

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



October 2, 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 10:00 AM
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.

Are Our Eyes Healthy?

By Gary Colley

All realize, no doubt, the importance of taking care of our physical eyes! Most see their doctors to have regular eye examinations to be sure there is no disease or improper pressure on the eyes. No one wants to be blind physically! The eyes are often spoken of in the Bible, both physical and spiritual.

Our Spiritual Eyes

Do we consider as closely our clarity of sight with our spiritual eyes as with our physical? Peter speaks of the morally blind in his second epistle, as he refers to the lack of diligence in some Christians. He says the man who does not regularly add to his faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love, is not working in the Lord's kingdom acceptably, is "blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins" (II Pet. 1:9). The doctrine of "unconditional election" is not taught in the Bible. Neither is the false teaching of "once saved, always saved"!

Empty Claims

Jesus, in the Revelation to John on the Isle of Patmos, said the Laodiceans considered themselves to be "rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and BLIND, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; AND ANOINT THINE EYES WITH EYESALVE, THAT THOU MAYEST SEE" (Rev. 3:17-18). These brethren were lacking in real love, zeal, and spiritual growth, and could not see their real condition, on account of their ignorance of Christ's teaching and their indifference to applying God's will for their lives. Like many today, they needed a sincere self-examination, comparing themselves to God's Word, or to use God's "eyesalve" of Truth, for their healing. This would help them to see themselves in their true state (II Cor. 13:5)! They needed to repent, and to clear up their impaired vision!

Singleness of Sight Needed

Jesus applies the figure of the eye, and our singleness of vision on important things, to the human mind (Matt. 6:22-23). If our eye or mind is diseased to the extent that earthly treasures appear better than Heavenly blessings, how great is that darkness! We may exchange the light of Heaven for the darkness of this world and eternal destruction (cf. Matt. 16:24-27). We need to set our conduct, affections, and our eye of faith on Heaven!

Paul wrote, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Also, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

It takes clear sight, free from the distractions of the ungodly world, to see Heaven as our home (Jn. 14:6).



"...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding."

Job 28:28

THE ONLY ONE PULLING

By Alan Smith

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big, strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move.

Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

We're a lot like Buddy, aren't we? We don't like to do something if we think we're the only one pulling. Need an example?

Ever said, "Why should I pour my time and effort into the work of the church? No one else seems to care!"

Or, "Why should I put forth the extra effort to do a good job at work? No one else does, and it wouldn't be appreciated anyway!"

Or, "Why should I be nice to him? He's certainly not going to make any effort to be nice to me!"

See what I mean? Like Elijah in the cave, we often find ourselves saying to God, "I alone am left" (1 Kings 19:10). Nobody else is faithful. Nobody else is trying.

But God told Elijah he had 7,000 people on His side that Elijah didn't know about. Like Buddy and Elijah, we may be blind. Blind to what others are doing around us. But, even if we are the only one doing what is right, we need to continue.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

YES MUCH, MUCH MORE

Carl Hanson

"More" is a significant word. For those who are watching their weight, their three most important words might be, "No more please." Others are always looking for "more" and are not happy until they get it. Still others accept when told, "no more" and remain with what they have.

I recently read how Spain once held possession of both sides of the Mediterranean at the Straits of Gibraltar. This possession was so highly valued that Spain stamped her coin with the two Pillars of Hercules (as the prominent projections of rock were called). On a scroll over these were the words, "ne plus ultra", meaning "no more beyond." However, one day a bold sailor ventured beyond those pillars and discovered a new world far across the sea. Wisely convinced of her ignorance, Spain then struck the word "ne" from the coin and left "plus ultra," meaning "more beyond." [Selected]

Though fear may have kept some from venturing **beyond** Gibraltar, Christopher Columbus had the courage to do so. Some view death as the "Gibraltar" marking nothing more beyond and they have become content with the things of this realm. However, there is much, much **more beyond** this realm that awaits us. Though we may rightfully enjoy the beauty of this earth and many of the experiences of life shared with others, there is a whole new big beautiful world that awaits us beyond the gates of death.

The Hebrew writer noted those of faith who **looked beyond** the things of this realm knowing there was something even grander of which to look forward. We read:

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now **they***

(Continued on page 3)

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: Song 5-8 Galatians 4

Mon: Isaiah 1-2 Galatians 5

Tue: Isaiah 3-6 Galatians 6

Wed: Isaiah 7-8 Ephesians 1

Thu: Isaiah 9-11 Ephesians 2

Fri: Isaiah 12-15 Ephesians 3

Sat: Isaiah 16-19 Ephesians 4



1st Sunday Lunch

We hope you can join us today after the morning worship as we enjoy lunch together in the fellowship hall.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember Ladies Bible Class each Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the high school class room. The ladies are continuing their study of the Life of Christ...hope you can be there.

Mark Your Calendars...

