

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



October 3, 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 Church of Christ Is All About...

All kinds of ideas are put forth when the subject of the church comes up in religious circles. Some view the church as a "social club," while others view it like a grocery store – you pick the one that just feels right and where you can get the *most for your money*. Sadly, some fail to even consider the church from the Bible or consider the church in light of God's design and demands. Because of this, the church is often looked at as nonessential, unimportant or optional. However, when one views the church through the eye of inspiration, one can see what the church of Christ is all about.

Firstly, the church of Christ is all about **liberation**. Please do not misunderstand; it is God **alone** Who pardons and liberates mankind from his sin. The church does not save, but rather the church is where the saved are placed and reside. Scripture abounds with this fact. When Paul wrote to the shepherds of Ephesus, he reminded them that the church was "*purchased*" with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; cf., 1 Peter 1:18-19). Christ liberated mankind when He "*gave Himself up*" (Eph. 5:25). The essentiality of the church is clearly seen in her purchase price! One cannot truly be liberated unless Christ liberates him or her and places one's saved soul in the church where Christ is Head of the body (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18), where Christ is King of the kingdom (1 Tim. 6:15; Col. 1:13) and where Christ is the Groom married to His beloved bride (Eph. 5:22-32). Thus, we are not liberated **by** the church but rather liberated by Christ and placed into His church. If I am liberated, then I am in His church; if I truly am in His church, then I have been liberated from sin. The church of Christ is all about **liberation!**

Secondly, the church of Christ is all about **connection**. One of the most wonderful and most difficult truths about the church is that it is made up of connections between people that normally may have had no connections with each other. That is wonderful because every personality, background and unique individual adds to the make-up of the body. This is most difficult because personality, background and individuals can separate and divide folks. Thus, it behooves each individual in the Lord's church to strive to love one another with a tender heart (Eph. 4:32), to diligently work to see each other's perspective (Matt. 7:12) and to be patient with each other as we all grow and develop at different levels and in various stages. Another awesome thing about the connections in the church is that we all have a divine standard for dealing with disagreements (Matt. 18:15-20). No family is without disagreements and disputes, but a true family never quits on any of its members. The church of Christ in the first century was made up of all different backgrounds and personalities, and yet, it was written by the inspired historian, "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*" (Acts 2:42); "*And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart*" (Acts 2:46). We must understand that even in these connections there were problems that arose (Acts 6:1-6; Acts 8:1ff, et al.), but those problems were handled properly, and unity resulted. In the world, connections are severed daily because the world has no real idea about relationships and connections. However, thanks be to God and His Word because the church of Christ is all about **connections!**

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

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Thirdly, the church of Christ is all about **expansion**. God’s plan for the church was never to be stagnant or self-absorbed! The divine marching orders from the beginning were to *go, teach, baptize and teach some more* (Matt. 28:18-20). This expansion plan was so great that God demanded the whole world be our **mission field** (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47). It is easy for humans to fall into the *keeping house mentality*, and sadly some brethren in various places do just that. The church that truly belongs to Jesus is **outwardly** not inwardly focused! **The church is soul obsessed and not self-obsessed**. It is not as much focused on programs as it is focused on people! I am always so encouraged when I read and study the book of Acts and see the growth the church of Christ experienced even amid a sin-filled, problematic society. Their main goal was to tell the narrative that changed their lives forevermore. The church of Christ is all about **expansion!**

It is a blessed and a wonderful privilege to be a member of the church that Jesus bought with His lifeblood! While no congregation or individual is perfect in the church, we serve and laud a perfect Savior. We have been liberated from sin, and we have been brought together in the body to go and tell everyone what Jesus has done. From before the dawn of time, the church of Christ was in God’s mind (Eph. 3:10-11). Let us rejoice exceedingly that you and I are members of the church of Christ, the unshakable kingdom of our dear King (Heb. 12:28)!

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept. 2021)

Christ Cancels Sin

We live in the age that seeks “cancel culture.” It involves a denial of most that has come before, and its proponents will resort to destruction and violence to cancel it. So, monuments to the past are destroyed because they do not fit this culture’s sensibilities. Don’t like the reality of our nation having a Civil War? Tear down statues, not just of the Confederate states, but attack the Lincoln monument as well. Don’t like the Constitution? Then, try to eradicate everything in it. Think Christianity has been the problem with the world? Then, do everything possible to negate it and make it look irrelevant for today’s world. Almost everything that is rooted in the past is targeted. Yet, is removing everything from the past to manufacture a new reality even possible?

