

# 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



June 5, 2011

## Contact Us:

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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 ..... 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

## Making Prayer A Priority

By Wade Hunt

Near the end of Paul's letter to the church at Colosse, he told them to "*continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving*" (Col. 4:2). In this verse, Paul is reminding the brethren at Colosse to make prayer a daily priority in their lives. Today we should heed these important words from Paul as well. Paul is asking us to devote ourselves in prayer to God every day. Many people today only turn to God when the times get tough and when they have no where else to go for help. I think the following poem answers the question "When It Is Time To Pray" very well.

Have you ever had anyone come to you and say,  
"Tell me...how do you know when it is time to pray?"  
I mean our stomachs growl when it is time to eat.  
Our eyes start closing when it is time to sleep.  
When our feelings get hurt, it is time for tears.  
With a new birth it is time to care.  
People will often tell us, quite so,  
When it is time to come, or stay, or go.  
But how do you know when it is time to pray?  
Does an alarm go off next to your bed?  
Or is there a clanging inside your head?  
Do your eyes start blinking, a horn start blowing?  
Or do you listen for a rooster crowing?  
Just what is your way of knowing when it is time to pray?  
With me... I find it is time to pray  
At the beginning and ending of each day.  
And when I am sick and feeling bad,  
Or scared, or lonely, or lost, or sad.  
When the bills blow in like sand  
I seek a touch of the Master's hand.  
When I need patience, hope and peace  
And an abiding love that will not cease,  
When I am thankful for all there is  
That now is mine, and yet is His.  
Gladness, sadness, joy and grief  
We share in prayer. And it is my belief  
That whenever my heart has something to say,  
That is how I know when its time to pray.

Some people today have an attitude that says, "I can not find time to pray." This is definitely the wrong attitude as Christians. Instead of saying "I don't have time to pray, we should have the attitude that says, "I will make time to pray." Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "*pray without ceasing.*" Paul is not asking us to pray twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. However, Paul is telling us to make time to spend in prayer with God a daily habit and a top priority in our lives.

*Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee:  
let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.  
Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed:  
let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. ~Psalm 25:1-3*



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

In the Garden of Eden, God spoke directly to Adam, commanding him to refrain from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Centuries later, “the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision” while he dwelt in the land of Canaan (Genesis 15:1). The patriarch Jacob received a message from Jehovah via the “Angel of God,” Who spoke to him in a dream (Genesis 31:11). The Lord spoke directly to Moses at the burning bush on Mount Horeb (Exodus 3-4). The angel Gabriel brought messages from God to Zacharias, who was dwelling in Jerusalem (Luke 1:11-21), and to Mary, the mother of Jesus, who lived in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-33). Even Saul, who was on his way to Damascus to imprison any Jewish Christians he might find, received a “heavenly vision” (Acts 26:19; cf. Acts 9). A list of God’s appearances and messages to men seems almost endless. No Bible believer can dispute the fact that God has revealed messages to men countless times, either directly or through avenues other than written revelation.

The question often asked today is, “How do we hear God **now**?” Does He still communicate to people through dreams and visions like He did in biblical times? Should we expect Him to call upon us directly at any moment to do some great work, like Saul was called to do? Will God send an angel to me to disclose more revelation than what is given in the Bible? Or, similar to how Eli instructed Samuel, should I “go lie down” and wait on Jehovah to reveal some message to me (1 Samuel 3:9-10). In view of the fact that for millennia God communicated to people either directly or through avenues other than written revelation, why do some today claim that God communicates to man only via the Bible? Just how is it that we “hear God” today?

According to Hebrews 1:1-2, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has **in these last days spoken to us by His Son**” (Hebrews 1:1-2, emp. added). In another contrast between the prophets of old (namely, Moses and Elijah) and Jesus, God instructed Peter, James, and John, saying, “This [Jesus] is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**” (Matthew 17:5, emp. added). Jesus informed

## Hearing God in the Twenty-First Century.

By Erick Lyons

His listeners on one occasion of the reason we must “listen” to Him: “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—**the word that I have**

**spoken will judge him in the last day**” (John 12:48, emp. added). For one to be pleasing to God, he must learn and obey the words of Jesus.

