

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 31, 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 Greatness of God

By Terry Jackson

The Old Testament introduces us to the Architect and Creator of the universe. **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1). Immediately one recognizes that God is far beyond the comprehension of any man. Because He has revealed Himself to us we can understand certain things about Him. We see His nature demonstrated through His dealings with men. He is a loving God, **"Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you"** (Deut. 23:5). He is just as He deals with man. If a man sins he shall die, but if he repents, he shall live. (Ezek. 3:17 -20). He is compassionate, not wanting to see any man die in his sins. He gave man 120 years to repent before the great deluge, (Gen. 6:3). He saved the nation of Nineveh because they were penitent. He gave man order out of chaos by giving him law. By His divine power He worked through a sometimes rebellious and obstinate people to send the Savior.

In all of His workings we are struck with awe at the greatness of Jehovah. **"The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting"** (Psa 93:1-2). When we understand the greatness and supremacy of God it moves us to respond. We respond in our obedience to Him. God who is our Creator knows us and understands our needs. He has given us a pattern through His Word to change our lives to be more like Him. Unfortunately, if we are not in tune with His Word, we will not know how to live in a way that manifests His glory (Eph. 3:21).

God loved man so much that He sent His Son, (John 3:16), that he might be saved. God gave us the doctrine of salvation in the gospel that has the power of salvation, (Rom. 1:16), through our obedience, (Rom. 6:17). Too many folks have discarded the revealed truth and embraced their own concept of religion.

We also respond to God's greatness by being what He wants us to be. Not only did He provide the doctrine of salvation, but also directions in our daily life **"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"** (2 Peter 1:3). God expects us to live as His people and conduct our affairs in a way that reflects Him. Outside folks must be able to see His influence over us through our daily, (not just Sunday), lives. His greatness also spurns adoration and worship. **"For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods"... "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker"** (Psalms 95:3, 6). Today many who call themselves "Christians" lack this knowledge, which results in feeble faith and flabby worship.

(Psalms 93:1) **The LORD reigns. He is clothed with majesty:
The LORD is clothed. He has girded Himself with strength.
Surely the world is established. so that it cannot be moved.**

*And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect,
will of God.*

Romans 12:2



Faithful, but Lost

By Jeremy Sprouse

“He attends regularly, is active in the church, and obeys God’s Word.” This would be a typical response if you asked for a description of someone who is a faithful Christian. Although to man, this appears faithful, there is nothing in the description that actually confirms a person as faithful. In fact, you can do all three of these and still be unfaithful to God. We see this in the life of the older son in Jesus’ Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Unlike his brother, the older son never insulted his father by seeking his inheritance early and never left the household to squander his wealth in worldly living. He was faithful in many things, but he was still lost.

He was faithful in attendance, but lost in attention.

Just being present doesn’t mean we are doing what we need to be doing. Although the older son had always been with the father (15:31), he did not share his father’s nature. His father was loving and compassionate (15:20, 32), while he was angry and rejecting (15:28-30). For all his mistakes, even the prodigal son understood his father better than the older brother (cf. 15:17-19). Even though he attended his father, he never truly took the time to learn from his father and apply his father’s example and teachings to his life. All his attendance really didn’t benefit him, since he really didn’t pay attention. Now, what about all those who simply attend church services faithfully, but really don’t apply God’s words to their lives? Are they any better than the older son? If we are not actually living by God’s Word, we are just deluding ourselves (James 1:22).

He was faithful in working, but lost in purpose.

The motive behind our service is just as important as the service itself. The older son had different motives than the father. The father was giving (15:22-24) and took care of others (15:17), but the older son was stingy. The older son was more concerned about what he would get. He thought his work made him better than others and would secure a better reward for himself. He thought the fatted calf and feast should have been for him in honor of his work. His

motives made his work worthless. Jesus warned us about practicing our righteousness to be seen by men. He taught when we work to be glorified by men, we lose our heavenly reward (Matthew 6:1-2). We need to examine why we are serving God. Are we serving God because He is worthy and we want to do His will, or are just serving to get something out of it? If we do not work with the right motives, on the Day of Judgment, we might find ourselves with those saying “Lord, Lord, did we not come to church every Sunday, lead prayers in church, preach, teach, give our clothes to the poor, and feed the hungry?” while Jesus is saying “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (based on Matthew 7:21-23)

He was faithful in obedience, but lost in heart. Although from his point of view, he didn’t neglect any commands (15:29), there was no joy in his service or his life, for that matter. He couldn’t rejoice over the salvation of another, not even his own brother. Instead, he was filled with bitterness and jealousy. Life didn’t seem fair to him. He was more focused on what others were or were not doing than on what was in his heart. Jesus often quoted Isaiah: “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me” (Mark 7:6-7). He told us the true worshipper must worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Saying the right words is not enough if are hearts are not in it. Following the true way isn’t enough if we aren’t doing it in spirit. Our obedience is vain if we obey grudgingly, mindlessly, or just because that’s what our parents did. True faith is based not on tradition, but on the word of God (Romans 10:17).

Attendance, service, and obedience are often thought of as hallmarks of faithfulness. None of these hallmarks, however, truly mean one is faithful because they can all be done without faith. In addition to attendance, service, and obedience, to be faithful: we have to pay attention to the Father, we have to take up His purpose, and we have to share in His spirit.