The short answer is, “No.” Years ago, Solomon pointed out there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9). As an illustration, many have become enamored with socialism and com-

munist. Think that is new? Speak to those who lived under the regimes of Lenin and Stalin in Russia, or those who currently live in China or North Korea. Think you can do it differently? So did those who joined in overthrowing the czars, but the number of government executions and the poverty that became real for their lives was not what they bargained for either. You see, there was the same promise of change with each new Pharaoh, king or Emperor in so many nations that have come and gone. In the end, there are still those who are rich and those who are poor (Matt. 26:11). The joke told still seems to be true. “Remember the golden rule, that those with the gold make the rules.” It seems things like this will not be canceled.

However, many things of the past are not being changed. The cry to use *green vehicles* and the technology of computing and smartphones, which are fundamental to this culture, come from their past. They just did not appear yesterday. What about all those who are promoting cancel culture? Are their actions and attitudes all untarnished? Hate and violence as tools to advance many causes are as old as humanity. Just ask Abel (Gen. 4:8). Not only this, but what will the next culture that comes along do when it doesn’t like what the cancel culture established? It is a matter of keeping what is convenient and removing whatever is disadvantageous. Again, it has been done, time and again. If one generation can cancel its predecessors’ culture, do not think another will not rise to do that to the cancel culture movement, too.

Cancel culture is based on the principle of getting what one wants or desires for today, without a respect of the past, present or future. This should not surprise us since selfishness is rooted in sin – Satan’s specialty, and Satan is the master of deception. He only cares about our destruction, and he is the ultimate power behind these things –seeking to cancel the good that God provides through Christ.

Real change comes only in Christ, Who makes it possible for us to change from sinfulness to righteousness, from darkness to light, from despair to hope, from pursuing the flesh to seeking the spiritual, from engaging the temporal to embracing the eternal. Christians are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and have the offer of an abundant life (John 10:10). The children of God enjoy life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and eternal life (John 3:16). Only the change that God offers through the blood of Christ, defined in His Word and accountable by us in judgment, is true and lasting change. It lasts while nothing in this life does. It offers freedom from the effects of sin, where there is no pain, sorrow, suffering, tears or

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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/

Oct. 3 Job 9-11; Psalm 94

Oct. 4 Job 12-15; Psalm 95

Oct. 5 Job 16-19; Psalm 96

Oct. 6 Job 20-23; Psalm 97

Oct. 7 Job 24-27; Psalm 98

Oct. 8 Job 28-31; Psalm 99

Oct. 9 Job 32-34; Psalm 100

Oct. 10 Job 35-37; Psalm 101

“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 **41** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Johnny and Cindy will be attending the Lubbock Lectureship this week.** Our thanks to **Dr. Charles Hall** for being with us today to present all three lessons.
- ◆ All are invited to stay for our **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** after services this morning.
- ◆ We are **resuming our afternoon worship service at CARE, Inc.** today. Worship there is at 2:30 each Sunday afternoon. We still need helpers!
- ◆ Events this week: (see bulletin board for more info)
 - **Gospel Meeting at Rising Star.**
 - **Lubbock Lectureship.**
 - **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat** at Brady camp.
- ◆ **Our Gospel Meeting is only two weeks away!** Flyers available on podiums.
- ◆ Please remember to be Covid conscience and respect others' space and concerns.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 17-20—**Fall Gospel Meeting** w/ Ross Haffner. "Teach me about Forgiveness." Flyers available.

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Oct. 10-13—**Gospel Meeting @ Bangs** w/ John Hall
- ◆ Nov. 5-7—**Colleyville Lectures.** "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

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anything else sin brings (Rev. 21:4). In Christ, the culture of sin is removed for what is genuine, true and real, which will never be canceled. Jesus Christ offers us everything, while Satan, who has deceived the world (1 John 5:19), promotes sin and offers only eternal condemnation.

The apostle Paul lived under the rule of Nero in the Roman Empire. It was corrupt and degrading. In the Book of Romans, Paul, nevertheless, said to submit to its authority (13:1), because the ultimate authority, God, is in control. He also said to pray for those in authority, for their sake and the sake of the saved (1 Tim. 2:1-4). How did Paul envision canceling the sinful culture of Rome? Through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. What we need is not a culture that cancels what has come before it for more of the same, wrapped in a different package. We need real change that cancels the effects of sin and offers real life. Live for Jesus. It is in Him real change is possible, now and forever. That is what we really need and should desire. Is Christ making a change in you?

