

# 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



March 7, 2021

## 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

## Do you understand yet, they want your kids?

We're dealing with a society-wide case of normalcy bias. Normalcy bias is that cognitive process by which we downplay an oncoming disaster by convincing ourselves that it's not really out of the ordinary, and therefore fail to act. "It's probably not that bad" are the famous last words of the person with normalcy bias, right before the storm hits.

"It's probably not that bad" is what we've been saying by implication for years as we continue to watch the moral reconstruction of our society. And maybe one at a time these things don't seem like that big of a deal. But the rain drops keep getting bigger and more frequent.

Why does Mr. Potato Head need a genderless rebranding? (*"A girl potato might want to wear pants and a boy potato might wear earrings. Hasbro will also sell boxed sets that don't present a normative family structure. This approach is clever because it allows kids to project their own ideas about gender, sexuality, and family onto the toy, without necessarily offending parents that have more conservative notions about family."*)

Why is Disney forcing it into shows and movies for kids of all ages?

Why are so many books being written to teach kids from preschool up to view "all kinds of families and gender identities" as normal? And why do they need to have drag queens read the books to them?

Why is there such a push to make school bathrooms and locker rooms accommodating to kids of whatever gender identity they choose?

### Because they want your kids, obviously.

They want your kids to see Jesus' exclusivity as negative, as they do. They want your kids to think of you and your morals as bigoted and outdated. They want your kids to think that love means not ever even raising an eyebrow at someone's declared identity or orientation. They want your kids to think of societies that affirm maleness, femaleness, and the Biblical picture of the family as backwards and oppressive. And the best way they know how to do that is to inundate your kids with the idea that *their* way is the normal way, the way every right-thinking person prefers and fights for.

And, of course, it's working. A recent Gallup poll claimed that as many as 1 in 6 members of Generation Z respondents (born between 1997-2002, in their study) identify as LGBT. Even if they're anywhere close with those numbers, that is simply a massive percentage. Meanwhile, young people continue to leave the church in droves, or worse, try to mold it in their own secularly-approved image.

But, "it's probably no big deal," we keep telling ourselves.

(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)

The other result of such normalization is widespread acceptance. Gallup also recently reported as many as 49% now believe people are “born gay” (despite the science on the matter) and 75% now fully support the right for gay couples to adopt children.

But, “it’s probably no big deal,” we keep telling ourselves.

How do these numbers change so drastically over time? They get people to think their way is normal, and any other way is oppressive and hateful. And they’re going to push that messaging from every angle possible. If they’re pushing these things via the TV, the streaming services, the internet, and the library, you can be sure it’s coming from two other places, too: your kids’ school, and your kids’ peers. If the number has gone all the way up to 1 in 6 identifying as LGBT among college-aged kids, the numbers won’t be too much different among high schoolers and even middle schoolers. They will be surrounded by these ideas constantly.

So, you need to know who your kids are hanging out with, and the morals they and their parents hold. You need to know which websites your kids frequent. You need to keep filters on anything that can access the internet (computers, phones, TVs, video game consoles) to help them avoid the ever-present trap of pornography. And, it is of eternal importance that you know which TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram stars they follow. (Better yet, just ban those apps. Even better yet, take away any phone with internet access and keep it away until they have the maturity to stand firm in their beliefs.) You also need to know if they’re being exposed to these influencers at school or through their friends.

Truly nefarious material is being pushed out to kids every single day. It is harder than ever to monitor the world’s influence on your kids, but just because it’s difficult doesn’t mean it can’t be done. It’s the difficulty that makes it so important that you do. There will come a time when your children are ready to learn about these things and stand for themselves. In fact, if you over-shelter them to the point they never hear about the issues the world wants to throw at them, you will leave them woefully unprepared. Your task is to bring them along in the truth as they are ready to grasp it. But the world wants them to weigh these matters far before they are ready, when they are too weak to stand strong and can be caught up by emotion and pressure.

If you’re a Christian, you must view all of this as an all-out assault on your family’s foundational beliefs. Why would you

want your kids to be trained by people who hate you and everything you stand for? Of course you don’t, but you will only win through constant vigilance. Are you up to the challenge?

