

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 24, 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.

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT

By David Harris

In the midst of trials and tribulations of this life we all need comfort. From a very early age we need comfort. As newborns, we need the comfort of a reassuring loving mother and father. We need comfort when we are ill and are brokenhearted, as children, then later as adults. We are encouraged by the Holy Spirit about this great source of consolation and relief in affliction.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Cor.1:3-4).

Notice how we are to reciprocate the blessing of this "soothing" that we are afforded by God. The scriptures are full of exhortations for Christians to comfort one another.

"And sent Timothy our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and to comfort you concerning your faith" (1 Thes.3:2).

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another even as also you do" (1 Th.5:11).

"Whom (Tychicus) I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts" (Col.4:8).

This comfort, relief from affliction, comes from God's word and sharing truth. It also comes from building one another up, and exhorting one another when we are down. This comfort is great medicine for the heart, mind, and the soul. God knows this and is why we are instructed to, *comfort one another by the comfort wherewith we are comforted by God.* I do not believe that we are instructed by God to comfort only our "blood kin," or our brothers and sisters in Christ only, but we are to comfort all mankind.

One of the interesting aspects of the word "comfort" is that it comes from the same Greek root word, from which we get the word "paregoric." Paregoric is an old medicine that was used to relieve colic, and general feelings of illness in infants. It was a "cure-all" for babies that needed relief from their affliction.

The taste of this medicine was not all that good, and many infants resisted taking the medicine, however the benefits of its comfort were priceless; immediate relief.

(Continued on page 2)



*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Romans 12:1

(Continued from page 1)

Consider the benefits of the comfort of the Word of God; "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim.3:16-17).

Sometimes this comfort (paregoric) is not as palatable as we might like for it to be, and many resist its consumption, its correction, its inspired instruction; but the benefits of the application of this word, is relief from affliction, purity of soul, and comfort of heart. The Lord is indeed the Great Physician.

What Kind Of Member Are You?

By Gus Nichols

There are all kinds of members referred to in the New Testament. Some had lost their first love (Revelation 2:4-5). Others had become only lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-19). Some had forsaken the assembling of themselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Others had gone all the way back and had fallen from grace (Galatians 5:1-4). Some never did return to the right way (John 6:66; 1 Peter 2). There are many classifications of members in the New Testament. There are some modern groups each of which has quite a following. What kind of member are you?

- ◆ Are you a "oncer"—one who attends church services only once per week—on the Lord's Day morning? Such members enjoy good health, but they never come at night. Had they been at Troas they would not have heard Paul preach until midnight and would have missed the fine fellowship of the occasion, plus the witnessing of the miracle of raising a man from the dead there that night (Acts 20:7-14).
- ◆ Some are church "tramps"—they go tramping from one congregation to another, worshipping here and there, so as to dodge any responsibility for doing anything in the church and having any real part in any program of work. They are often called "Church drifter". They never settle down so as to work and grow in the church (1 Corinthians 16:13).
- ◆ Others are simply "leaners"—they lean on the church in every time of illness, misfortune, and the like, but they never contribute to its work. They are out to "get" and not to "give". They are like the Dead Sea which has no outlet. They have no life. They are like sponges

- they take in all they can hold but you have to squeeze to get anything out of them!
- ◆ Some others are "specials"—they work for the church on special occasions which happen to appeal to them, but the regular work of the Lord has no appeal. The every-day matter of being Christians is to them a drab affair. When they are tuned up they work enthusiastically, but no one ever knows when they are going to get rubbed the wrong way about something. They are supporters of that part of the work of the church that they like, but they oppose the other good works being done by others.
- ◆ But some are "pillars"—they are always dependable. Without them the church would be a laughingstock in the community. They stand ready at all times to do what they can for the glory of God. They are happy that they have been saved, and feel that if they had a thousand lives to live they could not do all they would like to do for the wonderful Savior who came, bled, and died that they might be children of God and have the happiness which they enjoy in the Lord every day along the way.

What kind of member are you? You need not try to deceive anyone by your answer for the way you are living proclaims daily what kind of member you are! Maybe you need to change your ways and move up in the church to the higher ground of Christian living. Many have changed who found themselves in a failing group, doing little or nothing for the church.

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:	Job 7-8	Acts 20:1-16
Mon	Job 9-11	Acts 20:17-38
Tue:	Job 12-13	Acts 21:1-16
Wed:	Job 14-16	Acts 21:17-40
Thu:	Job 17-19	Acts 22
Fri:	Job 20-21	Acts 23:1-22
Sat.	Job 22-23	Acts 23:23-35



OVERCOMING PRIDE

By Dan Flourney

"Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16: 18).

The word Pride has two meanings. It can mean simply a sense of worth in the sight of God. This is what is called self-respect." This kind of pride is right and good. Folks should take pride in their appearance...in the way they keep their homes and yard, etc. On the other hand pride may be used in the sense of "inordinate self esteem or conceit" (Webster). This is the kind of pride Solomon speaks of in our text. This kind of pride is displayed in a haughty attitude. The sin of pride brings with it sad and severe consequences:

Pride produces failure and brings destruction. The Pharisee, lifted up with pride, thanked God that he was not as the publican (Luke 18:9-14). The publican, on the other hand, humbled himself, confessed his sins and went on his way justified.

