

# 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



May 22, 2011

## 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..... 2:30 PM  
Worship..... 6:00 PM

### Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class ..... On Break  
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

## Is Your Religion Showing?

By JA McNutt

This story is told concerning a certain leader of a Boy Scout Troop. He was wearing a small cross on a chain about his neck, the weather was warm, they were hiking up a steep hill, the Scoutmaster had unbuttoned his shirt collar, and the cross was dangling on his shirt front. A small boy approached the leader and whispered, "Pardon me, sir, but your religion is showing." I have just been wondering since hearing this incident whether our religion is showing or not. What about your religion? If you have any, does it show? Since pure and undefiled religion is a way of life and conduct rather than a mere abstract philosophy, it can be seen; and, I am convinced that if it exists your religion will show.

### What Is Religion Anyway?

I have already suggested that it is a practical and useful way of life, but let us consider the definition given in the Word of God: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (Jam. 1:27). James sets forth the two basic qualities of the religion that God approves and blesses. First, it must lead to a life of compassion and helpfulness toward the unfortunate. Second, it must result in purity of heart and life. These two elements may, in fact, be said to constitute true religion. If they are missing, one may make great pretensions to piety, but he is no part of a real Christian; his religion could best be represented by a zero with the rim rubbed off.

To many people, religion is a matter of externals. It was Jesus who said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Mat. 15:8). The actions are a better index to character than mere words. People believe what they do rather than what they say. True religion does not depend on the wearing of a literal cross about the neck, a badge upon the shoulder, or clerical robes about the body. God warned Israel against making graven images or likenesses of any heavenly or earthly object, lest they should become idolaters.

Some people like to think of religion as an emotional upheaval caused by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit and resulting in the miraculous impartation of special powers and a changed heart. I suppose this is the reason that so many people talk about "getting religion." Religion is not something one "gets" but something to be practiced. It is a way of life to be followed by God's children. "To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction" certainly requires more than an inspection tour. Remember, the priest and the Levite "came and saw" the wounded man by the roadside, but it was the good Samaritan who bound up his wounds, rented him a room, and paid the bills (Luke 10:30-37).

*(Continued on page 2)*

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



*A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;  
and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:  
Proverbs 1:5*

(Continued from page 1)

Does your religion show? How often have I evaded my obligations to the needy by saying "Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled" while withholding a helpful hand? Some church members should wear badges to indicate their Christianity (?). It is not likely to be suspected from their character or conduct.

### Should Our Religion Show?

"I do not make a show of my religion," you say. Well, that is fine. I understand what you mean, and I would like to commend you for trying to avoid formality, pretense, and hypocrisy. Jesus warned against ostentation, saying that no one should pray or give, or do anything else merely to be seen and praised by men. Do not pray like the Pharisee, or fast like the hypocrites, but remember that lights were made to shine.

### Candles Should Shine.

Jesus said to His followers, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven" (Mat. 5:14-16). Do you hide your light, or let it shine? Lights maybe shrouded by sin and shame. What about the light of your life and influence? I believe that a man's religion ought to show; do you not believe that also?

### Do Not Try To Hide The City.

There is not much chance of hiding any city, but Jesus said, "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." The church, like this city, is exposed to the critical view of its enemies and the admiring vision of its friends. You cannot hide its blemishes or obliterate its beauty. Christ loves His church and will one day present it unto Himself as "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but

that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27). What conception do people get of the church when they come to know you? Perhaps, what some church members *are* sounds so loud, that the world fails to hear *what* they say. I do not believe that it is wrong to advertise the church provided one tells the truth about it. I know it is wrong to be ashamed of the church and try to hide our connections with it, but the best display ad on earth, the most widely read, the most effective, is good, conscientious, Christian living upon the part of every member of the Lord's church.

