 343 firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers who died in the World Trade Center and on the ground in New York City, and another law enforcement officer who died when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, 55 military personnel who died at the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and the 19 terrorists who died on board the four aircraft. Of the 2,977 people who died, 2,605 were U.S. citizens and 372 non-U.S. citizens (excluding the 19 perpetrators). More than 90 countries lost citizens in the attacks, including the United Kingdom (67 deaths), the Dominican Republic (47 deaths), and India (41 deaths). As of August 2013, medical authorities concluded that 1,140 people who worked, lived, or studied in Lower Manhattan at the time of the attack have been diagnosed with cancer as a result of “exposure to toxins at Ground Zero.” It has been reported that over 1,400 9/11 rescue workers who responded to the scene in the days and months after the attacks have since died. At least 11 pregnancies were lost as a result of 9/11. (“Casualties of the September 11 Attacks,” *Wikipedia*)

Thousands upon thousands of tragedies, some beyond imagination by sane and civilized people, have been perpetrated by humans against fellow humans. However, irrespective of any particular tragedy, noted or not noted herein, or the combination of all perceived tragedies, there is a **greater tragedy** than any other or even all tragedies put together.

“Roughly 100,825,272,791 people have ever died” (Mona Chalabi, “What Are the Demographics of Heaven?” *FiveThirtyEight*, Oct. 14, 2015). The majority of mankind, lamentably, will be lost, according to Jesus. “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matt. 7:13-14). Over thousands of years, God established three successive, unilateral, obligatory

covenants with man: Patriarchy, Judaism and Christianity.

God devised a plan, by which though He is completely holy and pure, to have fellowship with His wayward creation – sinful man. God’s scheme dates back to before time began (Tit. 1:2-3; Prov. 8:23-31; 1 Pet. 1:20-23). The climax of God’s provision is to have fellowship with man and for those who are in fellowship with Him also to have fellowship with each other (1 John 1:3). The facilitator of this three-way fellowship is the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:3-6) or the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15) or Testament (Heb. 9:16-17). Hence, all amenable souls living today must obey the Gospel to benefit from God’s grand plan (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:17).

The crux of the Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Obeying the Gospel culminates initially in imitating the death, burial and resurrection of Christ by undergoing Christian baptism (Rom. 6:3-8). Continued obedience of the Gospel will result in eternal salvation and a home in Heaven (Rev. 2:10). Our Lord, the Son of God, who died a horrible and torturous death by crucifixion, is the Savior of the obedient (Heb. 5:9).

**The greater tragedy than all other tragedies combined is dying outside of a covenant relationship with our Creator – Almighty God.** What could be more tragic than unnecessarily spending eternity in Hell, which was prepared for the devil his angels (Matt. 25:41)? Maybe even worse, many precious souls who were once saved and who entertained the hope of spending forever in Heaven will turn away from God and return to lives of sin (2 Pet. 2:20-22; Matt. 13:18-23). **There is no greater tragedy than dying lost in sin,** especially when God the Father provided a master plan for man’s redemption, God the Son made a vicarious sacrifice of Himself for us, and God the Holy Spirit stipulated the roadmap to eternal Heaven through divine inspiration of the Bible’s penmen. There are some tragedies in this world that are unavoidable, but everyone can avoid **the greater tragedy** of being eternally lost. What will you do?

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Feb. 2021)

### 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/)

**Feb. 14** Acts 12—13; Psalm 45  
**Feb. 15** Acts 14—16; Psalm 46 (video)  
**Feb. 16** Acts 17—19; Psalm 47  
**Feb. 17** Acts 20—22; Psalm 48 (video)  
**Feb. 18** Acts 23—25; Psalm 49  
**Feb. 19** Acts 26—28; Psalm 50  
**Feb. 20** Romans 1—3; Psalm 51  
**Feb. 21** Romans 4—6; Psalm 52

“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 **38** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ There will be **no service this evening** here, due to the weather. The lesson has been prerecorded and is available on Facebook.
- ◆ We have made the decision to **cancel our Spring Gospel Meeting** due to the continued uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic. We were, however, able to slide Jon McCormack to the same time slot next spring.
- ◆ A **teacher's meeting** is planned **after worship this morning**. All interested are encouraged to stay and participate.
- ◆ **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—**Cancelled**
- ◆ *Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow*
- ◆ February 26-28—Arise Spiritual Growth Workshop @ Southwest in Austin, “*Biblical Principles for Congregational Growth*”

## What Does Baptism Mean?

To understand the meaning and purpose of baptism as given by God, one needs to prayerfully study the Bible.

### Cleansed (Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

There is a God-pleasing washing that cleanses the obedient from the past. God revealed that baptism washes away sins and cleanses one through the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5). “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus...” One goes from spiritual filth to being washed or cleansed beneath the fountain filled with blood provided because of God’s love.

### Clothed (Gal. 3:26-27)

The old identity is covered with Christ, whom we are coming more and more to resemble (Rom, 8:29). It’s now our heartfelt intention to let the beauty of Jesus be seen in our lives (1 Cor. 11:1). We pattern our lives after the Lord. We go from being soiled to the whiteness and brightness made possible through His shed blood.

