

# 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



April 11, 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..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

## Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

## 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

## Back to the Bible

**The Bible is the sole authority for all we practice religiously!** Nothing else and no one else is as authoritative as the Word of God – the Bible. The New Testament or Covenant of Jesus Christ (the part of the Bible that primarily applies today) is reliable because the Godhead designated Jesus to possess all authority. *“While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**’”* (Matt. 17:5). *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth**’”* (Matt. 28:18). All we do in religion is to be done in the name of or by the authority of Jesus Christ. *“And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Col. 3:17).

A children’s book character ran around telling everyone that the sky was falling. Of course, he was mistaken, and the evidence did not support his claim. Since then, “the sky is falling” has become a phrase that represents an erroneous hysteria. However, dear Readers, there is a sense in which the sky is falling, and it has been falling for many decades in our own time. Generally, **the sky is falling in religion, politics and society** – in the United States of America as well as around the world.

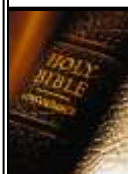
Once the Bible was the chief influence on religion, society, government and justice in America, but sadly, that day is long past. The sky is falling because the Bible has been replaced with wickedness and sinful pleasures devised by men. The extent of such is reminiscent of the generations of mankind who drowned in the universal deluge from which the eight souls inside Noah’s ark were preserved (1 Peter 3:20). *“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”* (Genesis 6:5).

**It is past time to go back to the Bible!** A return to the Bible in religion will bring societies and nations back to God. Nothing else and no one else can lift mankind from the depravities and the waywardness of sin. Only applying God’s Holy Word to people’s lives can do that.

A return to the Bible in religion requires acknowledging **the Bible’s divine names for the church**, for which Jesus Christ died as well as the divine names for members of the church. There are several biblical names for the one body or church of the Bible (Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4), such as, *“the church”* (Acts 2:47), *“the churches of Christ”* (Rom. 16:16) and *“the church of God”* (1 Cor. 1:2). Likewise, there is a new name in the New Testament for the children of God – *“Christian”* (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).

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Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.



Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ... By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ... But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **Heb. 11:1, 3, 6**

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**The Bible specifies a specific organization of the church.** Each congregation is autonomous or self-ruled, guided by biblically qualified elders (Titus 1:5-9), served by biblically qualified deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13) and instructed by teachers (1 Cor. 12:28) and preachers (1 & 2 Timothy; Titus).

**The Bible teaches that there is a unique creed for the church** of the Bible, which is the New Testament or the Gospel. It is singular and referred to in Scripture as the “one faith” (Eph. 4:5; cf., Jude 3). Therefore, it is sinful to add to or to subtract from that creed (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19). Jesus said, referring to the Father and quoting from the prophet Isaiah, “*And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*” (Matt. 15:9). The singularity of the Bible, as God’s instruction to and operator’s manual for humankind, overrules creeds of man’s origin that are less than, more than or purporting to be the same as the Bible. Everyone now living will be judged at the end of time by the New Testament (John 12:48; Rev. 20:12-15).

**The Bible teaches specific activities of Christian worship**, and true, acceptable Christian worship must be “*in spirit and truth*” (John 4:24). In no particular order, Christian worship includes the **Lord’s Supper** or Communion to commemorate the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Our Lord instituted the Supper (Matt. 26:26-29), and the first century church under apostolic guidance observed the Communion weekly on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Early Christians also made a **freewill collection** weekly according to their prosperity (1 Cor. 16:1-2) and as they purposed in their hearts (2 Cor. 9:7). In addition, teaching or **preaching**, to edify the church, is a part of New Testament worship (1 Cor. 14:12). A cappella music, **singing** without instrumental accompaniment, was also a part of worship in the first century church (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). A fifth [element] of New Testament worship is **prayer** (1 Thess. 5:17).

Everything one does in Christian worship must be authorized by the New Testament portion of the Bible for it to be acceptable to God. A return to God in religion, beginning with properly revering God’s Word – the Bible – can lead to society and government righting them-

selves. Changing self by implementing Bible teaching in one’s own life is the place to begin in bringing about similar changes in others. Most importantly, when Christians prioritize going back to the Bible, the church – the bride of Christ (Rev. 22:17) – will be spotless and be comprised of saved souls.

