



Contact Us:

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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

Satan's Most Effective Tool Against Christians Today

The more time goes by, the more fake our world becomes.

Modern food, frozen, pumped full of chemicals, lacking in any nutritious value, bottled up and boxed up, is fake. Modern sex, i.e. pornography, is fake. Modern money, printed on demand with no backing whatsoever, is fake. Much of modern Science™, subservient to political power and financial sway, is fake. Modern political discourse, often hyper-focused on the immaterial while blind to the truly weighty, is fake. Our schooling, which churns out millions who have no recognizable, marketable skills, is fake.

It makes sense, then, that some of the more abstract things in life are fake, too. Popularity and social status, largely decided by some social media algorithm, is fake. Billions of friendships, in which seeing a post from each other from time to time makes us think we are "friends," are fake. Plenty of what counts as church membership, simply choosing the place you like best and going there until they offend you or can't match what another church offers, is fake. Much of what is now considered fact, based only in emotion that shouts down and "cancels" any opposition, is fake. As it all begins to pile up, it gets harder and harder to climb over the mountain of fakeness to reach that which is real.

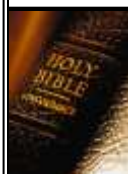
Notice the characteristics that are shared almost universally in each of these fake offerings. They are all easy. Convenient. They all choose cheap, instant gratification rather than putting in the time to cultivate that which is lasting and valuable. They all cater to laziness and selfishness, incentivizing us to take life as it is handed to us. They turn us into passive consumers of life rather than active producers and spreaders of God's life-giving purpose.

When we speak of worldliness, the conversation typically turns to the ideas and actions that infiltrate the Christian individual, home, and church, and how those must be resisted. That is a valuable, needed discussion. However, what is often lacking is a positive focus.

Yes, we must avoid the kinds of shows, movies, and websites that are trying to pull us away from our Lord. We are in need of constant vigilance against those influences that would make us conform to the world. But what we also must do is actively pursue the path of living that God has set out for us. As long as we are conforming to the passive, consumeristic fake lifestyle we're all herded into, we will not show the world a higher and holier calling, and we will leave ourselves and our families vulnerable to creeping worldliness. If we aren't

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



Now as [Paul] reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now: when I have a **convenient time** I will call for you." **Acts 24:25**

"And now **why are you waiting?** Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." **Acts 22:16**

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growing more like Christ then we're moving in the opposite direction, no matter how slow and unnoticeable the progress may be.

One of Satan's most-used tactics is to keep us distracted from the good works God wants us to walk in (Eph. 2:10). To do that he does not need to get us dragged down into some scandalous battle with sin. Sometimes all he needs to do is get us distracted with useless pursuits instead of that which really matters.

C.S. Lewis highlighted this phenomenon in his classic, *The Screwtape Letters*. Writing as the satirical demon, Screwtape, to his underling nephew, Wormwood, Lewis observed:

But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy. It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

Satan doesn't need every Christian to turn into an atheist. He's doing a fine job with his strategy to make as many people as possible into mindless consumers who settle for the convenient and accept the world as it is handed to them with no ambition to shape it to the glory of God.

How do we break out of the fake and pursue the real?

Prioritize what matters

Consider the sheer value of a human life and how much potential each one holds. Consider how much God has blessed us with to take that talent coin, invest it, and return it to Him. Then consider the tragedy it is to throw all of that away on that which is fake and

does not last. Spending hours in front of a screen every single night, scrolling social media, binging Netflix (or worse)... what a waste.

There is a time for everything, including things like relaxation and vacation. We should plan them into our schedules. But those are not the purpose of our lives. In order to rise above this malaise that is miring so many, we must have priorities, and we must live like we mean them. Our priority in life should be to be more like Jesus every day (Rom. 8:29; Gal. 4:19). That priority means leading more moral, upstanding lives, yes, but most of all lives that are completely submitted to the Father's will. We aim to become the people He wants us to become, and we aim to do the good works He wants us to do.

I may be a Christian, but if I've got 50 binged seasons of television under my belt yet can't name the 10 Commandments or recite the Great Commission, it's time for a priority check. I may "go to church" every week, but if I'm living my life as a series of low points to be trudged through between my Instagram-worthy vacations, it's time for a priority check. We were put here for a purpose. Living as though that's the case starts with making sure our priorities are where they need to be.