### Freedom (Rom. 6:16-18; 1 Cor. 10:1-4)

Sin is slavery, and only in Christ can we be freed from sin (Rom. 6:20-23). As Israel was delivered from bondage in Egypt, we can be led triumphantly from sin’s bondage. Yet, this does not free us to do whatever we please, for liberty is not license but rather freedom to become what we should be through Christ. Imagine the blessing of going from the slavery of sin into the freedom provided by His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Freedom has its price, and let’s remember what it cost our loving Father (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

### Burial and Resurrection (Rom. 6:4)

Something in us dies before we are buried with Jesus Christ, and that is our past lives and desires to practice sin. We don’t want sin to be our master anymore (Rom. 6:14), but rather we bury the old life and rise together with Him to walk in newness of life. Baptism is grounded in the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20), and when we submit to His Lordship, there must be complete submission to His commands (Luke 6:46). When we believe in Christ, turn from (repent of) the practice of sinning, confess our faith in Him as Lord and the Son of God, then we are ready to be scripturally buried and raised with Jesus. Because a death has occurred, now there must be a burial (Col. 2:12; 3:3). Baptism is being covered over, immersed or buried, whereby we are cleansed, and then raised with our Lord.

### Forgiveness (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16)

Baptism stands between God, man and forgiveness. We will never be saved from sin without responding to what God has commanded. In Christ’s blood is forgiveness and redemption, and God has plainly told us where we contact the Son’s sanctified blood (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14).

May we see the necessity and the eternal importance of complete obedience. Baptism is where one is born into God’s family. One can’t be in Christ without it. Let’s listen to God!

*Jerry R. Kendall (Gospel Gazette Online, Feb. 2021)*

## 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. 31, 2021	Feb. 7, 2021
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	41 + [18]	37 + [20]
PM Worship	[32]	28 + [18]
Wednesday PM	[30]	26 + [11]
Contribution	\$2,001	\$1,392

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

## 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 14, 2021

Sunday Class ..... **Cancelled**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Leviticus 3ff**

<p><b>How to Get Along with Others</b> (Mt. 7:1-12) – Part 1 of 3</p> <p>One of the challenges we have in living the Christian life is getting along with people. Jesus devoted an entire section of His Sermon on the Mount to this topic (Mt. 7:1-12).</p> <p>Six truths can be drawn from this text: six essentials for getting along with others.</p> <p>I. Essential #1: <b>Forego Judging</b> (7:1-2).</p> <p>A. <b>What Jesus Commanded</b> (1a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If we want to get along with others, Jesus said that we <i>must stop being judgmental</i>. "Judge not...."</li> <li>This may seem a negative way to start a section on relationships.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maybe He was <i>meeting a universal need</i>.</li> <li>He may have begun with the subject to <i>offset a bad influence</i>.</li> <li>He may have started as He did to <i>eliminate the negative aspect of relationships</i> before getting to the positive.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. <b>What Jesus Did Not Mean</b> (1a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That we should do away with civil judgment.</li> <li>That we should never exercise church discipline.</li> <li>That we are never to make judgments about other people.</li> </ol> <p>C. <b>What Jesus Meant</b> (1a). Aspects of the judgment that Jesus condemned.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A common shortcoming is to allow our background, prejudices, and preferences to color our judgment.</li> <li>We often judge hastily, without having all of the facts or knowing all of the circumstances.</li> <li>Too often when we judge someone, we attempt to make a judgment concerning his <i>motivation</i>.</li> <li>Jesus was also condemning putting the worst possible construction on what people do instead of the best.</li> <li>We are sometimes harsh, bitter, and hypercritical in our judgments.</li> </ol> <p>D. <b>What Jesus Promised</b> (1b-2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"... that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."</li> <li>As we read Jesus' promise, we see our need for mercy.</li> <li>Second, we should see our need for common sense.</li> <li>Third, we see our need for humility.</li> </ol>	<p><b>The Conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount</b> (Mt. 7:21-29; Lk. 6:46-49)</p> <p>I. <b>Saying and Doing</b> (Mt. 7:21-23).</p> <p>A. Jesus' words suggest that it is possible to be <i>self-deceived</i>, but on the Judgment Day, all the hidden things will be revealed (1 Cor. 4:5).</p> <p>B. If we want to be sure that Jesus knows us, we will do "the will of [His/our] Father in heaven" to become a Christian, and afterwards.</p> <p>II. <b>Two Builders; Two Houses</b> (Mt. 7:24-27; Lk. 6:46-49).</p> <p>A. It is easier to listen to Jesus' words (v. 26) and profess a relationship with Him (vv. 21-22), than it is to obey Him (v. 24); but that is the only way to lay a lasting foundation.</p> <p>B. These two houses will look the same to the passerby; but the difference will be obvious enough in the storm.</p> <p>C. The world makes many distinctions between individuals; but, in the end, only one distinction will matter: whether we are on the narrow way that leads to everlasting life or the broad way that leads to eternal destruction.</p> <p>III. <b>Response</b> (Mt. 7:28-29). They were amazed at Jesus' teaching.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jesus' Teaching and Healing</b></p> <p>I. <b>A Centurion's Servant Healed</b> (Lk 7:1-10; Mt 8:5-13).</p> <p>A. After Jesus' great sermon He returns to Capernaum, where a centurion sends a delegation of Jewish elders to Him. The centurion's servant, who was like a son to him, was very ill.</p> <p>B. As Jesus approached his home, the centurion sent word that he was not worthy for Him to enter his home.</p> <p>C. The centurion acknowledged Jesus' spiritual authority (7:6-8).</p> <p>D. Jesus was amazed at the incredible faith of a Gentile, and laid out a paradox against the Jews who expected to participate in the Messianic banquet.</p> <p>E. The centurion's servant was healed that same hour.</p> <p>II. <b>A Widow's Son Raised</b> (Lk 7:11-17).</p> <p>A. As Jesus, accompanied by a large crowd, approached the small village of Nain, he met a funeral procession led by a widow burying her only son.</p> <p>B. Jesus had compassion on her. He touched the open coffin (bier), said "Young man, I say to you, arise," and presented him alive to his mother.</p> <p>C. The crowd reacted, first with fear, and then they glorified God because "A great prophet has risen among us" and "God has visited His people."</p>
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