

# 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



July 10, 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

## Things We Should Do For Ourselves

by Jason Hilburn

We live in a world in which most people seem to want something for nothing. Many would prefer to have someone else to do everything for them. Many people who do not want to work will go out and buy lottery tickets and play the slot machines, hoping to gain enough to stop working (Ephesians 4:28). Sadly, the same kind of attitude exists when it comes to religious matters. Instead of doing the work of studying, most people prefer to let someone else do all of that, and then hand them the results of their labors. However, God commands us all to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The "noble" Bereans were not going to simply be spoon fed any doctrine without making sure it lined up with the Scriptures (Acts 17:11). They realized that they had a responsibility to study for themselves. When it comes to spiritual matters, there are actually many things that we must do for ourselves.

### We Must Judge for Ourselves What is Right

*"And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time? Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?" (Luke 12:54-57). The Jews of Jesus' day should have been able to discern what was happening before their eyes. They had the Son of God before them, doing things no man had ever done (John 9:32), and speaking like no man had ever spoken (John 7:46). Instead of opening up their minds to the truth, they chose rather to cling to foolish pride and tradition. *"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear"* (Matthew 13:15-16). So many religious people make the same choice today that the Pharisees did! Some choose what their "Rabbi" (preacher) says over what God says. Some choose "what grandma did" over what God says. Friends, we must think for ourselves! We must use the brains God gave us, examine the evidence, and judge for ourselves what is right, regardless of what has been done by us or anyone else in the past!*

### We Must Examine Ourselves

*"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (2 Corinthians 13:5). After we have judged for ourselves what is right, the

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



*O keep my soul, and deliver me:  
let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.  
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.  
Psalm 25:20-21*

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next logical step would be to examine ourselves in light of the truth, to see if our lives are truly patterned after the Word of God (Psalm 119:105). *“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him”* (1 John 2:3-5).

### We Must Humble Ourselves

*“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time”* (1 Peter 5:6; cf. James 4:10, Matthew 18:3, 19:14). Once we have examined ourselves, the honest, accountable person will admit that he has sinned against God (Romans 3:23, 5:12). He should then humbly submit himself to God’s will. No person ever truly became a Christian without humbling himself before God. The humble person will want to do what is right, and he will be seeking a way to be saved from his sins.

### We Must Save Ourselves

*“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation”* (Acts 2:40). Although it is true that we are saved by grace through obedient faith, and we cannot earn our salvation, the Bible teaches that we must *“save ourselves”* in the sense that we must choose to believe and obey what God told us to do to be saved! (Acts 10:34-35). Before Peter told those on the Day of Pentecost to *“save themselves”* he actually told them HOW to save themselves: *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”* (Acts 2:37-38, 41).

### We Must Consider Ourselves Dead to Sin

*“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead in-*

*deed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:11). Once we have buried that sinful person of the past in the waters of baptism (Col. 2:11-13), we should no longer walk as dead men, but as new creatures alive in Christ:

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Romans 6:1-11; cf. Gal. 2:20).

### We Must Have Salt in Ourselves

*“Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another”* (Mark 9:50; cf. Matt. 5:13). Because we love God, we maintain a good influence in this world to give Him glory: *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). Because we love those in the world, we maintain a good influence that we might lead them to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:23-33,

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Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Daily Bible Reading Schedule
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	<b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).  <b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)  <b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)  <b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)  Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	<i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;”</i> (1 Pet. 2:2)  Sun: Ezra 4-6      Acts 11 Mon: Ezra 7-8      Acts 12 Tue: Ezra 9-10      Acts 13:1-31 Wed: Nehemiah 1-3      Acts 13:32-52 Thu: Nehemiah 4-5      Acts 14 Fri: Nehemiah 6-7      Acts 15:1-21 Sat: Nehemiah 8-9      Acts 15:22-41
<b>Radio</b>  Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3	<b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	



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Colossians 4:5-6). Because we love our brethren, we maintain a good influence to help them get to Heaven, refusing to do things which would cause them to stumble, to be offended, or to be made weak (1 Corinthians 8:5-13; Romans 14:21).

**We Must Watch Ourselves**

*“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward”* (2 John 1:8). The Bible teaches us to keep an eye on ourselves, because we could lose our reward in Heaven. If we choose the world over Christ after we have become Christians, we have chosen Hell over Heaven (2 Peter 2:20-22). Notice words of warning from the Holy Spirit to those who had become Christians:

*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears* (Hebrews 12:14-17; cf. 2:1-3; 3:12-14; 4:1, 11; 5:4-6, 11-12; 10:23-31, 35-39; 12:25-29; 13:17).

