

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 16, 2011

Contact Us:

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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 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.

The Real Warning To Fear

By Phil Sanders

"And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched'" (Mark 9:43-48, ESV).

"Hell" is probably at the top of the list of taboo subjects. It is the one place no one wants to go. If the Scriptures are to be believed, however, hell will not be empty. In fact, Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matt. 7:13-14).

A 2005 FOX News poll showed more than nine in 10 Americans (91 percent) believe in God and almost as many believe in heaven (87 percent). Only three-quarters of Americans (74 percent), however, say they believe in hell (www.foxnews.com).

Researcher George Barna found in 2003, "Most Americans do not expect to experience hell first-hand: just one-half of 1% expect to go to hell upon their death. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) believe they will go to Heaven. One in 20 adults (5%) claim they will come back as another life form, while the same proportion (5%) contend they will simply cease to exist" (www.Barna.org). According to Barna, "One in every four adults (24%) admitted that they have 'no idea' what will happen after they die."

The Scriptures always speak of hell as a real place that wicked spirits enter after the judgment day. Revelation 20:10-15 refers to hell as the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast, the false prophet, and the devil are cast. "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

The great white throne scene in Revelation 20 reveals that Jesus will assign to each person an eternal destiny according to his works. Each will be judged by the things written in the books. The book of life records the names of those who will share an inheritance with Jesus. "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

What Will Hell Be Like?

Here are the descriptions of hell in the New Testament:

"*Outer darkness.*" Jesus describes the punishment of the wicked as being cast into "outer darkness" (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 13). This darkness is "outer" in the sense that those in it are conscious of not being with God and with His saints inside the gates where there is joy and blessing (Rev. 21:8).

"*Away from the presence of God.*" They will be punished with an eternal destruction in the form of a separation from God's favor (II Thess. 1:9). God will not hear their

(Continued on page 2)



*The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him, and I am helped:
therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.*

Psalm 28:7

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prayers nor help them when they cry to Him. They can never enter God's eternal kingdom (I Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:19-21), where He will show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards those who are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:5-7). Instead those in darkness have been "accursed" (Matt. 25:41).

"Weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus describes those who are cast out as having intense mental anguish of utter sorrow and regret (Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28). Part of the torment of hell is living with the consequences of bad choices, remembering disbelief and sin. Abraham reminded the rich man in Hades of his "comfortable life" and not listening to Moses (Luke 16:19-31). Eternity is so designed for the wicked that they cannot forget their rejection of God.

A place "prepared for the devil and his angels." Hell was not originally designed for man but for the devil and his angels. John said, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8; cf. 22:15).

"Eternal punishment." Jesus said, "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt. 25:46). Jesus said that eternal punishment would be in the place of "eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Punishment here is not annihilation but pits of darkness filled with conscious, suffering beings.

"Indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish." Paul said God would render to each according to his deeds (Rom. 2:6-11). The selfishly ambitious and disobedient to the truth will find God's indignation and wrath. Distress and anguish will come upon every soul of man who does evil.

"An Unquenchable, Eternal fire." Jesus called hell a "furnace of fire" (Matt. 13:42, 50); it is an "eternal fire" (Matt. 25:41) and an unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43-48). The Hebrew writer warned those who go on sinning willfully face "a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire that will consume the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).

"Where their worm does not die." Jesus says hell is the

place where "their worm does not die" (Mark 9:43-48). Mark is quoting Isaiah 66:24, referring to the corpses of those who have transgressed against God. The worm here is a maggot that feeds on dead flesh. The consuming fire and eating worm never accomplish, however, the annihilation of those who are in hell. Otherwise the worm would die.

"Tormented day and night forever and ever." John says in Revelation 14:9-11,

"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name" (NASB).

The contrast of Revelation 14:11 and 14:13 centers on whether one is at "rest" or not. While those who die in the Lord rest from their labors, the beast-worshippers have no rest day and night.

Let's Think!

The greatest threats to our lasting future do not come from global warming or nuclear war; rather, they arise from spiritual ignorance or complacency. If we believe the God of the Bible, we must also consider our eternal destiny. The day will come when all from the least to the greatest will stand before the great white throne to be judged according to what they have done good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15). On that day little else will matter but that we are right with the living God, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5; Acts 22:16), and having our names written in the Lamb's book of life.

Some think of hell as a figurative place and not real. The Bible, however, uses figures of speech not to dismiss a concept but to emphasize it. If hell is real, then it must be taken seriously. Jesus said, "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). If Jesus took it so seriously, then so should we.

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>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</p> <p>Sun: Isaiah 42-44 Colossians 2</p> <p>Mon: Isaiah 45-47 Colossians 3</p> <p>Tue: Isaiah 48-50 Colossians 4</p> <p>Wed: Isaiah 51-54 1 Thess. 1</p> <p>Thu: Isaiah 55-58 1 Thess. 2</p> <p>Fri: Isaiah 59-63 1 Thess. 3</p> <p>Sat: Isaiah 64-66 1 Thess. 4</p>
<p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	



Food Pantry Changes

It was discussed and decided in our last two elders/deacons/preacher meetings to discontinue our food pantry, at least in the way that it now operates. Over the last few years, and particularly in this past year, when one might have expected requests for help to have increased, they have actually decreased. The problem we started facing was that food was reaching its expiration date at which point it was used and replaced with a new item only for the cycle to begin again. This did not seem like the wisest use of time and/or space. Please rest assured that we are not giving up on benevolence. We will continue to evaluate any requests for assistance from members of the church and the community and help as we are able. But it seemed wiser to go and purchase items as necessary for those individuals than to have items sitting on a shelf that were going unused. If a member of the congregation or community is in need of help they can contact the elders directly or through the church office for them to evaluate the need and determine what help can be provided. If you have any questions, please visit with the elders.

