

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 28, 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

Can We See the Bible Alike?

When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, he demanded, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren be followers together of me and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample" (Phil. 3:15-17). The Holy Spirit, through Paul, expected the saints at Philippi to see the Bible alike! They were to walk "by the same rule," denoting a standard or a pattern. That pattern or standard is God's Word. Sadly, many today see the Bible in different ways. Some interpret it one way and others another way. However, the Bible does not mean different things to each reader. If it meant different things to different people, there would be no way we could "walk by the same rule," for we would all have different rules – different standards. Nevertheless, that is exactly what is happening in our world and sadly, in some cases, even in the church. The question "Can we see the Bible alike?" begs an answer.

The Facts

The very Book we are discussing affirms that we can see the Bible alike. In fact, to say that the Bible means different things to different people is to completely misunderstand its contents. Moses affirmed that we can all see the Bible alike when he penned, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: **but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law**" (Deut. 29:29). David declared that the Bible can be seen by all alike when he wrote, "Through thy precepts I get understanding..." (Psalm 119:104). Notice carefully David did not say that God's Precepts create confusion and dismay but rather understanding! The apostle of love was clear about our understanding the Bible alike as he scribed, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name**" (John 20:30-31). Paul was clear about the universal interpretation of Scripture when he wrote, "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4).

The Fog

The Bible is obviously quite clear in affirming that we can all see its contents alike, but many fail to see the Bible alike. Why is that? While I am certain there are other reasons than we will notice in this article, following are a few of the **fogs** that cause people to see the Bible differently.

- **People** can cause us to see the Bible differently. Sometimes people in our clan or family will persuade us to not understand the Bible properly. Some insist on believing things religiously because of what their mothers or

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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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grandmothers believed. "If it was good enough for grandpa to believe, it is good enough for me to believe as well." How sad (Matt. 10:34-37; 19:29)! Sometimes people in crowds cause a fog that prevents us from seeing the Bible alike. However, we must remember that the majority is often **not** right religiously (Matt. 7:13-21).

- **Pride** can cause us to not see the Bible alike. It takes humility to admit we do not know certain things. Sadly, some are so proud that they will never admit they do not know something or may have practiced something wrong religiously. Truth seekers, not self-seekers, find truth (Matt. 5:3; 6).
- **Phony doctrine** is another cause for not seeing the Bible alike (Matt. 13:14-15; 1 John 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:9-11). The persuader, Satan himself, is another fog that causes people to see the Bible differently. Paul confirmed that "*the god of this world*" can and will blind people's eyes to the truth (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

The Fortune

Truth can be known and understood (John 8:32). When we clear the fog from our eyes, the fact remains that the Bible is meant to be read, studied, understood and obeyed. When we see truth for what it really is, we have found a real fortune! We have the fortune of a **standard**. We can know what is right and what is wrong. We know how to conduct ourselves in **every** daily situation when we know truth. We have found the fortune of **sturdiness**. We are no longer carried about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14). We have an anchor to hold us in times of distress (Heb. 6:19-20). We have found the fortune of the Savior. To find and understand truth is to find Jesus the Lord! In fact, without God's Word, we can never really know Jesus (John 5:39).

Can we all see the Bible alike? **Absolutely!** We can and must "*walk by the same rule*"! Religiously, may we only speak those things that are sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). Peter's command is so fitting. "*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...*" (1 Peter 4:11). If we would just do that, we all could see the Bible alike!

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, Feb. 2021)

Do We Love God?

As Christians, we often talk of our love for God, but what does it really mean to love Him? Is your love just a feeling or an emotion? Is love a circumstance in and out of which we fall? Or, does true love for God involve action? Jesus made a statement in John 14:15 that tells how our love for God must be demonstrated. "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*" We can deduce from this statement that love is not just some feeling or emotion, but rather a true love requires obedience to the will of Jesus Christ. The following questions, which when answered, will test if we really love God as we say that we do.

Do we put God first in our lives? If we truly love God, then we will do much more than just say it. We will seek to put Him first in our lives. Matthew 6:33 records Jesus saying, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God.*" This means we are to **place God in the #1 position in our lives**. He comes before our families, our jobs, our hobbies and everything else that we do. He is the center of our consideration. He is at the center of all that we do.

Do we enjoy giving gifts to God? This deals with our giving. We are afforded an opportunity to give a portion of our blessings to God as a sacrifice every first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). People will sacrifice everything they own for the well-being of their children, but why? The answer is because they love them. However, when it comes to sacrificial giving to God, folks have a tougher time doing that. Why? Perhaps it is because they do not love God as they should.

Do we enjoy talking to God? Most people enjoy communicating with those they love, and thus they communicate with their loved ones often. They email them; they call them; and they go to see them so they can talk with them in person. Yet, many find it a struggle to pray to God each day, and when they do pray, they struggle for words to say to Him. Perhaps this is because some people do not have a relationship with God. Building a relationship with God requires communication on our part to

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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/

Feb. 28	1 Corinthians 13—16; Ps. 59
Mar. 1	2 Corinthians 1—3; Psalm 60
Mar. 2	2 Corinthians 4—6; Psalm 61
Mar. 3	2 Cor. 7—9; Ps. 62 (video)
Mar. 4	2 Cor. 10—13; Psalm 63
Mar. 5	Galatians 1—3; Ps. 64 (video)
Mar. 6	Galatians 4—6; Ps. 65
Mar. 7	Ephesians 1—3; Ps. 66

"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 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**

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Him. If we do not communicate with Him on a regular basis, then do we really love God? I believe we know the answer.