Anyone not now a child of God can become a Christian by going back to the Bible, especially to the New Testament, to learn how to have his sins remitted (Mark 16:16). Weak or unfaithful Christians can also receive the forgiveness of sins by going back to New Testament teaching (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9). The longsuffering of God waits for alien sinners and erring Christians to return to Him (2 Peter 3:9). May non-Christians and Christians go back to the Bible for their own sakes, as well as for the overall good of societies and governments. The world would be a much better place to live while awaiting the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, April 2021)

## Following Jesus

**Following Jesus is not for the faint of heart!** A somewhat sad, but very telling narrative occurred between our Lord and some *would-be* followers in Luke 9:57-62. Each of these individuals had a “reason” why he could not immediately follow Jesus. Some of the reasons given seem somewhat justifiable from the human standpoint. However, no reason that we could ever give for not following Jesus is justifiable in the eyes of the Lord. For those who truly want to follow Jesus, there is a daily price that must be paid (Luke 9:23). However, what is involved in that daily price? What does following Jesus really entail?

Firstly, following Jesus includes **doctrine**. “*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine...*” (John 7:17). Doctrine is teaching or instruction and is the guideline for how we walk (1 John 1:7; 2:6). No one can follow Jesus acceptably and walk by some other standard of authority (2 Thess. 3:6). Doctrine is so essential in following Jesus that many of the religious folks in Jesus’ day were condemned for changing divinely given doctrine (Matt.

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

**April 11** Rev. 10—11; Ps. 102 (video)  
**April 12** Revelation 12—13; Psalm 103  
**April 13** Rev. 14—15; Ps. 104 (video)  
**April 14** Revelation 16—17; Psalm 105  
**April 15** Rev. 18—19; Ps. 106 (video)  
**April 16** Revelation 20—22; Psalm 107  
**April 17** Genesis 1—2; Ps. 108 (video)  
**April 18** Genesis 3—4; Ps. 109 (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 **24** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **Matthew Gibson** will be with us this evening to discuss the work of the **Southwest School of Biblical Studies** in Austin. **Caleb Nash**, one of the students, will be leading our singing.
- ◆ We now have a “clergy badge” that can be used by one person at a time to visit patients in any of the three Hendrick Medical Centers (Abilene or Brownwood). It will be on the back table. Feel free to use it. Please return it after use.

### Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ May 1—**Cherokee Day** (see bulletin board)
- ◆ May 2-6—**Focal Point** at San Marcos
- ◆ May 9-12—**Gospel Meeting** at Bangs (see bulletin board)
- ◆ June 8—August 10 **Summer Youth Series** each Tuesday evening
- ◆ June 27—July 1—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ July 18-23—**Senior Camp**

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15:8-9). So important is doctrine that Peter demanded, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...*” (1 Peter 4:11a). Checking doctrine regularly (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 John 4:1) is so important because Paul warned that some will change the pure doctrine into a “*doctrine of devils*” (1 Tim. 4:1; cf., Gal. 1:6-9). Because one cannot follow Jesus without proper doctrine, Paul exhorted Timothy, “*Till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine*” (1 Tim. 4:13). Just a few verses later, Paul lovingly warned the young evangelist, “*Take heed to thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee*” (1 Tim. 4:16). **Doctrine is essential in following Jesus!**

Secondly, following Jesus involves **deeds**. Sadly, we are all sometimes guilty of the sin of knowing the right thing to do but not doing the right thing (James 4:17). In fact, Jesus warned that some of the religious folks in the first century were “saying, but not doing” (Matt. 23:3). I guess we all could *take a front pew* on this one! In following Jesus, we must sincerely and diligently match our deeds with pure doctrine. Paul reminded Timothy, “*Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity*” (1 Tim. 4:12). Paul earlier warned the church in Colosse, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...*” (Col. 3:17). If our deeds do not match our doctrine, something is amiss in the way we are living. While we all stumble and fall contrary to the doctrine, our goal must be to walk as we talk! **Deeds are essential in following Jesus.**

Thirdly, following Jesus includes **duration**. One of the challenges of following Jesus is that no matter how difficult life gets, we must **never quit!** It is not enough to start following; we must be committed to die following Jesus, if necessary. Christianity is a daily marathon wherein each new day gives us another opportunity to grow and to do better than the day before. (Thank God for His daily mercies, Lamentations 3:22-23). Sadly, sometimes Christians become so overwhelmed with daily struggles that they give up and turn their souls over to the devil. Jesus reminded those amazing saints in the latter part of the first century that no matter what tests and tribulations they faced, they needed to endure to the end (Rev. 2:10).