But how do we “hear” Jesus? According to the New Testament, people come to know Jesus and His words by way of the of the apostles’ teachings. Consider the following line of reasoning from the Scriptures.

- ◆ The night of Jesus’ betrayal, He prayed to the Father, saying, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me **through their word**; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20-21, emp. added). The “their” of verse 20 refers to those for whom Jesus was praying in the preceding verses(17:6-19)—**the apostles**. Jesus prayed for the unity of future believers, which He stated would be based upon the **apostles’** “word.”
- ◆ On that same night, Jesus told the apostles: “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who receives whomever I send receives Me**; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me” (John 13:20, emp. added). After Jesus’ resurrection, and before His ascension into heaven, Jesus told these same disciples: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). To receive the apostles’ teachings, then, was to receive Jesus.

But how do we receive the apostles’ doctrine today? Since all of the apostles are dead, via what method do the apostles speak to us in the twenty-first century? Paul answered this question in Ephesians 3:1-5.

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (**as I have briefly writ-**

*(Continued on page 3)*

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Daily Bible Reading Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord’s Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</p> <p>Sun: 2 Kings 15-16 John 11:28-57</p> <p>Mon 2 Kings 17 John 12:1-26</p> <p>Tue: 2 Kings 18-19 John 12:27-50</p> <p>Wed: 2 Kings 20-21 John 13:1-20</p> <p>Thu: 2 Kings 22-23 John 13:21-38</p> <p>Fri: 2 Kings 24-25 John 14:1-14</p> <p>Sat. 1 Chron. 1-2 John 14:15-31</p>
<p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	



### 1st Sunday Fellowship Meal

Please join us for our monthly potluck lunch following the morning worship service in the fellowship hall.

(Continued from page 2)

**ten already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ**), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, **as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets** (emp. added).

Today, a person can understand “the mystery of Christ” through the written revelation of men like the apostle Paul, who received the Truth “through the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11-12).

Still, some ask: “Haven’t other men who have lived through the centuries, even into the twenty-first century, been inspired by God to reveal His message?” Actually, the Bible indicates that **all Truth necessary for salvation** was revealed during the lifetime of the apostles. The night before Jesus’ crucifixion, He promised His apostles that after His departure from them, the Spirit would come and guide them “into all truth” (John 16:13), teaching them “all things,” and bringing to their remembrance “all things” that Jesus taught them (John 14:26). After His crucifixion and resurrection (but before He ascended into heaven), Jesus then commanded these same disciples to “make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20, emp. added). The “faith...was **once for all** delivered to the saints” in the first century (Jude 3), so that since that time Christians have had “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

Hearing God’s will in the twenty-first century is as easy as picking up the providentially preserved Bible and reading what Jesus’ “apostles and prophets” recorded for our benefit. God’s revelation thoroughly equips us for every good work (cf. 2 Timothy 3:17), so that no modern-day messages, dreams, or visions are needed. Nearly two thousand years ago, God revealed “all truth” to the apostles and prophets, who recorded it “by inspiration.” This “truth” is the standard by which all people are to live. And anyone teaching a contrary message will suffer eternally (cf. Galatians 1:8-9).

Eric Lyons, M.Min. @ <http://apologeticspress.ws/articles/1815>

### 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 33 contacts were made.

### Summer Youth Series

This Tuesday will be the first session of the Summer Youth Series. It will be at **Hico beginning at 7 PM**; the topic will be: *Maturing Like Christ (Luke 2:52)* and I believe the speaker is Terry Jackson. Let Jim or Ryan know if you need a ride.

Please note I am not listing a meeting or leaving time because we will not meet at the building unless we know someone needs a ride. This will help ensure no one is waiting and wondering if anyone is coming and will help ensure we have enough room for all who want a ride. So please speak with or call Ryan or Jim to arrange transportation if needed. Thanks for your help in this matter.