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 style="text-align: center;">Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Sun:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 24-27</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Mon</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 28-29</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Tue:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 30-31</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 26</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Wed:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 32-33</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 27:1-12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Thu:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 34-36</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 27:13-44</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Fri:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 37-38</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 28:1-15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Sat.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Job 39-40</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Acts 28:16-31</td> </tr> </table>	Sun:	Job 24-27	Acts 24	Mon	Job 28-29	Acts 25	Tue:	Job 30-31	Acts 26	Wed:	Job 32-33	Acts 27:1-12	Thu:	Job 34-36	Acts 27:13-44	Fri:	Job 37-38	Acts 28:1-15	Sat.	Job 39-40	Acts 28:16-31
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Sat.	Job 39-40	Acts 28:16-31																					



COMMITMENT

By Terry Jackson

Commitment defined by Webster: "An agreement or pledge to do something in the future." There is no doubt that each person is committed to something, and it is those commitments that keep us busy and erodes our time. Commitment is the result of being responsible, which is a good thing. The problem comes when we do not establish priorities in the things that demand our time and attention. Families, friends, jobs, and God are all important commitments in our life; but which has priority. Family and friends can influence the direction we take so we must not put them at top priority. If we are not careful, jobs can rob of us of our families and our faith. The decisions we make will be based on our commitments.

If our first priority is our job, then our decisions will put work before our families and God. If our priority is our family we will choose family activities before worship. When we put God as first priority, does it mean that we neglect the other commitments in our lives? As a matter of fact, when God is first, then we will be better family members and bosses and employees. Jesus said, **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"** (Matthew 6:33). When the kingdom is our first commitment, then our decisions will rotate around that priority. For example, if we are given an opportunity to work on a day of assembly for a few extra bucks, our decision will be based on our priority. If our family invites us to the lake on the day of worship, then our decision will be affected by what we consider as important. This is the reason why our commitment must first be to God.

If Israel would have understood this concept, they would not have **"robbed God,"** (Mal. 3:8). Our commitment will reflect our decisions. Under the same scenario, if God is first, then when these other opportunities arise, our decisions will be based on what God would want us to do. God has revealed His will to us and if He is first then His will become the motivation for our lives. It is easy to confuse priorities and misplace our commitments in these other important areas.

(Continued on page 4)

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

Hope you can join us at 7 PM Tuesday night as Rising Star hosts the next Summer Youth Series...Shawn Montandon will be speaking on being **"Unashamed Like Timothy"** (1 Timothy 4:2). Hope you can make plans to be there. Next week will be the last one for this year here at 4th & Stewart with Kevin Rhodes speaking on being **"Humble like the Prodigal Son"** (Luke 15:17-18)..

We need your help...we will be hosting the last session on Tuesday, August 9. We will be doing the traditional hamburgers following the worship time. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the auditorium for the items that we need your help in bringing. Also I hope you will try to help where you can in setting up chairs and tables beforehand, helping to serve and direct people where they need to go, and cleaning up afterwards. Based on previous weeks we could have 180+ present...hope to see you there.

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29)..

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Darlene & Don Smith (29), Pam & Terry Teague (16).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	July 17, 2011	July 24, 2011
Bible Class	65	55
AM Worship	84	72
PM Worship	47	56
Wednesday PM	37	54
Contribution	\$1723	\$1705

This Week: 7/31/11		Next Week: 8/07/11		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	Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox Don Smith, John Barnum	Jim Moore*, James Fuller Michael Bickford, Garrett Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Michael Bickford	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Seth Smithey		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Ken Makuta	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum 1 Cor. 13:1-3	Michael Fuller		
Communion	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 3 Don Smith	August 10 Allen Griffith	August 17 Ryan Smithey	August 24 Tom Wilcox

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 31, 2011		Sunday Class Galatians (Chap. 5-6)	Wednesday Class Islam/Zechariah (Chap. 5-6)
<p>I Am The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)</p> <p>1. Statement of Comfort in Spite of Disappointment/Defeat</p> <p>a. While they expressed faith in Jesus, they were disappointed in the way things had happened (v21-22, 32) and faced defeat in Lazarus dying (cf. Eccl. 8:8; 1 Cor. 15:26).</p> <p>b. But Jesus knew exactly what He would do, God was still in control despite the circumstances of life; Lazarus would live again (v4, 11, 23).</p> <p>c. One also notes the compassion of Jesus (v35) who knew the emotions of life (Rom. 12:15; Heb. 4:16).</p> <p>2. Statement of Power</p> <p>a. Jesus was once again going to show His power as He has done before in the miracles He worked, now showing He even had power over life and death.</p> <p>b. This was the One who promised to lay down His life and take it again (Jn 10:11, 18) and the One to whom our own resurrection is tied (1 Cor. 15:3-8, Rom. 1:3-4, 1 Cor. 15:20, 57).</p> <p>c. Did she believe He could do this? Do we believe He still has the power to grant eternal life?</p> <p>3. Statement of Separation</p> <p>a. Two different responses. Some hardened their hearts and told the Pharisees who looked for opportunities to kill Jesus and Lazarus (v53, 12:10-11).</p> <p>b. Some would believe on Him (v45), the reason these things were done and recorded (John 20:30-31).</p>		<p>(Continued from page 3)</p> <p>The bottom line is that when we commit ourselves to anything in place of God's will, we sin. No matter how important our other commitments are God must be first choice in all our decisions. Commitment to Christ and His kingdom is a commitment for life.</p> <p>"For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12).</p> <p>As part of our ongoing 5th Sunday night preacher exchange, Terry Jackson, the preacher at Rising Star, will be here tonight (hopefully along with his wife, Melissa) while I will be preaching in Rising Star. Terry is no stranger to this area having preached in Rising Star for a number of years and also preached in Goldthwaite for a number of years prior to that. He has had a rough year as it was this time last year he had his bypass surgery and has had a few setbacks along the way but is doing fairly well now and keeps on going. Terry and Melissa hold a special place in the heart of me and my family; they are great friends and encouragers. I always look forward to spending time with them and hope you will enjoy spending time with them tonight and hearing him proclaim the word of God.</p>	