

# 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



September 11, 2011

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
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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

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

## Dropping Like Rain

By Mike Bonner

For over fifty days west Texas experienced life without much water from the sky. Many prayed to God asking Him to bless our great state with rain for many reasons. Because of the drought many were watering their yards attempting to keep them living during this tough time. Yards were burning, ponds and lakes were drying up and wildlife was suffering deprivation! Although many were using well and city water for their yards, it just didn't offer the same results as the water from the sky! Then last week it rained [August 2011] and many were walking in it, riding their bikes and praising God for the water from the sky! However, the day after the rain something amazing happened, grass that was burnt began to green up slightly, grass that was green turned darker! **WOW, LIFE** was noticed again many were excited and thankful! God knows how to bring life back!!!

After Joshua was appointed the leader of Israel and charged to "**be strong and of good courage**" Moses began to read the words of his song to the people of God (Deut. 31:23; 31:30-32:1). Notice the first part of the song, "**My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass...**" The Lord's teaching shall drop as the rain, what a blessing to know God's word showers us! Unlike natural rain which can only shower specific locations at a time, God's word when read, proclaimed or otherwise will shower and affect all locations. Just as rain has everything the land needs to nourish the ground, God's word has everything we need for life and godliness... (2 Peter 1:3). The teachings of God can turn a sinner into a saint, from being unrighteous to righteous (Acts 8:4-5). O when the His doctrine drops like rain, all will be able to see the results thereof and be glad thus glorifying God!

When the Lord's teaching drops like rain people begin to see the authority of God! There is no way to study His word and not realize that all men **MUST LISTEN** to Jesus (Matthew 17:5). His authority extends to all men because God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4; John 17:1-3). Then men listen to Jesus, those whose lives were in shambles begin to turn around and they begin to strive and look godly because of the grace and mercy of God (Mark 9: 14-29). What a blessing to know that even the hardest criminal (thief, liar, child molester, homosexual, false teacher, etc...) can be on their way to hell. However, if they were to turn their lives around by heeding to God and His plan of redemption they would be saved (Acts 2:27-28; 8:22). If man would just turn to God and allow His teachings to transform his life into the image of Christ, he would benefit greatly (Romans 8:29).

When the Lord's teaching drops like rain many began to understand the longsuffering of God and thus realize He really is a GREAT GOD! Peter said these words, "**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should**

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*But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink:  
for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head.  
Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 12:20-21

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**come to repentance."** (2 Peter 3:9). We also notice what Paul said, **"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"** What a blessing to know that God's word teaches us how to benefit from His awesome plan to save us through His great generosity! Let us continue to thank Him for being good to us and giving us time to get better in our lives! O, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!!

Lastly, when the Lord's teaching shall drop like rain it will prepare us to be with Him throughout eternity! His word will change our minds when we bring every thought into captivity, it will teach us to be purified unto Him as a peculiar people making us zealous of good works (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Titus 2:14). This will aid us in seeing all men correctly and helping those in need of our services. No wonder Jesus stated, **"when you did it to the least of them, you did it unto Me"**! Let's allow His teachings to shower us so we may shower others as well! Let's be thankful for the recent rain from the sky, but let's really be thankful for the teachings which came down from heaven many years ago and are still making people alive today (John 6:50-51)! And just as Moses said in the days of old, **"My doctrine shall drop as the rain; my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass..."**  
**Giving God Glory!**

# The Value of the Assembly

By Patrick Morrison

On occasion, someone will ask, "Is it really necessary to attend services on Sunday and/or Wednesday nights?" Perhaps someone else will say, "We are only required to assemble once on the Lord's day." It is the case that some ask such questions or make such statements simply because he is young in the faith and as yet he does not understand the import of his queries. However, it is all too often the case that these questions or statements are put forth by those who should know better, who are seeking justification for their absence from the services. In such instances, there is an insight given into the attitude of the individual—just how little must I do in order to fulfill my obligations to God? Such should never be the attitude of a Christian who is seeking to please God. Rather, our attitudes should be how much can we do for the Lord and His cause? Why should we be faithful to attend all the services of the church? The writer of Hebrews gives some very compelling reasons as to why we should assemble faithfully.

First, we should be faithful in our attendance because God is faithful (Heb. 10:23). When we are sporadic in our attendance, or when we exhibit a lackadaisical attitude toward the assembly, we waver in our profession of faith. Part of that profession of faith is our duty to assemble with the saints. Our failure to assemble is seen by those within and without the church, and, no doubt, speaks to them as to what has, and what does not have, top priority in our lives. Unfaithfulness in assembling is contrary to the character of God, Who is faithful in all things.

