

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



September 19, 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..... 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

“The Fulness of God’s Love”

Introduction

The New Testament word for *fullness* is used many times in Scripture. The Greek word for “full” or “fulness” is *pleroma*, and refers to Jesus being full of grace and truth (John 1:14); the fulness of the Gentiles enjoying the Gospel (Rom. 11:12), etc. Paul speaks of the “fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). Earlier in Ephesians 3:19, he wrote of “the love of Christ,” that we might be “filled with all the fulness of God.” Knowing the love of Christ enables us to enjoy the “fulness of God.” One of the qualities of God is His **love**. Every aspect of God’s love is known by Christians. If we have the fulness of God, we will have the fulness of His love.

The word and number *ten* is often symbolic of fulness or completeness of something. With this in mind, we would like to point out ten aspects of God’s love, with each one beginning with the letter “E.”

Expense

The cost was high. Jesus came to give His life as a ransom price (Matt. 20:28); to shed His blood for remission of sins (26:28). God did not send an angel or pay a material price of redemption, but with something more precious even than gold or silver (1 Pet. 1:18-19). God’s love for the sinful world was so great that it was necessary for Deity to take on the form of human flesh and die that the redeemed could live. He gave His only begotten Son that we might not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Few would give a son even for a righteous person, but God gave His Son when we were enemies. This is the way He commended His love for mankind (Rom. 5:7-8).

Expanse

God loved the world, which motivated the sending of Jesus to pay the high price (John 3:16). In this, “the love of God is shed abroad” (Rom. 5:5). God’s love has been expanded throughout the world when the Gospel is proclaimed. By A.D. 63, the Gospel had been proclaimed throughout the world (Col. 1:23). The apostles were to go into all the world and preach to every nation (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20). We used to sing a song titled “The Kingdom is Spreading,” as the Gospel went to the heathen nations to make the dark shadows fly. We need to keep expanding the Gospel of the kingdom, no matter the culture or the color of skin.

Exclusive

It is politically and socially unacceptable to even suggest something that sounds like we are to be exclusive of anyone. However, the love of God’s blessings is exclusive. His love is for all but benefits only those who respond to it in obedience (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). It is for those who “believeth in Him” (John 3:16). The wicked and disobedient who do not respond to God’s love are excluded from the promise and hope of eternal life. Those in false religions are excluded (Matt. 15:9). Those who reject Christ and His Word are excluded (7:21-23; John 12:48). Those who fall away from the faith and cease to abide in Christ will be excluded (Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4; John 15:6; 2 John 9). Those who believe in the person of Jesus but deny His doctrines will be excluded (Matt. 7:24; Luke 6:46; 2 John 9). Those in idolatrous religions or terrorist religions will be excluded. Only those who obey Christ will be eternally blessed (Heb. 5:8-9).

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

Encroachment

God’s love does not seek to compromise with false religions or enemies of the cross, but it encroaches or *intrudes* into any sinful society of lost people. God’s love encroached into the wicked life of Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance. His love encroaches the lives of the atheists and evolutionists. It encroaches the lives of members of the body of Christ who prefer to follow the world instead of the Scripture. It encroaches the lives of those who love sin rather than God (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Tim. 3:4). It encroaches the lives of those who love money or relatives more than God (1 Tim. 6:9-10). It encroaches those who love the praise of men more than the praise of God, and those who had rather follow the religion of their ancestors rather than the religion of Christ (John 12:42-43; Acts 26:5, 9).

Excellence

God’s love is perfect—without flaw. It is without respect of persons in its offering of salvation to man. God loved all in the world equally. He sent His Son to die for the decent and the wicked (Rom. 5:5-10). God’s love is excellent or perfect, for He is love (1 John 4:8). He is the author of love, and He showed it by the sending of His Son to die for all. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (4:10). We learn to love because God showed us the way. Christ died for all men (Heb. 2:9). We sing about the “Perfect Love” of God for man.

Expectation

God desires that none perish, but that all men come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). He is the Savior of all men, especially of those who come to know the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). Out of His love, he has promised eternal life (Tit. 1:2). He expects some to obey, but He knows most will not obey. Only a few will be saved as they travel with Christ on the narrow road to heaven (Matt. 6:13-14; John 14:6). He did not conclude that all men are so wicked that there is no need in offering His love. In Noah’s day, only a few were saved. Though God was grieved at the general wickedness of the day, He still wanted some to live, and they did. It is the same today.