Are you having these conversations with your kids? It might take some awkward moments. It might take some extreme, unpopular measures. It might take mom and dad being considered the mean old bad guys for a while. It might take getting them out of school. It *will* take time and commitment on your part. But every bit of difficulty now will be worth it a trillion times over in eternity.

The storm is here. Don’t face it with a case of normalcy bias. Do what’s necessary to keep your kids safe from a world that is trying so desperately to pull them away from you and from God.

Jack Wilkie (focuspress.org)

## We Are Not of This World

In 1 Peter 2:11, the apostle describes Christians as “*strangers and pilgrims*” in this world. In Hebrews 11:13, we read of the heroes of the faith: “*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” It is very clear from Scripture that those who are the servants of God are set apart from the rest of humanity.

There can be no doubt that God loves the world. John 3:16-17 tells of this remarkable love, but that does not mean He approves of the ways of the world. Jesus our Lord said in John 18:20, “*I spake openly to the world,*” and declared His kingdom to be “*not of this world*” in John 18:36. He also spoke regarding our relationship with the world in which we live. We come out from of this world, and we are now His. In John 17:16, we learn from the Master’s lips, “*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*” So where is our true home? Where Jesus reigns right now – Heaven – is our home!

We have also been left in this world with a purpose. In John 17:18, the Lord said, “*As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*” Remember John 3:16-17, which reads, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*” His mission is now our mission on earth. We

(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/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Mar. 7** Ephesians 1—2; Psalm 67  
**Mar. 8** Ephesians 3—4; Ps. 68 (video)  
**Mar. 9** Ephesians 5—6; Psalm 69  
**Mar. 10** Phil. 1—2; Psalm 70 (video)  
**Mar. 11** Philippians 3—4; Psalm 71  
**Mar. 12** Col. 1—2; Psalm 72 (video)  
**Mar. 13** Colossians 3—4; Psalm 73  
**Mar. 14** Philemon; Psalm 74

“*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 **36** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **Mike Bannister and Johnny McCaghren have been put before the congregation for your consideration to become elders.** If any member here has a scriptural objection to either of these men, contact Gene Bannister by phone (325-217-4056) or by mail (via CARE, Inc.)
- ◆ **Please continue to practice common sense prevention measures.** (Wear mask, limit personal contact, social distance, use hand sanitizers, etc.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

are as He was – a gift, a blessing, a necessary need for all who would obey the good news!

How wonderfully touching it is to realize that Jesus has not left us without support. *“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”* In John 17:11, He said, *“I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.”* In the previous verse, He said, *“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”*

In Christ Jesus, we are kept from the world, while at the same time being in it! Scripture reveals in John 17:15 that Christ prayed that the Father would *“sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”*

We understand that this message will not be popular with all, and some will even hate us. As His servants, as agents of Heaven on earth, we must be a light in its darkness, even as He is! In Matthew 5:14, our Lord said, *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.”* In 1 John 5:4-5, the beloved disciple wrote to the saints, *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

When we obey the Gospel call, we become God’s own beloved people. While living in the world, we must not give our love to it but to our Holy God. In 1 John 2:15, we read, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”* We must avoid the lust of the flesh and the pride of life that leads to destruction.

While we are in the world, let us not forget where our true home is! Let us never forget who is our true King. May the Lord keep us from those who forget their place. 1 John 2:4 reads, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

Scripture reveals this fact: We are not of this world. God commissions us to be a light in the darkness in this world. We will be opposed, but *“greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). Get right with God today and be added to his kingdom (Acts 2:38) while yet you may do so.