Love in deed and truth

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). A fake world has taught us the habits of fake caring and fake activism. Clicking "Like" on someone's post about losing a family member or about a need for prayers may seem like we've made our care for them known. Changing a profile picture after a tragedy may feel like we're part of a cause. But ultimately those gestures come to very little, if anything at all.

Loving in deed and in truth means determining to act in ways that truly matter to others. Fake caring has made us wildly overestimate the global impact we can

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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/

April 18 Genesis 3—4; Ps. 109 (video)

April 19 Genesis 5—6; Psalm 110

April 20 Genesis 7—8; Ps. 111 (video)

April 21 Genesis 9—10; Psalm 112

April 22 Genesis 11—12; Psalm 113

April 23 Genesis 13—14; Psalm 114

April 24 Gen. 15—16; Ps. 115 (video)

April 25 Genesis 17—18; Psalm 116

"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 **19** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There will be a **congregational meeting** Sunday afternoon, **May 16**, to update the congregation on various works we are involved in, and to solicit any input/feedback you may have.
- ◆ 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 is hanging just inside the door of Room 6. 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** (applications available)
- ◆ July 18-23—**Senior Camp** (applications available)

Ten Characteristics of God’s Word

The Word of God is powerful to change a sinner into a saint. These are ten characteristics of the Word of God. The Word of the Lord is: **Right** (Ps. 33:4); **Settled in Heaven** (Ps. 119:89); **Inspired** (2 Tim. 3:16-17); **Tried** (Ps. 18:30); **Truth** (John 17:17); **Pure** (Prov. 30:5); **A Lamp** (Ps. 119:105a); **A Light** (Ps. 119:105b); **Spirit** (John 6:63a); and **Life** (John 6:63b).

Do you read and study God’s Word? Never fail to read the inerrant Word of God daily (1 Tim. 4:13). *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15).

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have and grossly underestimate the local impact we can have. You might have 1,500 Facebook friends, but you can’t love and serve that many people well. Focus on a handful of the people in your immediate surroundings. Be present in their lives. Make the phone call or send the text when you know they’re hurting. Consider how to stir them up to love and good deeds. Be hospitable. Bear the burdens of others. Make a habit of stepping away from the digital connections to put more time into the real life connections.

Roll our sleeves up and get to work

If the fake world is defined by the ease and convenience it promises us, one of the best ways out of it is by setting our minds to work. Work on your walk with God – it doesn’t just happen. Work on your marriage – real love is not a Hollywood fairytale. Work on your parenting – training up children in the way they should go takes constant vigilance and a health dose of the fruit of the Spirit. Work on your occupation – show those around you the diligence of one who walks with God.

Regain a sense of the dominion God gave Adam in the garden. Work was always in God’s plan for us, and it is our duty to make beauty and order come from the good things He has given us, just as God made beauty and order from that which was formless and void. In a world that is slowly losing love, effort, passion, and care, because they cost too much for us as creatures who are addicted to convenience, commit to showing people God’s path is better in every way.

As always, remember we don’t work to earn God’s love. We work from a place of assurance of His love and grace, and this gives us the fuel we need to keep reaching higher.

Start developing a disgust for the fake world, and really for anything that aims to distract you from becoming the kind of person God desires for you to become. Fighting the pull to worldliness is not just a matter of resistance to vices, but resistance to all that which would stand in the way of our growth into who God wants us to be. Don’t settle for the convenient. Set your eyes on Jesus and run with all your might. Let Him permeate every facet of your life and show a darkening world a Light they can’t possibly ignore.