Effectual

God’s love is effective. Many are touched with the love of God and will obey the truth. It cannot be obeyed where it is not known. God’s love is not a system of force, but a trait or quality of character that motivates a response, and He tells us how we can respond. We must be obedient to His instructions. We cannot claim salvation just because God loves us, but we must respond in faith, repentance, and baptism into Christ (Rom. 6:3-5). In 2 Corinthians 5:14, Paul said, “the love of Christ constraineth us.” It holds us together. Love from God, for God, and love for the brethren is a binding tie of fellowship in His love.

Enduring

It will always be there—it is everlasting or eternal. He is faithful in His promises and love and cannot deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:12-13; 1 Cor. 10:13). His love will never leave us, and we will be blessed as long as we abide **in** that love. Paul said that “love abideth” (13:7). God is love, and if we dwell in Him, we dwell in that love that always endures (1 John 4:12-16).

Expressive

God has expressed His love in various ways. He does so in giving His Son (John 3:16). He does so in the giving of the Holy Scriptures that make us wise unto salvation. He does so in the many blessings that He provides for us daily (Matt. 5:45; 6:11; Jas. 1:17). All the spiritual blessings in Christ are because of God’s love (Eph. 1:3). Even His love as revealed in the Scripture is an expression of His love.

Enriches

God’s love enables us to enjoy true riches—the kind that endures even into eternity. Paul said he preached “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (3:8). The Scripture speaks of the riches of glory (Rom. 9:23), the riches of grace (Eph. 1:7), the riches of Christ (3:8), the riches of wisdom (Col. 3:16), and our being rich in good works (2 Tim. 3:16). Paul wrote, “God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Tim. 6:17).

The treasures of earth are not mine. I hold not its silver or gold; But a treasure far greater is mine, I have riches of value untold.

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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/

Sept. 19 2 Chronicles 28-30; Psalm 80
Sept. 20 2 Chron. 31-33; Ps. 81 (video)
Sept. 21 2 Chronicles 34-36; Psalm 82
Sept. 22 Ezra 1-3; Psalm 83 (video)
Sept. 23 Ezra 4-6; Psalm 84
Sept. 24 Ezra 7-10; Psalm 85
Sept. 25 Nehemiah 1-4; Psalm 86
Sept. 26 Nehemiah 5-8; Psalm 87

“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 **27** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Next Sunday morning, **Marvin Whitt** will be with us from **Cherokee Home for Children**. He will give a presentation during the Bible class time, and also bring the morning lesson.
- ◆ We plan to **resume our afternoon service at CARE, Inc. in October**. We need four men/couples/families who are willing to go one Sunday a month as a helper (no teaching required). This is great training for families with children.
- ◆ **Covid numbers** are at record highs. We are not changing anything, but please be mindful of personal space and physical contact.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 17-20—**Fall Gospel Meeting** w/ Ross Haffner. *“Teach me about Forgiveness”*

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Sept. 25-29—**Ladies’ Day & Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo) w/ Matthew Gibson (Wendy Gibson—ladies’ day). *“The Simplicity of Truth”*
- ◆ Oct. 3-6—**Gospel Meeting @ Rising Star** w/ Tom Moore. *“The Church Moving Forward”*
- ◆ Oct. 3-6—**Annual Lubbock Lectureship**. *“A New Heaven and a New Earth”*
- ◆ Oct. 7-9—**Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**
- ◆ Oct. 10-13—**Gospel Meeting @ Bangs** w/ John Hall

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The treasures of earth must all fail, Its riches and honor decay, But the riches of love that are mine, Even death cannot take them away.

Compared with the riches of love, The wealth of the world is but dross, I will seek but Christ Jesus to win. And for Him I count all things but loss.

Come, take of the riches of Christ, Exhaustless and free is the store, Of its wonderful fulness receive, Till you hunger and thirst never- more.

Oh the depth of the riches of love, The riches of love in Christ Jesus! Far better than gold or wealth untold, Are the riches of love in Christ Jesus (H. B. Hartzler, “Riches of Love.” *Sacred Selections for the Church*, 447).

Conclusion

Liberal thinkers have tried to identify the New Testament as a “love story” instead of a book of rules, regulations, and commands to be obeyed. True, the Scripture is a love story to man in that it describes the fulness of God’s love for man, but it is also a book of instructions for man to keep to benefit by this love. James calls the “royal law” that which calls for love. After quoting various commands from God, Paul then stated, “therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10). Those of us who believe in adhering to the law of the Lord to be made free from sin (8:1-3) are mocked and called *legalists*. Jesus said that if we truly love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). Will you not keep them?