*George McNulty (Gospel Gazette Online, March 2021)*

## Celebrate

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

**March Birthdays:** 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, 21, 2021	Feb. 28, 2021
Bible Class	—	32
AM Worship	38 + [22]	42 + [20]
PM Worship	35 + [20]	38 + [15]
Wednesday PM	33 + [10]	34 + 12
Contribution	\$2,752	\$2,391

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 3/7/21	Next Week: 3/14/21		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>March 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      John Barnum  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      McCaghren  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      McCaghren</p> <p><b>April 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Bannister  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Bannister</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Propst	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum*, Kyle Duaine, Coyce Reed, Tom Wilcox	Don Smith, Daniel Edwards Rafe Smith, Chase Churchwell		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	John Propst		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Chase Churchwell	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	March 10 John Barnum	March 17 Rafe Smith	March 24 Don Smith	March 31 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Video

## 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 March 7, 2021

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 14:10*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Leviticus 5:14*

<u>Love, Tears, and Forgiveness</u> (Luke 7:36-50)	<u>Christ's Ministry from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Passover to the 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jesus' Teaching and Healing</u>
<p><b>I. A Remarkable Request:</b> "Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him" (36a).</p> <p><b>II. An Inhospitable Host</b> (36b, 44-46).</p> <p>A. "And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat" (36b).</p> <p>B. In those days, social customs and circumstances dictated that certain courtesies be extended to a guest who entered a home.</p> <p>C. Not one of these amenities was extended to Him.</p> <p><b>III. A Weeping Woman</b> (36-39, 44-46).</p> <p>A. "And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil" (37).</p> <p>1. This notorious sinner knew who Jesus was and that her life had been turned around by Him.</p> <p>2. Her actions are evidence of powerful emotions filling this woman's heart.</p> <p>B. She had lacked one thing: an opportunity to express her appreciation.</p> <p>1. She hurried to the home of Simon and sought out Jesus.</p> <p>2. Her tears fell on His feet, as she kissed them, and poured the perfumed oil on them.</p> <p>C. Simon said to himself, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner" (39).</p> <p><b>IV. A Simple Story</b> (40-50).</p> <p>A. "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed 500 denarii, and the other 50. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both" (41-42a).</p> <p>B. "Therefore, which of them will love him more?" (42b).</p> <p>C. "Do you see this woman?" (44a).</p> <p>1. "Your sins are forgiven" (48).</p> <p>2. "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (50).</p> <p><b>V. Lessons on Love.</b></p> <p>A. "Am I aware of the enormity of my sin?"</p> <p>B. "Am I aware of the wonder of being forgiven of my sins?"</p> <p>C. "Having been forgiven much, do I love much?"</p> <p>D. "Has my love found expression?"</p>	<p><b>I. Second Galilean Tour</b> (Lk. 8:1-3).</p> <p>A. This section opens the door to Jesus' second Galilean tour.</p> <p>B. The twelve "with Him" (v. 1) begin to take a more active role in His ministry.</p> <p>C. Surprisingly, there are a number of prominent women who support Jesus' ministry financially: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and "many others."</p> <p>D. This section also begins what has been referred to as "A Busy Day." Not many days in Jesus ministry are recorded in detail. Our next several lessons will cover Jesus' healing, teaching (parables), and even stilling a storm, all during this one long and busy day.</p> <p><b>II. Blasphemous Accusations</b> (Mt. 12:22-37; Mk. 3:20-30; Lk. 11:14-23).</p> <p>A. Jesus' ministry is at a critical and frenzied stage.</p> <p>B. Mark 3:20 says that "the multitude came together again, so that they [Jesus and His disciples] could not so much as eat bread."</p> <p>C. One specific miracle is reported, a triple miracle of restoring sanity, sight, and speech (Mt. 12:22).</p> <p>1. The people were amazed: "Could this be the Son of David?" (Mt. 12:23).</p> <p>2. "But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, 'He is out of His mind'" (Mk. 3:21).</p> <p>3. Unable to deny that Jesus was performing miracles, the scribes and the Pharisees accused Him of being in league with Satan.</p> <p>a. They said, "He has Beelzebub" (Mk. 3:22).</p> <p>b. They also said, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."</p> <p>D. Jesus answered their accusations with three logical arguments, showing their accusation to be illogical, inconsistent, and impossible.</p> <p>E. He stated further, "every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men" (Mt. 12:31).</p> <p>1. The issue is not a slip of the tongue, but an obstinate hardness of heart – "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt. 12:34).</p> <p>2. Our words are powerful – they show the good, or evil, inside of us.</p>