Second, we should be faithful in our attendance because of the encouragement it gives to others (10:24). When we fail to assemble, we fail to provoke our brothers and sisters on to love and good works. Not only do we fail God, but we are guilty of impeding the spiritual progress of our brethren (not to mention our own spiritual growth). All Christians need encouragement to continue the good fight of faith, and the assembling of ourselves together provides that opportunity for much needed encouragement.

Third, we should be faithful in our attendance because we know not when our time upon earth will end. We should encourage and seek encouragement from those of like precious faith, in anticipation of that approaching day (vs.25). The Hebrews writer had in mind the destruction of Jerusalem when he wrote about "the day approaching." Christ warned his followers to be on the lookout for the signs that would accompany the downfall of Jerusalem (Mt.24). As the time drew nearer for that day, Christians in Jerusalem needed to encourage one another to remain faithful, so that none would perish in the impending destruction, and so that no one would renounce his faith in light of

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## 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:	Ps 140-144	1 Cor. 14:1-25
Mon	Ps 145-150	1 Cor. 14:26-40
Tue:	Proverbs 1-2	1 Cor. 15:1-34
Wed:	Proverbs 3-4	1 Cor. 15:35-58
Thu:	Proverbs 5-6	1 Cor. 16
Fri:	Proverbs 7-8	2 Corinthians 1
Sat.	Proverbs 9-11	2 Corinthians 2



## Interaction or Isolation?

By Luke Bower

Have you noticed that in our society we are becoming more and more isolated from each other?

I just recently was able to renew my driver license online. Although it was really nice not having to go down to the DPS office and wait, I couldn't help thinking about all the things that have started to separate us from human interaction.

You no longer have to go to department stores; you can just order what you want online. You don't even have to talk to anyone when you go to the grocery store. With the self checkout line, you don't have to talk to a cashier. Drive-thru windows and internet shopping are designed to make our lives easier, but they are also taking away our interaction with each other.

Unfortunately, many of us take this same attitude and apply it to church.

We slip in – talking to as few people as possible – and find a pew that will allow a quick getaway. As soon as the closing prayer is over, we make a dash to the car.

I heard a quote the other day which seems to capture the attitude many of us have.

To live above with those we love –

That will be grace and glory.

To live below with those we know –

Now, that's a different story!

This lifestyle may sound appealing, but it is not the lifestyle we are called to live as Christians. One of the greatest commands we are given is to love one another. How can we do that if we refuse to interact with one another? How can our good works be a light to the world if we refuse to let the world see them?

One purpose for gathering together on Sunday morning is so that we may encourage each other, but how can we do that if we don't even talk with each other?

Even though it may not always be convenient and means stepping out of our comfort zone, we need to slow down and start sharing our lives with others. So talk to the cashier at the grocery store. Don't worry about slipping out of church so quickly.

Make an effort to love one another and to let our lives be a light to those we meet.

### 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 28 contacts were made.

### Mark Your Calendars...

- ◆ The first Bible Search for this year will be hosted by Bangs on Sunday, September 25 at 2 PM.
- ◆ Remember our Fall Meeting with Jason Rollo is coming up quickly; it is scheduled October 23rd through 26th.

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the upcoming persecution. No signs will be given to warn us of the Lord's coming, so we must always be ready. In light of this fact, we should constantly encourage and edify one another to remain faithful, so that when the Lord comes again, we can all go home together with him. As we, by faith, look for that coming day, let us do all that we can to be an encouragement to our fellow Christians.

## Celebrate

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

**September Birthdays:** James Fuller (06), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Bilie Ford (17), Clarence Ford (17), Marie White (18), Matthew Ochoa (20), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Jimmy Seale (29).