Robert Johnson (Gospel Gazette Online, Sept. 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

	Sept. 19, 2021	Sept. 26, 2021
Bible Class	36	37
AM Worship	42 + [10]	43
PM Worship	31 + [5]	33
Wednesday PM	31 + [4]	27
Contribution	\$2,254	\$2,643

	This Week: 10/3/21	Next Week: 10/10/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>October 2021 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Bannister Clean Building: Bannister</p> <p>November 2021 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Reed</p>	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Kyle Duaine Daniel Edwards, Chase Churchwell	Dex Dennard*, Ryan Settles Ken Maninger, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Chase Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	—	—		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 6 Video Night	October 13 James Fuller	October 20 Gospel Meeting	October 27 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 October 3, 2021

Sunday Class **Dr. Charles Hall**
 Wed. Class **Video and Singing**

Wisdom from Solomon

When Solomon became King of Israel, his father instructed him to faithfully follow and obey his Lord (1 Kgs. 2:1-4). Solomon reigned as King of Israel for forty years, though he did not always follow the advice of his father. Yet, as long as he did, he was successful (1 Kgs. 11:41-43). When God invited Solomon to ask God for whatever he desired as king, he asked for wisdom. God granted Solomon's request and gave him wisdom that would far surpass any king before or after him in Israel (1 Kgs. 3:5-12).

Solomon's wisdom was on display through his problem-solving skills (1 Kgs. 3:16-28), building projects (1 Kgs. 5-9) and the various proverbs and songs that he spoke (1 Kgs. 4:32). Fortunately for students of Scripture, Solomon's wisdom did not die with him but is preserved for us through many of his writings, especially the Book of Proverbs. Notice a few important lessons about wisdom that we learn from the wisest king in Israel's history.

Fear the Lord (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). While our world equates wisdom with reading many books, a high IQ and lots of degrees, Solomon painted a different picture. Solomon said the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). The wise person is one who understands his or her role in relation to the Creator of the universe. True wisdom realizes that God is the omnipotent and omniscient One before Whom we should bow and honor. Solomon received his wisdom from God, and we also will as long as we remember where we stand in relation to Him (Col. 2:3; Jas. 1:5). The Lord gives wisdom (Prov. 2:6) but only to those who fear Him. Some arrogantly approach God and others apathetically ignore Him, but the wise approach Him in godly reverence. Wisdom does not start with human intelligence but instead with a healthy fear of the Lord (Matt. 10:28).

Wisdom Resides with the Humble (Prov. 11:2). Pride brings shame

(KJV), dishonor (NASB) or disgrace (ESV), but with the humble there is wisdom. Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. It involves the ability to live skillfully. Wisdom involves making good choices based on instruction, experience or observation. Proud (arrogant) people eventually are brought low because they are God's enemy (Prov. 6:16-19), but the lowly are wise to allow the Lord to exalt them (James 4:6, 10; 1 Pet. 5:6). Wise people do not praise themselves. They let others notice their good qualities (Prov. 25:27; 27:2). Solomon started off humbly, but he ruined himself through pride and rebellion. As we read his wise words in Proverbs, we should guard against letting success go to our heads because pride always leads to destruction and ruin (Prov. 16:18).

Wisdom Is More Valuable Than Treasure (Prov. 16:16). Most people in the world spend their time chasing financial prosperity and worldly treasure, but they usually end up empty-handed (Prov. 23:3-5). Wisdom is more valuable than gold, and understanding is worth more than silver (Prov. 16:16). Solomon did not condemn wealth or working hard to acquire financial security, for he was the wealthiest man in Israel's history (1 Kgs. 4:22-28; 10:27). Solomon's lesson on wisdom and treasures is about priorities. We should be more eager to draw close to God and to acquire wisdom than we are desirous to acquire material possessions. Money will not last, but wisdom from God will last. Wisdom was what God used to create the world, and it is what He uses to govern the world (see Prov. 8:1-36). If we want to navigate successfully through the world that God created, we should acquire wisdom before we chase gold.

Conclusion. We should study, memorize and apply the Proverbs of Solomon to our daily lives. God gave Solomon wisdom, and he passed it on to us through his inspired writings. Fear God, remain humble and put wisdom before wealth. If we ask God for wisdom, he will give it to us as we study His Word and apply its principles to our lives (Jas. 1:5).