Jack Wilkie (focuspress.org)

Celebrate

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

Records

	April 4, 2021	April 11, 2021
Bible Class	44	43
AM Worship	59 + [14]	52 + [6]
PM Worship	42 + [9]	44 + [7]
Wednesday PM	36 + [8]	40 + [7]
Contribution	\$2,006	\$2,455



Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/18/21	Next Week: 4/25/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>April 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: McCaghren Clean Building: McCaghren</p> <p>May 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Communion	Dex Dennard*, Kyle Duaine Randy Huckaby, Rafe Smith	James Fuller*, Daniel Edwards Don Smith, Coyce Reed		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	John Propst		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Dex Dennard	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 21 Rafe Smith	April 28 Don Smith	May 5 Prayer Night (Mike)	May 12 Dex Dennard

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 18, 2021

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 15:1*
 Wed. Class *Leviticus 12:6*

What Does Unbelief Look Like? (Part 2)

II. Agnosticism.

- A. The *agnostic* (a, without; *gnosis*, knowledge) is the person who says it is impossible to know if God exists, due to the fact that there simply is not enough credible evidence to warrant such a conclusion.
- B. The fact is, the agnostic is far from indifferent. He takes his agnosticism extremely seriously when he affirms that nothing outside of the material world can be known or proved.
- C. But agnosticism is built upon a self-defeating premise.
 1. English philosopher Herbert Spencer advocated the position that just as no bird ever has been able to fly out of the heavens, so no man ever has been able to penetrate with his finite mind the veil that hides the mind of the Infinite.
 2. Such a premise is flawed internally because it wrongly assumes that the Infinite is equally incapable of penetrating the veil.
- D. An important question begs to be asked: Will the agnostic admit that it is at least *possible* for *someone else* to know something he does not?
- E. Rather than being *unable* to know, perhaps the agnostic is *unwilling* to know.

III. Skepticism.

- A. The *skeptic* is the person who doubts there is a God.
 1. The standard dictionary definition describes a skeptic as one who holds to "the doctrine that true knowledge or knowledge in a particular area is uncertain and who has doubts concerning basic religious principles."
 2. However, the skeptic does not stop at mere "uncertainty." Skepticism "... confidently challenges not merely religious or metaphysical knowledge but all knowledge claims that venture beyond immediate experience."
 3. In the end the skeptic does not say he *cannot* know that God exists. Rather, he says he *doubts* that God exists because He cannot be seen, felt, measured, weighed, or probed by the scientific method.
- B. But what about those concepts that, although non-empirical (unobservable via the scientific method), are, nevertheless, recognized to exist?

- IV. **Infidelity** - the *infidel* is the person who not only refuses to believe in God himself, but also is intolerant of, and actively opposed to, those who do.

Throughout Galilee (1): Stilling the Storm; Healing Two Demoniacs

- I. **Stilling the Storm** (Mt. 8:18, 23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25).
 An important theme is found in the disciples' words when Jesus stilled the storm: "*Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!*" (Mk. 4:41).
 - A. This is a powerful and important narrative – more than a mere account of a historic event.
 - B. The reason for the trip was to give Jesus a break from the crowd [see Mt. 8:18; Mk. 4:36]. Though He was fully God, He was also fully man, and the "Busy Day" had left Him exhausted.
 - C. The storm comes suddenly, as is common on the Sea of Galilee.
 1. Jesus continues to sleep.
 2. The disciples wake Jesus, "*Master, Master, we are perishing!*" (Lk. 8:24).
 - D. Both the words "*rebuked*" and "*be still*" [quite] are used to refer to the winds and waves, and in narratives of casting out demons.
 - E. The elements obey Jesus' voice and there is silence on the Sea of Galilee.
 - F. Mark alone contains Jesus' rebuke of their lack of faith.
 - G. Earlier they asked, "*What is this?*"; but now the question becomes, "*Who can this be?*" This is the key question this miracle is designed to answer.
- II. **Healing Two Demoniacs** (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39).
 - A. Jesus probably arrived on the opposite shore between 9pm and midnight.
 - B. This land is opposite Galilee, in Gentile territory.
 - C. Matthew says that two demon-possessed men met Jesus; Luke and Mark only concentrate on the more prominent of the two.
 - D. "*What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me [before the time^{AB}].*"
 - E. The man had a long list of names backing him; but only one is given—Legion.
 - F. The demons have Jesus way outnumbered, but still they are terrified of Him.
 - G. The demons ask to enter the pigs and then immediately destroy their hosts.
 - H. For the first time in who knows how long, this demoniac is liberated.
 1. The townspeople recognize the power Jesus possesses, and are afraid.
 2. Instead of submitting to His power, they expel Him out of fear.
 - I. The ex-demoniac begs to go with Jesus, but Jesus sends him home.
 1. "*Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.*"
 2. "*Tell them ... how He has had compassion on you.*"