Will we be like Esau, in eternal tears crying out because we chose the temporary pleasures of the world over the eternal blessings of God? Let us watch ourselves, and make sure that we remain faithful to our Lord (Revelation 2:10).

**Conclusion**

The processes of both becoming a Christian and remaining a Christian are such that they require something called “self-discipline” (Galatians 5:22-25). Let us realize that we will be held accountable for our own actions (2 Corinthians 5:10), and when it comes to spiritual matters, there are many things that we must do for ourselves.

**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.

**Summer Youth Series**

Remember the Summer Youth Series in Abilene Tuesday night as 5th & Grape is hosting beginning at 7 PM. You won't want to miss this great time together; Mike Bonner will be speaking on being *“Bold Like Josiah”* (2 Kings 22:11). Hope you can make plans to be there. Again, let Jim or Ryan know if you need a ride.

**Address Update**

I hate to report that **Elise Sherro** is moving to San Saba to live with her daughter; we will certainly miss her but hope that will work out well for her. Her new address is: ...

**Celebrate**

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

**July Birthdays:** Mariah Martinez (08), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Steven Martinez (13), Diana Bickford (16), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

**July Anniversaries:** Diana & Michael Bickford (26), Priscilla & Ryan Smithey (26).

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



**Records**

	June 26, 2011	July 3, 2011
Bible Class	57	59
AM Worship	80	84
PM Worship	61	40
Wednesday PM	48	37
Contribution	\$1613	\$1657

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 7/10/11		Next Week: 7/17/11		<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>August 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Garrett Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jim Moore
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Jack & Joyce Hill		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, Michael Fuller John Barnum, Ken Makuta	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Billy Chism		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler Phil. 3:13-17	Michael Bickford		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	July 13 Allen Griffith	July 20 James Fuller	July 27 Jim Moore	August 3 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)

<b>Studies for the week of July 10, 2011</b>		Sunday Class ..... Galatians (Chap. 4) Wednesday Class ..... Zechariah (Chap. 5-6)
<p><b>Jesus: "I Am The Light of the World" (John 8:12)</b>  <i>This is spoken during the time of the Feast of Booths in which they remembered how God had led them through the wilderness (Lev. 23:43). Now, much like the cloud of guidance (cf. Ex. 13:21-22; Num. 9:15-23), Jesus had come to direct people in a world of darkness.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>He is the Necessary Light</b> – By implication the world was in darkness but Jesus was now come as a light (John 1:5; 12:46); this would be the task of those who took the gospel to a lost world – show the light (Matt. 5:16; Acts 26:18; Phil. 2:15-16).</li> <li><b>He is the Universal Light</b> – that is He came as a light for all people (Luke 2:32; Gal. 3:28; Mark 6:15).</li> <li><b>He is the Exclusive Light</b> – not A light to the world, but THE light. He alone could shine as this light in the world, no other source could guide them in the right ways of the Father (cf. John 14:9; Acs 4:12).</li> <li><b>He is the Comforting Light</b> – light affords security and comfort as does Jesus; He brought the good news of salvation to the world (Matt. 4:15-17; 16:18; 11:28).</li> </ol> <p><i>How sad that then and now this light is available but many will turn from it (John 3:19) but those who will turn to it and be led by it will be comforted (John 1:10-12; 8:31-32).</i></p>	<p><b>A Three-Fold Commendation (Phil. 2:25)</b>  <i>Epaphroditus is set forth as an example of a person worthy of marking and imitating in our lives (Phil. 3:17); his name means lovely and it certainly fits the man Paul describes.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>He was a brother</b> – indicates fellowship in Christ                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As Christians we are part of the same family (Eph. 2:19).</li> <li>He had encouraged them to help one another (2:1-5) and here was a great example of such as he helped Paul (2:25, 4:18) and cared for others (2:26-28).</li> <li>We are to follow the same example (cf. John 15:12; Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 4:9-10; 1 Pet. 1:22).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>He was a companion in labor</b> – a worker                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A diligent, zealous worker even to the point of making him sick unto death (V30).</li> <li>We should not be content to let our brothers do all the work (Titus 2:14); work together in God's work (1 Cor. 3:9-11).</li> <li>This makes us fellowlaborers operating together much like a body (cf. 1 Thess 3:2; Phile. 1:1; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>He was a fellowsoldier</b> – a fighter                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We don't just need workers, we also need fighters; those who will stand up with us and defend the faith.</li> <li>Think of those who worked with Nehemiah—building with one hand, ready to defend with the other (Neh. 4:17-18).</li> <li>We are soldiers in a spiritual warfare (2 Tim. 2:3) who need to be fighting together (Phil. 1:27; Eph. 6:10-17; Jude 3).</li> <li>Then all can look back having fought the good fight of faith and longing for that crown (2 Tim. 4:6-8).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	