Pride shuts the door to salvation. Many rulers of the Jews believed on Jesus but would not confess their belief *"lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God"* (John 12:42-43). Thus, because of pride, they would not come to Christ. How many are like that today? They will not confess Christ and obey the gospel because they are afraid they will lose their place of prominence.

Pride destroys the peace of the church. Because Diotrephes was one who *"loved to have the preeminence"* in the church, he refused fellowship even to the apostle John and cast faithful brethren out of the church (3 John 9-10). Some brethren are so puffed up with pride that they must "rule or ruin." Either way, the peace of the church is destroyed by such brethren.

The only way to overcome pride in our lives is to humbly submit to the will of God. May we remember that *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"* (James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5). Jesus said, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24). Anything less than full surrender to Christ is borne of pride and will bring destruction.

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 37 contacts were made.

Summer Youth Series

Hope you can join us at 7 PM Tuesday night as Bangs hosts the next Summer Youth Series...Jeffery Rollo will be speaking on being *"Dedicated Like Daniel"* (Daniel 1:8). Hope you can make plans to be there. Next week will be at Rising Star.

Also...**we need your help**...we will be hosting the last session on Tuesday, August 9. We will be doing the traditional hamburgers and will soon (hopefully tonight) have out a sign-up sheet for items that we need. I hope you will be able to join us for the event and help setup, serve, and/or clean-up afterwards.

Camp Report

I think camp went very well once again! It was certainly hot but that did not slow the kids down too much. It was a wonderful week of Bible Study, worship, fun, and food. Hopefully those who attended went away renewed and with a greater zeal to live a faithful life in the midst of difficult temptations and trials. Most of the kids in attendance this second week were already Christians and it showed in the way they conducted themselves and participated in classes. We did have one who was baptized during the week and at least two that made public responses asking for prayers and forgiveness of sin. I am also sure many more responded privately to the challenges of the classes and sermons with a determination to avoid the pitfalls of sin so as to not wander away like the prodigal son of Luke 15. Thanks for everyone's support in this effort.

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 10, 2011	July 17, 2011
Bible Class	53	65
AM Worship	73	84
PM Worship	57	N/C
Wednesday PM	49	N/C
Contribution	\$1651	\$1723

		This Week: 7/24/11	Next Week: 7/31/11		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	The Maninger Family		Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum		Allen Griffith		
Communion	Ken Makuta*, Michael Bickford, Allen Griffith, Matt Churchwell		Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox, Don Smith, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas		Michael Bickford		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
Sunday PM:					
Opening Prayer	Don Smith		Ken Makuta		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller Acts 27:21-25		Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Ken Makuta		Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore		James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 27 Jim Moore	August 3 Don Smith	August 10 Allen Griffith	August 17 Ryan Smithey	

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 24, 2011		Sunday Class Galatians (Chap. 5) Wednesday Class Islam DVD
<p>I Am The Good Shepherd (John 10:11) <i>Jesus continues to contrast Himself with the "leaders" of that day in showing Himself as a loving savior:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He Guards The Sheep - A shepherd protects His sheep from harm thereby giving comfort (Ps. 23:4; John 10:27-30; Heb. 13:5-6); a good one, that loves His sheep will not flee in the face of problems (John 10:12-13; Matt. 28:20). He Guides The Sheep - A good shepherd will direct his sheep to good sources of food and water and compassionately helps them (Ps. 23:2; Matt. 9:35-36), he does this by leading them (John 10:3-5, 14); today we are still led in right ways (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jer. 10:23; Ps. 119:105). He Gives His Life For The Sheep - Jesus states His willingness to die for His sheep (John 10:11, 15, 17-18) a promise He fulfilled (cf. Matt. 26:52-54, John 19:10-11; 1 Pet. 2:22-24, Isa. 53:6-7; Matt. 20:28; Acts 20:28). <p>Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>I Believe God (Acts 27:25) <i>Paul is a great example of one that believed God, not just believed in God but trusted Him and believed things would be just as He said they would be. As a result Paul listened to, trusted, and followed God's word; will we do the same?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do we believe the warnings of God? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Satan's earliest recorded attack involved questioning the warnings of God (Gen. 3:15); do we believe the warnings against sin that have been given to us? (Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; etc.) Do we believe the need to know and follow Christ? (John 8:2, Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 4:12; Matt. 7:21) Do we believe how we live matters? (John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12, 15; Matt. 25:46) Do we believe the promises of God? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God wants us to know Him, that He is faithful and will reward the faithful (Heb. 11:6; Matt. 7:21). Do we believe the offer of salvation? (1 Tim. 2:4; John 3:16, 8:31-32; Matt. 11:28-30; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1 John 1:7, 9; etc.) Again Paul is an example of one that placed His eternal trust in God (2 Tim. 1:12, 4:6-8); do we have the same trust? Do we show we believe God by the life we live? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is not enough to believe in God or even just to hear His word, we must believe it and show such by acting on it and following Him (Matt. 7:24-27; James 1:22; 2 Pet. 3:8-14). If we don't follow His Word, can we really say we believe God? 	