### Trees Should Bear Fruit.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" is a standard that will expose and condemn every false teacher on earth, but it will also reveal the character and faithfulness of Christians. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8). If you and I will only bear fruit in the service of Christ, no one will have to pin a badge on us to identify us as Christians.

(Continued on page 3)

## Barely Time For Me

I haven't time to teach right now. I'm busy can't you see!  
You'll have to look for someone else – I've barely time for me.  
I'd like to help and fix that pie, the family is bereaved;  
But, you'll have to talk to someone else – I've barely time for me.  
Our meeting was a real disgrace. No one came, you see;  
I would have come myself, but then I've barely time for me.  
There's so much good I need to do, like Christ I need to be.  
But life is just so hectic, and I've barely time for me.  
Were Christ to come today, I fear to think What He might see-  
A hurried, harried gadabout with "barely time for me."  
Lord, help me rearrange my life and put my eyes on Thee.  
And then I'll find the time I need to serve You faithfully.  
[Dalton Key]

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (Col. 4:5). We all need to concentrate more on spending less time on "self" and more time on God. How are your priorities?

~Posted by Tm Moore on *The Preachers PC*

#### 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: 1 Kings 9      John 6:1-24  
Mon 1 Kings 10-11    John 6:25-51  
Tue: 1 Kings 12-13    John 6:52-71  
Wed: 1 Kings 14-15    John 7:1-24  
Thu: 1 Kings 16-17    John 7:25-39  
Fri: 1 Kings 18-19    John 7:40-53  
Sat. 1 Kings 20-21    John 8:1-20



(Continued from page 2)

Glorify the name of Jehovah by bearing much fruit, and you will always be recognized as a disciple of Christ.

Trees that bear no fruit are destined to be cut down and cast into the fire. A fruitless tree is the most useless thing on earth-it clutters up space, draws food from the soil, and fails to respond to cultivation or care. What should be done with such a tree? Jesus said it should be “cut down” (Luke 13:6-9).

Perhaps some one should stand before a great host of the careless, negligent, and unfruitful members among the saints and say, “Pardon me brethren, but your religion is not showing.”

### Summer Youth Series

In just over two short weeks our Summer Youth Series will be starting! A flyer has been posted on the bulletin board with all of the dates, topics, and locations. Please start making plans now to attend every opportunity you can. For your convenience I have given the dates, locations, and topics below; each session starts at 7 PM.

Date	Location	Topic
6/7	Hico	Maturing Like Christ (Luke 2:52)
6/14	Park Heights, Hamilton	Ready To Listen Like Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10)
6/21	Gordon	Ready To Serve Like Mary (Luke 1:38)
6/28	Hillcrest, Stephenville	Brave Like David (1 Samuel 17:26, 29)
7/5	Jr. Camp	No SYS Session
7/12	5th & Grape, Abilene	Bold Like Josiah (2 Kings 22:11)
7/19	Sr. Camp	No SYS Session
7/26	Bangs	Dedicated Like Daniel (Daniel 1:8)
8/2	Rising Star	Unashamed Like Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12)
8/9	4th & Stewart, Brownwood	Humble Like The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:17, 18)

### Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Please join us each time. Last week 32 contacts were made.

### Spare Items

Have an old or spare refrigerator or freezer that is not being used? If you happen to have either and would be willing to donate or loan for our use at summer camp, please let Priscilla know. These would be useful for both the kitchen and canteen areas.

### Thank You

Both Sherry Bickford and Birdie Reynolds have expressed their gratitude for the cards and prayers on their behalf; their cards on the bulletin board. Keep up the good work of encouraging one another; I know it is greatly appreciated.

