

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 3, 2011

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten
Cherokee Home for Children
Food Pantry
Gospel Broadcast Network
Gospel Chariot Missions
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

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

THE DEAD SEA CHRISTIAN

By Tom Moore



The "Dead Sea" the name given by Greek writers of the second century to that inland sea called in Scripture the "salt sea" (Gen. 14:3; Num. 34:12), the "sea of the plain" (Deut. 3:17), the "east sea" (Eze. 47:18; Joel 2:20), and simply "the sea" (Eze. 47:8). The Arabs call it Bahr Lut, that is, the Sea of Lot.

The Dead Sea lies about 16 miles in a straight line to the east of Jerusalem. Its surface is 1,292 feet below the surface of the Mediterranean Sea. It covers an area of about 300 square miles. Its depth varies from 1,310 to 11 feet. From various phenomena that have been observed, its bottom appears to be still subsiding. It is about 53 miles long, and of an average breadth of 10 miles.

The waters of the Dead Sea contain 24.6 percent of mineral salts, about seven times as much as in ordinary seawater; thus the waters of this sea are unusually buoyant. Chloride of magnesium is most abundant; next to that chloride of sodium (common salt). There are also many other minerals that exists in the waters of the Dead Sea. The presence of this large quantity of matter in the water is due to there being no outlet, the great heat of that region causing such rapid evaporation that its average depth, notwithstanding the rivers that run into it, is maintained with little variation. The Jordan alone discharges into it no less than six million tons of water every twenty-four hours. The waters which flow into it can only escape by evaporation. **The Dead Sea receives but never gives.** Because of this, nothing living can exist in this sea. It is a dead sea.



Many Christians are like the Dead Sea. We have received rivers of blessings; but many, keep these blessings to themselves allowing them to evaporate - leaving them spiritually lifeless. Beloved, we have been blessed with health, family, and our physical needs. Most importantly, though, we have been blessed with spiritual blessings. Paul said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," (Eph. 1:3).

(Continued on page 2)



*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.
Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth,
and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

James 5:7

(Continued from page 1)

What should we be giving so as not to become a Dead Sea Christian? First, we must be as the church in Macedonia who “first gave of themselves to the Lord” (2 Cor. 8:5). This is the pivotal first step in the life of giving - for without this mentality we will be as the Dead Sea - selfish and lifeless. This is why we are to seek the things of God first (Mt. 6:33).

We must also be giving as we have prospered on every first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Paul said, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). This should be especially easy for us knowing “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9). Give sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:3).

We also need to be giving, setting forth, a good Christian example, on a daily basis, to our peers. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). Only Dead Sea Christians would fail to let their light shine among their family, friends, and co-workers. Remember we are the Lord’s epistle read and known among men (2 Cor. 3:2).

Finally, we need to give, share, the gospel to a lost and dying world. The giver of the spiritual waters of life (Jn. 4:10-14) said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 28:18-19). Are we sharing the good news of the gospel with those around about us?

Are you sharing the rivers of blessings, or are you a Dead Sea Christian?

“...freely ye have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

HANDLING DISAGREEMENTS

By Richard Stevens III

Anyone can be involved in an argument. Paul and Barnabas are reminders that even faithful brethren are not immune from having disagreements (Acts 15:35-41). Occasionally, our disagreements get out of hand and we end up saying things we later regret. So what are some safeguards we can use in handling disagreements in a Christian way? Here are a few suggestions from the book of Proverbs:

Be friendly. Try not to be adversarial in your point of view. *"He that hath friends must shew himself friendly"* and *"A friend loveth at all times"* (Proverbs 18:24; 17:17).

Ever use kindness. Cordiality goes a long way towards maintaining tranquility. *"A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger"* (Proverbs 15:1).

Let up some. Most disagreements would remain friendly if we would just back off a little. *"...but he that refraineth his lips is wise"* (Proverbs 10:19).

Overcome with good. Oftentimes in the heat of an argument we lash out in retaliation. *"Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me"* (Proverbs 24:29).

Value their opinion. Listen attentively to what others have to say. *"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him"* (Proverbs 18: 13).

Introduce soothing words. You can get your point across in a nice way. *"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones"* (Proverbs 16:24).

Never engage irate behavior. If a disagreement becomes ugly---conversation over! *"Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee"* (Proverbs 4:24).

Grow taller. The desire to win an argument often escalates it. Bigger people will refuse. *"...therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with"* (Proverbs 17:14).

LOVE NEVER FAILS (I Corinthians 13:4-8)

Television

The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish)
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB

Gospel Broadcasting Network
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org

Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am
on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

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)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)

Sun: Joshua 1-4 Luke 6:27-49

Mon: Joshua 5-7 Luke 7:1-17

Tue: Joshua 8-9 Luke 7:18-50

Wed: Joshua 10-12 Luke 8:1-18

Thu: Joshua 13-14 Luke 8:19-39

Fri: Joshua 15-16 Luke 8:40-56

Sat: Joshua 17-18 Luke 9:1-27



Upcoming Events...