- ◆ **October 9-12—Gospel Meeting at 9th & Main** in San Angelo. The speaker is Keith Mosher; see bulletin board for flyer with other details.
- ◆ **October 15th—Work Day** at the building in preparation for our fall meeting. Be looking for things that need to be done.
- ◆ **October 16th—Bible Search** at Hamilton.
- ◆ **October 23rd-26th—Fall Meeting with Jason Rollo.** Flyers available in the auditorium.

(Continued from page 2)

desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Heb. 11:13-16)

Because of Christ we can venture **beyond** the gates of death without fear, knowing there is an eternal glorious world that awaits us on the other side. Remember Peter's encouragement where he wrote:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet. 1:3-5)

Though we may enjoy this life's journey, let us keep in mind there is much **more beyond** to be enjoyed. And though this life may have its moments of rough seas, the next realm will be nothing but smooth sailing. May the Lord remain the Captain of the ship of our life to bring us safely to rest in the harbor of Heaven.

Have a great day **unafraid to voyage on with Christ!**

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.

Thank You

We appreciate everyone who donated to the relief efforts of those who lost their homes in the Bastrop area fire. Last week we sent \$725 through the Park Heights congregation who delivered it to the Bastrop church of Christ for benevolence efforts.

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.



Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Jim Moore (03), Lisa Greer (05), Matthew Churchwell (07), Sarah Evetts (12), Jo Maninger (12), Seth Smithey (13), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Peggy Dudley (25).

October Anniversaries: Freda & James Womack (19), Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25), Patti & Mike Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Sept. 18, 2011	Sept. 25, 2011
Bible Class	57	49
AM Worship	80	72
PM Worship	51	38
Wednesday PM	41	46
Contribution	\$2440	\$1677

This Week: 10/02/11		Next Week: 10/09/11		October 2011	
Sunday AM:				Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith	
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Ken Makuta		Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey	
Communion	James Fuller*, John Barnum James Thomas, Michael Fuller	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Garrett Barnum, Michael Bickford		Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox		November 2011	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Sunday PM:				Prepare Communion: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey	
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister		Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reading	Michael Bickford Psalm 67:1-7	James Fuller		Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Communion	James Fuller	Allen Griffith			
Closing Prayer	Ken Makuta	Billy Chism			
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 5 Tom Wilcox	October 12 Garrett Barnum	October 19 James Fuller	October 26 Jim Moore	

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 October 2, 2011		Sunday ClassRomans (1:15-23; Next: 1:23-32)	Wednesday Class.....Singing
<p>She Hath Done What She Could (Mark 14:8) (Account In: Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8) Shortly before Jesus death, Mary would come and anoint the head and feet of Jesus with expensive ointment which received mixed reviews and contain important lessons for us...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Her Actions Were COMMENDED <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord was pleased with what she had done; He spoke not of the little she did but the greatness of what she did out of great love and appreciation. God is not overbearing and will be pleased when we do what we can (1 John 5:3; 2 Cor. 8:12; 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:4; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 25:15, 14-30; 2 Tim. 4:6-8). Her Actions Were CRITICIZED <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is little surprise that others found fault with what she did; even though Jesus said it was a beautiful work, others called it a waste. We can expect the same in our lives, but don't cease doing right in God's sight (Matt 5:12; 2 Tim 3:12, 14-17). Her Actions Were COMMEMORATED <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having defended Mary's actions, Jesus assured that men would continue talking and reading about Mary's actions wherever the gospel went! We may not be spoken of or read about 2,000 years from now, but in doing what we can we have the opportunity to influence others (Rom. 1:8; Phil. 2:15-16; 1 Thess. 1:6-10; 2 Cor. 8:1-4, 9:2; Acts 9:39; etc.; 1 Pet. 3:1-2). 		<p>Praiseworthy Faith <i>There are only two times Jesus speaks of someone's "great faith"; what lessons can we learn from their example?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Centurion (Matt. 8:5-12; Luke 7:1-10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Marvelous Faith – it was a faith that Jesus admired for he was humble and trusting; he believed Jesus only had to "say the word" (John 20:30-31; 14:1-3; Acts 27:25) Distinctive Faith – it was a faith uncommon among most, Jesus on other occasions marveled at other's lack of faith. (Matt. 8:26; Mark 6:1-6; Rom. 3:3-4) Model Faith – he displayed the type of faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the type of faith that would be necessary to enter the kingdom. (John 8:24; Heb. 11:6) Canaanite Woman (Matt. 15:28; Mark 7:24-30) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Humble Faith – she also showed great humility and trust, even recognizing and worshipping Jesus when many others would not. (John 12:42; Matt. 5:3-5; James 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:5-6) Great Faith – knew this was within His ability, seemingly as if it was nothing but a simple request among His great deeds. (whereas many close to Him continued to doubt His abilities; Matt. 15:33; 16:8; 14:31; 8:26; 2 Tim. 1:12) Persistent Faith – she did not give up when faced with obstacles, setbacks, or disappointments (Luke 18:1-7; Gal. 6:9; 2 Tim. 3:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:58). 	