**September Anniversaries:** Joyce & Jack Hill (10).

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



## Records

	August 28, 2011	September 4, 2011
Bible Class	58	54
AM Worship	80	76
PM Worship	53	53
Wednesday PM	51	50
Contribution	\$1567	\$1661

This Week: 9/11/11		Next Week: 9/18/11		<b>September 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Clean Building:</b> James & Cindy Fuller <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox  <b>October 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Don & Darlene Smith <b>Clean Building:</b> Ryan & Priscilla Smithey <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	The Maninger Family		
<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 <i>Hebrews 6:17-20</i>	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Ken Makuta		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Matthew Churchwell		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	September 14 Jim Moore	September 21 Don Smith	September 28 Allen Griffith	October 5 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of September 11, 2011</b>		Sunday Class ..... Galatians (Chap. 6)	Wednesday Class ..... Zechariah (Chap. 8-9)
<p><b>Have We Forgotten...</b></p> <p><i>On this tenth anniversary of 9/11/01 many are asking the question, "have we forgotten?", lest we allow the memory of that day fade away. While we certainly mourn for those who lost loved ones and were otherwise affected, it is also important to ask if we have forgotten the spiritual lessons of that day:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>...the uncertainty of life?</b> – this event reminded us of how short life can be and how quickly it can change. Have we remembered the value of time, have we considered our lives, are we diligently watching? (Ps. 90:12; James 4:13-15; 2 Cor. 6:2; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rev. 9:20-21; Matt. 24:42-25:46)</li> <li><b>...our dependance on God?</b> – this event caused many to turn to God in prayer, trust, and repentance but did we continue or just pause until the next catastrophe? (Prayer - Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; Rom. 12:12; 1 Pet. 3:12; Trust - Ps. 20:7, 91:2; Matt. 6:19-20, 33; 11:28; Acts 17:27, 30; Heb. 13:5-6; Phil. 4:9; Repentance - 2 Cor. 7:10-11; Jer. 10:23; Rom. 12:1-2; James 1:22; 1 Pet. 1:13-16).</li> <li><b>...love for one another?</b> – many gave time, money, food, clothing, and other things to help those who were in need, we celebrated heroes who unselfishly helped others, but did that love continue? Do we still care for those in need, do we still look for opportunities to help, do we still honor those who give of themselves? (1 Thess. 3:12; Jn. 13:34-35; Matt. 5:46-48; Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:18; James 1:27; Luke 10:25-37; James 2:15-17)</li> </ol> <p><i>We would do well to ask ourselves, did our lives truly change in the face of this great tragedy or did the lessons of that day quickly fade away?(2 Pet. 1:12)</i></p>		<p><b>In Search of Refuge (Num. 35:9-29; Heb. 6:17-20)</b></p> <p><i>As the innocent manslayer could flee to the cities of refuge and avoid death, even so we can flee to the church to find refuge...</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Refuge Established</b>—Six cities were set aside for the protection of any who had accidentally killed another (Num. 35:12-15; Josh. 20:7-9); likewise Jesus promised and built His church for any who would flee for refuge (Matt. 16:18, 11:28-30; Acts 10:34-35; 2:16-47).</li> <li><b>Refuge Sought</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Offence Recognized</b> – he had to recognize his guilt and flee to a city of refuge (Gen 9:6; Deut. 19:6); likewise the sinner must recognize his guilt and flee to refuge, the church (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 12:10; 2 Pet. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:15; Eph. 2:16; 1 John 1:7, 2:1).</li> <li><b>Way Is Clear</b> – these cities of refuge were to be made known (Num. 35:14); likewise the place of refuge or salvation has been made known (Matt. 7:13-14, 21; John 14:6; Matt. 28:19-20; John 12:48; Rom. 2:16; Acts 17:30, 2:38, Matt. 10:32-33).</li> <li><b>Right City Is Critical</b> – Only the identified cities provided safety (Num. 35:12); only the church provides safety (Eph. 1:7; Acts 22:16; Heb. 6:17-20; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 5:23, 1:22-23, 4:4; Matt. 16:18).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Refuge Provided</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Safety Granted to Innocent</b> – The manslayer had to be found innocent (Josh. 20:4; Num. 35:24-25; Deut. 19:11-13) but in Christ we are declared innocent (Heb. 8:6; Acts 22:16; Heb. 5:8-9, 9:24).</li> <li><b>Safety Only Inside the City</b> – He had to stay in the city for protection (Num. 35:25-27) and we must remain in the church (John 15:5-6; Heb. 7:25; Heb. 2:1-4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Rev. 2:10).</li> <li><b>Blessings Afforded</b> – here he found safety and in Christ we find blessings (Eph. 1:3) (Names of cities: Kadesh=holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16); Shechem=rest (Matt. 11:28-29); Hebron=fellowship (1 Jn 1:3, 7); Bezer=fortress (John 10:28-29); Golan=joy (Phil. 4:4)).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	