Do we desire to listen to God? Many will declare how much they love God, and yet, they don't listen when He speaks. God speaks to us today through His Word. If I want God to communicate with me, I must read and study His Word (2 Tim. 2:15). When I read God's Word, I understand Him better and also grow closer to Him. Thus, my love for God grows stronger.

So, the next time you tell someone how much you love God, remember that loving God involves much more than just saying it! *"Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, 'Which is the first commandment of all?' Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment"* (Mark 12:28-30).

Therman Hodge (Gospel Gazette Online, Feb. 2021)

Celebrate

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

March Birthdays: **Maylaine Duaine (2/28), Ken Maninger (4),** Dex Dennard (7), Wayne Kahlich (9), Ann Walker (10), Sylvia Cox (14), Daniel Edwards (21), Mileen Kahlich (21), Dru Wilson (29).

March Anniversaries: **James & Cindy Fuller (2),** Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Feb. 14, 2021	Feb. 21, 2021
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	22 + [40]	38 + [22]
PM Worship	—	35 + [20]
Wednesday PM	—	33 + [10]
Contribution	\$900	\$2,752

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/28/21	Next Week: 3/7/21		
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	Randy Huckaby	John Propst		
Communion	James Fuller*, Chase Churchwell Daniel Edwards, Rafe Smith	John Barnum*, Kyle Duaine, Coyce Reed Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Kyle Duaine	Ryan Rudloff		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Dex Dennard		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Chase Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 3 Prayer Night	March 10 John Barnum	March 17 Rafe Smith	March 24 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 February 28, 2021

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 14:6*
 Wed. Class *Leviticus 4:13*

<p>How to Get Along with Others (Mt. 7:1-12) – Part 3 of 3</p> <p>I. Essential #1: Forego Judging (7:1-2).</p> <p>II. Essential #2: Make Needed Changes (7:3-5a).</p> <p>III. Essential #3: Help Others Humbly (5b).</p> <p>IV. Essential #4: Deal with Differences and Difficulties (6).</p> <p>V. Essential #5: Rely on God (7-11).</p> <p>A. This brings us to the great passage on the power of prayer.</p> <p>B. This passage relates to our context in several ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God shows mercy to us, and this implies that we should show mercy to others. It emphasizes that we can go to God with our needs – in this case, the need to know how to treat others (Jas. 1:5). <p>C. V. 11 says that God will "give good things to those who ask Him!"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A discerning spirit: ability to know how to deal with all kinds of people. If you really want to get along with people, spend much time in prayer. <p>VI. Essential #6: Apply the Golden Rule (12).</p> <p>A. V. 12 has been called the high point of the Sermon on the Mount.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The passage begins, "Therefore, whatever...." In a sense, it summarizes all that has been said in the sermon regarding human relationships. Specifically, it sums up everything that we have learned in 7:1-11 about getting along with others. <p>B. Prior to Jesus, many had worded the principle of v. 12 in the negative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Do <u>not</u> do unto others what you would <u>not</u> want them to do to you." Jesus, however, was the first to express it positively: "<u>Do</u> unto others...." <p>C. The Golden Rule enunciates the general principle that can be applied to every situation that might arise in relationships.</p> <p>D. This is simple, yet so profound. Can you imagine a world where this principle was universally applied?</p>	<p>Woes to Unrepentant Cities (Mt. 11:20-30); Jesus' Feet Anointed (Lk. 7:36-50)</p> <p>I. Woes to Unrepentant Cities (Mt. 11:20-30; cf. Lk. 10:13-15).</p> <p>A. Jesus "began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In contrast to these cities, Jesus highlights "Tyre and Sidon," the epitome of Israel's enemies, and "Sodom," the epitome of sin. The point: There will be greater judgment for those who had opportunity to accept Christ but did not, than for those who had no opportunity. <p>B. The wise, whom you expect to be well informed, were not; but the children, whom you would expect to be ignorant, received special revelation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual truth is "hidden." Where? In God. Jesus empowers the weak of this world and overpowers the strong. <p>C. The Great Invitation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus paints two pictures; extreme weariness and extreme pressure. Jesus presents another paradox. <p>II. Jesus' Feet Anointed (Lk. 7:36-50).</p> <p>A. "Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We are not sure why Simon wanted Jesus to come to his house. During the dinner, in walks this nameless woman with a reputation as "a sinner." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "She began to wash His feet with her tears." "She ... wiped them with the hair of her head." "She kissed His feet." "She ... anointed them with the fragrant oil." <p>B. Simon is shocked: "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."</p> <p>C. Jesus is about to prove to Simon that He not only knows exactly who this woman is, He also knows exactly what Simon is thinking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus looks at the woman, but speaks to Simon. He compares the way the two have treated Him: washing the feet, greeting with a kiss, anointing. <p>D. Another controversy: "Who is this who even forgives sins?"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus ignores the rumblings in the room, and concentrates on the woman. "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."
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