

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 17, 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

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

GOOD COUNSEL

By Tom Moore

Seeking counsel is a very important undertaking – one to be considered seriously. One may seek legal counsel, financial counsel, marriage counsel, spiritual counsel, and a host of other types of counseling.

Many may not realize that seeking counsel is a biblical principle. Solomon, a great man of wisdom, declared, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; But he that is wise hearkeneth unto counsel” (Pro. 12:15). “By pride cometh only contention; But with the well advised is wisdom” (Pro. 13:10). “Where there is no counsel, purposes are disappointed; But in the multitude of counselors they are established” (Pro. 15:22). “Every purpose is established by counsel; And by wise guidance make thou war” (Pro. 20:18). “For by wise guidance thou shalt make thy war; And in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Pro. 24:6).

With regard to seeking counsel, there is an item that we need to consider seriously and be warned about. There has always been and there will always be two basic types of counselors: good and bad. A good counselor is one that gives trustworthy advice – advice of benefit, and a bad counselor gives poor advice – advice that produces harm.

The difficulty arises when trying to distinguish between the two. Often one finds out that one is a bad counselor only after they have heeded his advice - having damaged their situation. Is there a way to discover if one is a good or bad counselor before seeking their advice? Is there a way of protecting ourselves from bad advice? Let me suggest some biblical principles that will enable us to be better informed on how to choose good counsel.

Most importantly, it is vital that we understand that the best counsel is always Divine counsel. The Psalmist declared, “I will bless Jehovah, who hath given me counsel; Yea, my heart instructeth me in the night seasons” (Psa. 16:7), and “Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel, And afterward receive me to glory” (Psa. 73:24). “This also cometh forth from Jehovah of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in wisdom” (Isa. 28:29). Jeremiah also tells us that the Almighty is “great in counsel” (Jer. 32:19).

How does the Lord give us counsel today? God gives us counsel today through the Bible. Paul says, “Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is of the utmost importance to remember that if we ever receive counsel that violates biblical counsel – we know that counsel is bad and should not be heeded. A good counselor will ALWAYS use the Bible as his guide.

(Continued on page 3)



*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,
and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer,
but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

James 1:25

A People of Character

By Kevin W. Rhodes

God wants to have a relationship with man. When He created Adam and Eve, He did so in such a way as to make them capable of having a relationship with Him (Gen. 1 :26-27). He gave them guidance in what this relationship would mean and what it took to maintain it (Gen. 2: 1617). He also gave them one another to help them understand and appreciate what a relationship truly means (Gen. 2:24-25). However, Adam and Eve forsook their relationship with God because they forsook the character that made it possible (Gen. 3:6). When God established Israel as a nation, He told Moses, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel" (Ex. 19:56). Israel had an opportunity to enjoy a special relationship with Jehovah God; however, they too forsook this privilege, following after idols and plunging themselves into captivity. Nevertheless, God still wanted a relationship with man, and sent Jesus to die on the cross so that the shedding of His blood might make possible the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22) and so allow a holy God to sanctify people so that they might come to Him and enjoy the relationship they had abandoned through their sin (Isa. 59:2).

While God approached men individually in the patriarchal age and approached a nation collectively in beginning the Mosaical age, in Christianity He has chosen to approach men individually through the gospel in order to create, through their individual obedience, a new nation in the church. Whereas under the Old Law He established a relationship with a nation that was to be taught to the individual members of the nation (Deut. 6:4-8), under the New Covenant, individuals would receive instruction, and those who were willing would become part of a new nation. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put

my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away"(Heb. 8:10-13). Thus, by calling all men to return to God by the gospel (2 Th. 2:14), and making their return to truth through repentance and obedience a requirement of entering the new nation and new relationship with Him (Acts 17:30; Rom. 6:16-18), our Lord has placed character front and center in our relationship with Him. Our God has always required holiness of His creation, because He is holy (1 Pet. 1: 15-16). He has always required love of His creation, because He is a God of love (Mt. 22:37-40; 1 Jn. 4:7-11). However, in Israel of old, these expectations defined the covenant but not the people. With Christ, this has changed. In spiritual Israel, the church, character defines the people of God in accordance with the covenant as much as the covenant itself is defined by God's character. To be a Christian is not the same as having an ethnic identity, whereby we can lay claim to being of a race of people regardless of what we believe or do. Instead, God set aside all those other barriers to define His people by character alone in their relationship with Him (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 1:16-17).

God designed the church to be a people of character—not a people that attend at a place that bears the name of Christ but a people who live in such a way as to wear the character of Christ. God wants to have a relationship with man; He wants to have a relationship with you. However, this relationship centers on character—God's character and yours. When we submit our will to God, our character lines up with God's, and we can have a relationship

(Continued on page 3)

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	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</p> <p>Sun: Neh. 10-11 Acts 16:1-15</p> <p>Mon: Neh. 12-13 Acts 16:16-40</p> <p>Tue: Esther 1-3 Acts 17:1-15</p> <p>Wed: Esther 4-6 Acts 17:16-34</p> <p>Thu: Esther 7-10 Acts 18</p> <p>Fri: Job 1-3 Acts 19:1-20</p> <p>Sat: Job 4-6 Acts 19:21-41</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>		



(Continued from page 1)

Another important bit of advice in choosing counsel is that we should listen carefully to “old men’s counsel” (1 Kgs. 12:13) and be cautious of the counsel of “the young men” (1 Kgs. 12:8). Rehoboam failed to do this and was the contributing factor in the dividing of the kingdom of Israel (1 Kgs. 12). Those of many years have a great amount of wisdom and experience that can be very valuable in our decision making process. Beware of the counsel of the youthful. This has been the downfall of many congregations – heeding the ill-informed or misinformed advice of young preachers/youth ministers coming out of liberal colleges. Please do not forsake the counsel of the older and biblically sound men of the congregation.