I would do well today if I could, just for moment, put my-

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## Celebrate

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

## Records

	Mar. 28, 2021	April 4, 2021
Bible Class	30	44
AM Worship	34 + [15]	59 + [14]
PM Worship	32	42 + [9]
Wednesday PM	33	36 + [8]
Contribution	\$1,918	\$2,006





# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/11/21	Next Week: 4/18/21		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>April 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      McCaghren  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      McCaghren</p> <p><b>May 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Maninger Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith,* Tom Wilcox Coyce Reed, Daniel Edwards	Dex Dennard*, Kyle Duaine Randy Huckaby, Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Kyle Duaine	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Caleb Nash	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	_____	_____		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Dex Dennard		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Propst	Ken Maninger		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 14 James Fuller	April 21 Rafe Smith	April 28 Don Smith	May 5 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 April 11, 2021

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 14:36*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Leviticus 11:4*

#### What Does Unbelief Look Like? (Part 1)

One of the greatest of mysteries for those who believe in God is trying to understand the unbelief of those who do not. "What causes people not to believe in God?" "Why is it that obviously intelligent people do not believe in God?"

- I. **Introduction** – God endowed us with freedom of choice.
  - A. Scripture documents God's desire that man possess and employ the freedom of choice with which he has been endowed.
    1. Joshua (Joshua 24:15-16, 31; Judges 2:10-11).
    2. The Pharisees (John 5:39-40).
  - B. "If anyone wills to do His will..." (John 7:16-17).
  - C. We are not involved in a search for truth because it is lost; we are involved in a search for truth because without it we are lost.
  - D. Some have elected to employ their freedom of choice to ignore the truth regarding God's existence and to disobey His Word.
    1. We are responsible for what we choose to believe (2 Thess. 2:11; Isa. 66:3-4).
    2. Concerning those who refused to have God in their knowledge, who exchanged truth for error, Paul repeatedly stated that "God gave them up" (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).
  - E. There is an exact parallel in the instance of Pharaoh.
    1. "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go" (Ex. 5:1-2).
    2. God did not cause Pharaoh to harden his heart and disobey, but instead He permitted Pharaoh's actions.
  - F. If an acknowledgment of God's existence and obedience to His Word make us free (Jn. 8:32), surely, then, disbelief and disobedience make us captives. We have abandoned the one moral compass – the existence of God – that possesses the ability to show us the way, and thereby to set us free.
- I. **Atheism** – the person who affirms that there is no God.
  - A. Declaring oneself to be an atheist is much easier than defending the concept of atheism, which requires one to know every single fact there is to know.
  - B. Must the atheist offer proof?
    1. If evidence for God's existence has been set forth, the atheist has a responsibility to show why such evidence is not legitimate.
    2. To disbelieve necessitates the possibility of a reasonable alternative.

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self in the shoes of those Christians. What were they facing? How difficult was it for them to live under an ungodly governmental system, which was set on murdering and torturing people of faith? How difficult was it for them to be separated from loved ones, worshipping in secret, maybe not even being able to sing very loudly for fear of being caught by the oppressors? Trying to evangelize communities where many neighbors would turn one into the authorities for even mentioning the name of the Savior was dangerous. Dear friends, we must understand that following Jesus is not always an easy way to live. In fact, it is sometimes downright difficult to hold our tongues when others are mocking. It is nearly impossible to not stoop to the level of those with whom we go to school and with whom we work. It does not take skill to be as mean and nasty as the world; it takes skill and maturity to be different! Following Jesus means that we must never quit; we must endure.

Christianity is not for the faint of heart! We must remember that following Jesus takes commitment (Luke 9:23). Some simply will not devote the time or effort to following our Lord (Luke 9:57-62). Others will begin but then just walk away (John 6:66). Yet, for those who follow His doctrine, emulate His deeds and exhibit faithful duration, the reward is out of this world. Don't lose heart brethren! "Be thou faithful..."

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, April 2021)