Liver & Sin by Steve Higginbotham

My parents did it to me. Did yours do it to you? You know what I mean, when liver was served for dinner, did your parents make you take a taste of it? I hear there are some people who actually acquire a taste for liver, but I think they're just fooling in an attempt to try to get me to take another taste. But it won't work. I just won't do it!

Several years ago, I read of an incident (no name attached) that happened at a restaurant. The meat on a man's plate was supposed to be country fried steak. It wasn't! He took just one bite and as he struggled to swallow, he determined right then and there that it would be his first and last time he would ever taste liver.

But he went away from that encounter with a few important spiritual applications. Consider...

First, liver appeared to be a delicious piece of steak. It wasn't! Sin also appears to be something wonderful. It isn't. Appearances are deceiving.

Second, the horrible taste of liver stays with you long after it is swallowed. Likewise, the effects of sin often remain with us long after the rebellion has stopped.

And finally, I'm convinced that most people give liver a try because of peer pressure (no other feasible explanation exists). Likewise, many people give sin a try because of the pressure from others.

Friends, when it comes to sin, we must resist. When it comes to liver, well, you do what you want, but I'll stick to vitamins!

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 **33 contacts** were made.

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 22nd—Ladies Day at Ranger** with Evelyn Bonner. Let Priscilla know if you would like a ride.
- ◆ **October 23rd—Bible Search** at Hamilton.
- ◆ **October 23rd-26th—Fall Meeting with Jason Rollo.**
 - ◆ **Sunday, October 23, we will be having a potluck lunch** following the morning worship for any who want to attend. This will be in addition to the regular 1st Sunday lunches.
 - ◆ Also we will be doing the usual **Wednesday baked potato and salad lunch** following the class at 11 AM. Hope you are making plans to be here and inviting others. Certainly keep this effort in your prayers.

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

	Oct. 2, 2011	Oct. 9, 2011
Bible Class	52	59
AM Worship	77	80
PM Worship	49	54
Wednesday PM	41	47
Contribution	\$1769	\$1643

		This Week: 10/16/11	Next Week: 10/23/11		October 2011 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey Keep Grounds: James Fuller November 2011 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Ryan & Priscilla Smithey Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey
Sunday AM:					
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Ken Maninger		
Communion	Don Smith*, Michael Fuller John Barnum, Ken Makuta		Jim Moore*, Don Smith Michael Fuller, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister		Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:					
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore		Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler Matthew 11:25-30		Michael Bickford		
Communion	Don Smith		Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas		Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 19 James Fuller	October 26 Meeting	November 2 Jim Moore	November 2 Don Smith	

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 16, 2011		Sunday ClassRomans (Chap. 1:18-32)	Wednesday Class.....Zechariah (Chap. 11-12)
<p style="text-align: center;">The Name Christian</p> <p><i>A name we should proudly wear as it indicates we belong to Christ and is a name of great honor (Isa. 56:5; 62:2; James 2:7); wearing it shows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We are distinct/different (Acts 11:19-30) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They were saved – having heard the gospel (v20), believed it (v21), turned to the Lord (v21), saved by grace (v23), and been added to the Lord/church (v24). They were separate – they were part of the church (v26), the called out; now their allegiance (Acts 5:29; Gal. 1:10), affections (1 John 2:15-17), actions (1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:4, 13), and associates (1 Cor. 15:33, 2 Cor. 6:16-18) were different. They were sympathetic – they showed love toward their brethren (v27-30; 1 Pet. 1:22). We are decided (Acts 26:19-29) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> About what we believe – Paul believed and obeyed God (v19) and is now calls on Agrippa to act on what he believes (v27 – specifically what they said about Christ).(2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 3:15) About what we become – Agrippa knew he was not a Christian (v28) because he had not done what was necessary to become one (Acts 22:16, 2:38, etc.; Matt. 7:21-23; Lk 6:46). About how we will behave – Paul wished all would follow his example and become a Christian (v29; 1 Cor. 11:1; cf. Rom. 6; Col. 3; Eph. 5; etc.) We are dedicated (1 Pet 4:14-16)–they were urged to be faithful: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In spite of the times they lived in (v1-4; Phil 2:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:1ff) In spite of talk they hear (v4) – (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Pet. 3:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:9-13) In spite of trials they face (v12) – (2 Tim. 3:12; Rev. 2:10) 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Invitation</p> <p><i>The invitation at the end of a sermon is more than a signal the preacher is wrapping up his sermon, it is an invitation to respond to God and specifically to the particular sermon that day. Let's consider some practical thoughts concerning this important but too often overlooked part of our worship services:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It Highlights God's Concern <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remember that it is the invitation of God (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:18-20) Remember that it is an invitation that is always open, not limited to this one particular time (2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 16:32-33 & most conversions in acts) Remember that it is an urgent invitation (Acts 16:33; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Jude 23 Mark 16:15-16) It Highlights the Church's Concern <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An encouragement to do God's Will (Acts 2:40; 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:11) A chance for the church to love (1 Jn.. 4:7; 2 Cor. 5:14; 2:6-8; 7:9; Lk. 15:22-23 or 28) A chance for the church to help (Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:24-25; James 5:16, 19-20; 1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Thess. 5:11; Eph. 4:32) It Highlights Your Concern <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A time to reflect on our status before God (2 Cor. 13:5; Acts 2:40) A time to reflect on our determination to serve God (Matt. 7:24-27; Heb. 3:8, 12-13; 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:13) A time to reflect on what I will now do (James 1:22) 		