*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

## Celebrate

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

**May Birthdays:** Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd (14), Kami Hardy (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peg Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Ryan Smithey (23), Peggy Luker (28), Gracen Hardy (30).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

	May 8, 2011	May 15, 2011
Bible Class	55	55
AM Worship	78	80
PM Worship	51	51
Wednesday PM	35	42
Contribution	\$1755	\$1529

This Week: 5/22/11		Next Week: 5/29/11		May 2011	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				<b>Make Announcements:</b> Jim Moore	
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Moore & Peggy Luker	James & Cindy Fuller		<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Garrett Barnum		<b>Clean Building:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism	
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta	James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Ken Makuta		<b>June 2011</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		<b>Make Announcements:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Michael & Diana Bickford	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Michael Bickford		<b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler Romans 1:14-17	James Fuller		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey	
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger	Matthew Churchwell			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Tom Wilcox			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 25 Allen Griffith	June 1 Jim Moore	June 8 Don Smith	June 15 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of May 22, 2011</b>		Sunday Class ..... Galatians (Chap. 2)	Wednesday Class..... Haggai (Chap. 1-2)
<p><b>Godly Principles For Life (1 Chron. 28:9-10)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Know God Personally</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than just knowing there is a God; but personally seek to know Him.</li> <li>As parents introduce your children to God and as individuals seek Him out, learn about Him (1 Kings 8:26; 2 Tim. 1:5, 3:14-16; John 17:3; Acts 17:23; 1 John 2:3-4).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. Obey God Purposefully</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will not happen accidently; devote yourself God.</li> <li>Wholly and completely from the heart (Matt. 4:10, 6:24; Mark 12:30; Col. 3:1-3); willingly (Col. 3:3; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:7; Ps. 1:2, 40:8).</li> <li>Can't be faked (1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 139:1-4; Heb. 4:12-13).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. Seek God Persistently</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't ever quit for He will be found (Heb. 11:6).</li> <li>He desires all to serve Him, but it is our choice (1 Tim. 2:4; Matt. 11:28).</li> <li>He can be found (Acts 17:27; 1 Pet. 3:12).</li> <li>We will be blessed in seeking Him, cut off if we don't (Matt. 7:21; Rom. 2:6-8; 2 Thess. 1:8-9).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>4. Trust God Perseveringly</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solomon did great things in life; there is no telling all we can accomplish.</li> <li>Watch your steps, order them according to God's will, don't stray (1 Tim. 4:16; Eph. 5:15; Heb. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:8)</li> <li>Be strong and do it (Eph. 6:10; Deut. 31:6)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		<p><b>Effectively Spreading The Gospel (Acts 19)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Do It Right (v1-7)</b> – be concerned about one's complete obedience, first our own and then others (Matt. 7:21; 28:19-20). We need more like Aquilla, Priscilla, and Apollos – those willing to instruct properly and those willing to be corrected (cf. Acts 18:24-28).</li> <li><b>2. Find Your Platform (v8-10)</b> – seek right and effective ways to spread the gospel to others based on opportunities and abilities (Acts 8:4).</li> <li><b>3. Know What You Are Doing (v11-16)</b> – we are not just imitating others or going through motions (cf. Matt. 15:8-9; Acts 5:1-2ff) rather we know what we are doing and why (1 Pet. 3:15) so that we can also convince others (1 Tim. 4:16).</li> <li><b>4. Do Not Skip Repentance (v17-20)</b> – they made a public acknowledgement of the change in their lives (Cf. 1 Thess. 1:9); this is pivotal step in conversion yet too often overlooked—remorse over sin and desire to follow God.</li> <li><b>5. Make Plans For The Gospel (v21-22)</b> – have a vision for what we are going to do but recognize those plans are subject to change (James 4:15; Acts 16:7).</li> <li><b>6. Expect Disturbances (v23-27)</b> – should not surprise us when others try to stop a good work (Neh. 6:1-3; Acts 13:45; 2 Tim. 3:12); what is important is how we respond (Phil. 1:20; Rev. 2:10).</li> <li><b>7. Avoid The Uncontrolable (v28-41)</b> – use wisdom and the good advice of others to see some situations are best left alone with time spent elsewhere (Matt. 7:6; Acts 13:46).</li> </ol>	