We also need to listen to the counsel of several that we may weigh their advice with other advice given enabling us to make the proper choices. “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Pro. 11:14). “Where there is no counsel, purposes are disappointed; But in the multitude of counselors they are established” (Pro. 15:22). One may have certain insights in an area, or experience in an area that other may not have. Limiting our counsel will limit our chances of getting good advice or the best advice. We may also think of it as a kind of “check and balance” system, which may prevent us from making wrong decisions.

Remember, “he that hearkeneth unto wise counsel is wise” (Pro. 12:15).

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 36 contacts were made. Also **remember that tonight is the third Sunday night, join us for finger-foods following the meeting.**

Summer Youth Series

No Summer Youth Series this week but next week, 7/26, Bangs will be hosting beginning at 7 PM. The topic will be “Dedicated Like Daniel” (Daniel 1:8). Hope you can make plans to be there. Again, let Jim or Ryan know if you need a ride.

Address Update

- ◆ Megan Delgros and her girls settled safely [in this area] Please continue to keep them in your prayers.
- ◆ Zelma Leslie recently moved to CARE she is in room 68

New Materials Available

New editions of the **Spiritual Sword and House to House** are available at the back of the auditorium. Please use these materials for your own study and also consider passing them along to others who will benefit from them as well.



(Continued from page 2)

with God (1 Jn. 1 :5-7) and unity with one another Jn. 17:21-23) like never before, and we can then enjoy blessings that our spiritual forefathers could only imagine. Israel no longer has that special bond with Jehovah. God now shares that only with His people in Christ's church. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, bur now have obtained mercy" (I Pet. 2:9-10 KJV).

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

	July 3, 2011	July 10, 2011
Bible Class	59	53
AM Worship	84	73
PM Worship	40	57
Wednesday PM	37	49
Contribution	\$1657	\$1651

This Week: 7/17/11		Next Week: 7/24/11		July 2011 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox August 2011 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Jim Moore
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	Jack & Joyce Hill	The Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum	Ken Makuta*, Michael Bickford, Allen Griffith, Matt Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Michael Bickford Hebrews 12:1-3	James Fuller		
Communion	Jim Moore	Ken Makuta		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 20 James Fuller	July 27 Jim Moore	August 3 Don Smith	August 10 Allan Griffith

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 July 17, 2011		Sunday Class Galatians (Chap. 4-5) Wednesday Class Islam DVD
<p>Jesus: "I Am The Door" (John 10:7, 9) <i>Jesus uses a parable to show His compassionate care; He is like a shepherd that lay at or guarded the door of the sheepfold for the protection of his sheep.</i></p> <p>1. He is the only door</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. These statements continue to point to His exclusivity as the savior of the world (Acts 4:12). b. They should remind us that it is always God's way which leads to blessing or any other that leads to destruction (cf. Deut. 11:26-28; Matt. 7:13-14, 24-27, 12:30). c. Many look for or try to create another way, but such won't work (Rom. 10:1-3). <p>2. He is the door of opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This door leads to salvation (v9 – shall be saved; John 3:16; Heb. 9:12). b. This door leads to blessing (v9-10 – find pasture, abundant life; Eph. 1:3). <p>3. He is the door of access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Suggests security as access is limited; He guards the door and keeps out enemies. b. Accessibility – He is open or accessible: not secretive or uninviting; announces Himself as the welcoming door (Matt. 11:28-30); sets Himself in contrast to the Pharisees (Matt. 23:13). Open door to all who avail themselves of it (John 10:9, 8:31-32; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; Mark 16:16). 		<p>PM: James Fuller, Preaching</p> <p>Well, another group will be off to camp this afternoon. I again thank the congregation for your continued support and prayers for this effort. This week of course is the Senior Camp at Brady for those who have just finished 8th-12th grades and it runs through Friday afternoon. I think we have three campers going this week along with the Griffiths, the Moores, and my family that will be helping in various capacities.</p> <p>Thanks too to James Fuller agreeing to "fill-in" for me and preach tonight even though he just returned from vacation. Hopefully Wednesday night all will go well as the second part of the Islam DVD will be shown and then the final part will be next Wednesday night.</p> <p>Praying for Open Doors <i>Eddie Parrish</i></p> <p>From prison in Rome, Paul made this request of the Colossian church, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ..." (Col. 4:2-3).</p> <p>Among the requests you make of God today, why not ask for an open door of opportunity to impact someone for eternity? Then keep your eyes open.</p>