Join us for our 1st Sunday potluck lunch following the morning worship.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the **Ladies Bible Class** each Wednesday at 10 AM in the fellowship hall. We are studying the Life of Christ.



Baby Shower

Remember the baby shower for the Barnum's next Sunday, April 10th @ 3 PM in the fellowship hall. Invitation/details on the bulletin board.

Area Events...

(check board for more information)

- ◆ April 3-6—Meeting at Hico with Tyler Young
- ◆ April 7-9—Meeting at Hamilton with Brad Harrub
- ◆ April 9—Ladies Day at Deleon
- ◆ April 10-13—Lectureship at Dublin
- ◆ April 16th—Birthday party for Lu Whitsett (waiting on details/invitation)

Upcoming Meeting

Remember our own upcoming meeting with Tyler Young, "Are We In The End Times?" which runs May 1-4 — that's just 4 weeks from today!



Flyers are now available at the back of the auditorium; more are ready and will be put out as needed so take all that you can use. Give them to family and friends, hang them on doors in your neighborhood or better yet pass them out along with a personal invitation, or think of some other way you can use them to spread the word.

Please keep this effort in your prayers and make sure that you have marked your calendar to make every effort to be here each day.

Cherokee Day is fast approaching once again. This is their annual food drive and will be on **May 7** this year. A pantry request list is provided on the bulletin board and you can drop items off in the main entry.



Suggested items for this week: **Cleaning Supplies (bathroom, kitchen, floors, liquid automatic dishwasher detergent, jet dry, etc.—no aerosol cans please)**

Visitation Program

Remember our **visitation meeting following** evening worship services; last week 27 contacts were made.

Thank You...

Thank you all so much for your beautiful cards, calls of concern, and prayers on my behalf. ~Peggy Luker

*Herein is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us,
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we ought also to love one another.*

1 John 4:10-11

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Julie Baker (01), Lu Whitsett (06), Ginger King (08), Kristi Maninger (09), Darlene Smith (10), Ken Makuta (13), Earlene Burge (17), Birdie Reynolds (17).

April Anniversaries: Tina & John Barnum (08).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	March 20, 2011	March 27, 2011
Bible Class	59	59
AM Worship	82	74
PM Worship	42	51
Wednesday PM	49	41
Contribution	\$1604	\$1579

Privileged To Serve

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

Next Week: 4/3/11		Next Week: 4/10/11		April 2011 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey Keep Grounds: Allen Griffith May 2011 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: Billy & Peggy Chism Keep Grounds: James Fuller
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Don Smith*, Michael Fuller John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler Psalm 1:1-6	Michael Bickford		
Communion	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 6 Michael Bickford	April 13 Allen Griffith	April 20 Jim Moore	April 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 April 3, 2011		Sunday Class2 Corinthians (Chap. 12-13) Wednesday Class.....Habakkuk (Intro.)
<p>What Do You Want On Your Tombstone? <i>All will die and stand in judgment (Heb. 9:27); but how will you be remembered? Will any of these epitaphs fit you?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asleep in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:18; 1 Thess. 4:13-14) At Rest (Rev. 14:13; Matt. 16:27; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10) Though Dead, Yet Speaketh (Heb. 11:4; Phil. 2:14-16) Walked With God (Gen. 5:24; 1 John 1:7; Matt. 7:21) A Good Man (Acts 11:23-24) A Devout Man (Acts 10:2) Kept the Faith (2 Tim. 4:7) Faithful Unto Death (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 12:4) Faithful Servant (Matt. 25:21, 23) <p><i>Our tombstone is temporary (2 Pet. 3:11), what matters is will these things be true descriptions of our lives before God?</i></p> <p>Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>Proper Attitudes Towards Sin (Part 1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Admit It – Rather than denying it or blaming others <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Admit guilt (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10; Ps. 51:3, 32:5; Prov. 28:13). Recognize responsibility (Gen. 3:12-13; Ex. 32:22; 1 Sam. 15:13-15; Jms 1:13-15; Gal. 2:11-12; Ps. 51:1-5). Hate It – Rather than mocking or loving it <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Want nothing to do with it; come full circle in thinking about sin as God does (Amos 5:15; Ps. 97:10; Prov. 8:13; Eph. 5:1). Remember God hates sin (Prov. 6:16-19, 8:13; Mark 3:5; John 2:13-17; Heb. 1:9; Ps. 45:6-7). But ensure that we hate the sin and love the person (Ps. 101:3; Jude 23; Rev. 2:6, 15; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). Remember the costs of sin (1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Pet. 3:18; Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23). Remember the attitude toward sin and the attitude toward God are inversely linked (Ps. 97:10; Matt. 6:24). Avoid It – Rather than dismiss it and continue in it <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Those praised by God were those who removed themselves from sin (Job 1:1; Ps. 1:1-2). Abhor it (Rom. 12:9) Abstain from it (1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Pet. 2:11; Acts 15:29) Ask for help in avoid it (Matt. 6:13; Luke 22:40, 46) Don't make provision for it (Rom. 13:14). 	