Don Tarbet (Defender, Feb. 2021)

Celebrate

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

Records

	Sept. 5, 2021	Sept. 12, 2021
Bible Class	28	28
AM Worship	35 + [11]	37 + [10]
PM Worship	30 + [9]	29 + [7]
Wednesday PM	31 + [8]	31 + [5]
Contribution	\$1,365	\$1,460



Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 9/19/21	Next Week: 9/26/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	September 2021 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller October 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Reed	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards	Don Smith*, Ryan Settles Dex Dennard, Rafe Smith		
Closing Prayer	Dex Dennard	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Chase Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 22 Don Smith	September 29 Prayer Night	October 6 Video Night	October 13 James Fuller

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 September 19, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians: Introduction
 Wed. Class Leviticus 25:39

Overcoming Persecution

God never promised that the Christian life would be easy. As a matter of fact, He warned of its difficulties. The inspired apostle Paul said, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12).

As we live faithfully, it is necessary to *overcome persecution*. If one cannot overcome persecution, he will be overcome by it.

I. Some Things to Lay Aside in Order to Overcome Persecution (Heb. 12:1).

- A. "Every Weight." This is sin in general. Every sin must be laid aside.
1. The "works of the flesh" must be laid aside (Gal. 5:19-21).
 2. Lukewarmness (Rev. 3:15-16). A little for the Lord; a little for Satan.
 3. Forsaking the assembly (Heb. 10:25).
- B. "The sin." The sin is a specific sin – unbelief (Heb. 3:12-13).

II. Some Things We Must Put On (Add) in Order to Overcoming Persecution.

- A. The **Christian Graces** (2 Pet. 1:5-11).
- B. The **Fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22-23).
- C. The apostle Paul calls upon us to **Persevere in Doing Good** (Gal. 6:9).
1. "Doing good" is the duty and responsibility of every Christian.
 2. "And let us not grow weary." The idea is to persevere in doing good.
 3. "For in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

III. What Jesus Said About Persecution.

- A. As a faithful disciple you will be persecuted, but blessed are you (Mt. 5:10-12).
- B. Pray for them that persecute you (Mt. 5:44).
- C. There will be those who stumble because of persecution (Mt. 13:21).

IV. Jesus Suffered Persecution: At His birth, throughout His ministry, at the mock trials and scourging, and, ultimately, at the cross.

V. Saul Was a Persecutor, But Became Paul the Persecuted.

VI. Other Examples of Persecutions: Job; Joseph; David; Jeremiah and the Prophets; Peter, John, and the Apostles.

VII. What Should Our Attitude Be Toward Persecution?

- A. We will, if we remain faithful, suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).
- B. We must not allow persecution to move us.
1. Paul did not count his life dear (Acts 20:24; 2 Cor. 5:1).
 2. Paul had not finished the course, but he looked forward to it (2 Tim. 4:7-8).
- C. We must not quit in the middle nor near the end (Rev. 2:10).

Jesus' Ministry Shifts to Judea (Lk. 9:51-62; Jn. 7:2-10; see Mt. 8:19-22; Jn. 7:1)

It is now late September or early October of A.D. 32 (or possible A.D. 29). The next six months will be marked by Jesus' deliberate advance to the cross.

I. Jesus Urged by His Brothers to Go to the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn. 7:2-9).

- A. The new phase of Jesus' ministry began with a trip to Jerusalem for the *Feast of Tabernacles* (or Booths).
- B. Jesus' half-brothers urged Him to go to the celebration so His disciples in Judea could see the kind of miracles He had done in Galilee (Jn. 7:3-4).
1. They are throwing down a gauntlet.
 2. In their minds, it was time for Jesus to "Put up, or shut up! If you can't do it in Jerusalem, then you're a fraud." His brothers were unbelievers.
- C. Since Jesus ultimately went to the festival, His words in v. 8 are puzzling: "I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."
- D. Jesus and his half-brothers look a lot alike socially and culturally – but spiritually they are worlds apart.
1. Jesus is on God's divine timetable.
 2. Jesus' relationship with the world is completely different from theirs.

II. Jesus' Traveling Privately to Jerusalem (Lk. 9:51-56; Jn. 7:10).

- A. This passage opens Luke's carefully crafted central section (Lk. 9:51 – 19:44).
- B. Jesus and His disciples left for Jerusalem, *not openly, but as it were in secret* (Jn. 7:9-10).
- C. The Samaritans, who had been receptive when the Lord was on the way to Galilee, refused Him lodging (Lk. 9:53).
- D. James and John, the "Sons of Thunder" (Mk. 3:17), asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritans (Lk. 9:54), as Elijah had done.
- E. Jesus rebuked them (instead of the Samaritans): "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."
- F. The Samaritans knew Jesus' "face was set for the journey to Jerusalem" (9:53).

III. On the Way: Teaching About Discipleship (Lk. 9:57-62; see Mt. 8:19-22).

- A. Matthew 8:19-22 has a record of a similar event.
- B. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus encountered some half-hearted disciples.