**Next Week:** *Ready to Listen Like Samuel (1 Sam. 3:10)*; Hosted by Park Heights in Hamilton.

## Celebrate

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

**June Birthdays:** Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04), Paul McClung (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Freda Womack (14), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

**June Anniversaries:** Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich (19), Lisa & David Greer (28).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



## Records

	May 22, 2011	May 29, 2011
Bible Class	56	56
AM Worship	79	74
PM Worship	50	47
Wednesday PM	46	47
Contribution	\$1527	\$1728

This Week: 6/5/11		Next Week: 6/12/11		<b>June 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Tom Wilcox <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Michael & Diana Bickford <b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey  <b>July 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael & Diana Bickford	Gene & Barbara Bannister		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Ken Makuta*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, James Fuller		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Michael Fuller John 8:21-24	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Ken Maktua		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Matthew Churchwell		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	June 8 Don Smith	June 15 James Fuller	June 22 Ken Makuta	June 29 Michael Bickford

## 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 June 5, 2011</b> Sunday Class ..... Galatians (Chap. 3) Wednesday Class.....Zechariah (Intro/Chap. 1)	
<p><b>Are You In The Valley Of Decision? (Joel 3)</b></p> <p>1. Background</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joel is a book that warns of judgment – judgment already come as a warning (Chap. 1), a greater judgment to come if they refuse to repent (Chap. 2), and a judgment upon the enemies of God’s people (Chap. 3).</li> <li>Following judgment upon Judah, blessings are promised first to the physical nation but ultimately on those that obey God in the New Testament age (2:32, Acts 2:16).</li> <li>For those in the church, God’s kingdom and place of safety, there is peace but war upon those who have set themselves against God (contrast Isa. 2:2-4; Joel 3:9-10).</li> <li>Ultimately there is deliverance for those of the city, the faithful, and destruction for those of the valley of decision/judgment (3:19-20).</li> </ol> <p>2. Lessons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God makes the decision of judgment, but it is based on our present actions (3:2, 12; Rom. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:10).</li> <li>This is a decision we WILL make and will ALL make. We are somewhere in this picture, either in safety or set against God (Matt. 12:30; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21). Our choices place us somewhere, even if we try to remain indifferent (cf. 2 Thess. 1:8; Mark 16:16; 1 John 1:7).</li> <li>This is the most important decision we will make for it has eternal consequences of the great measure (Matt. 16:26; 25:46)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Are we in the valley or safe in the city?</i></p>	<p><b>Witnesses of Christ (John 5:31-47)</b></p> <p><i>Jesus lays out His "documentation" before the people and they must decide if He is the Lord as He claims to be, a liar, or a lunatic. To support His claim he calls on the testimony of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Himself</b> (v31) – Jesus claimed equality with God (John 5:17-18; 10:30-33).</li> <li><b>John the Immerser</b> (v33-35) – He knew how to recognize the Savior and pointed people to Jesus (John 1:29-36).</li> <li><b>His Works</b> (v36) – The very things that Jesus did testified to the fact that He was who He claimed to be and was sent from God and approved by God. This fact could not be successfully argued but still some did not accept (John 3:2; 10:37-38; Matt. 12:24-26).</li> <li><b>God The Father</b> (v32, 37) – This witness could not lie (V32, Titus 1:2) and it was this witness that both sent and testified of Him (Matt. 3:16-17; 17:1-9; John 12:28-30).</li> <li><b>The Old Testament Scriptures</b> (V38-40) – testified of Jesus and pointed them to Jesus but they rejected it; here were the very scriptures they claimed to trust, but in reality they refused to listen them (Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:24).</li> <li><b>Moses</b> (v45-47) – The final witness is one who will become their accuser; Moses spoke of Jesus and prophesied of Him (Deut. 18:18-19) but they rejected Him; in so doing they rejected Moses, the one they claimed to follow.</li> </ol> <p><i>How much proof was needed? What will we do with this evidence that is recorded for our faith (John 20:30-31)?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What will be our estimation of Jesus?</i></p>