

# 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



November 20, 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.

## STRIKE vs. SPEAK

By Jason Hilburn

God has always demanded that people follow His commands without alteration or deviation. The reader will recall that when Moses was leading the children of Israel through the wilderness, Moses obeyed God's command to strike the rock so it would bring forth water (Exo. 17:5-6). Moses was later instructed to speak to the rock, but instead, he struck the rock (Num. 20:7-11). Just because God had authorized him to strike the rock in the past, that did not give Moses the authority to strike the rock again. He had to obey the current command that God had given, exactly as it had been given, regardless of what God had commanded or authorized in the past.

Although some may try to minimize disobedience to such a command, God did not view this disobedience as something trivial. This was sin, and God said it demonstrated a lack of belief in Him: "...Because ye believed me not..." (Num. 20:12). God also said that this disobedience showed that He had not been sanctified: "...Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel..." (Num. 20:12). To disobey God is to reveal that we have not set God apart in our minds, thinking of Him in a special way, considering Him to be infinitely above us in every way, One who is worthy to be obeyed, and One who will punish the disobedient. Because of his disobedience, Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land of Canaan: "...therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Num. 20:12; cf. Deut. 3:23-28; 34:1-5). Disobedience demonstrates a lack of faith and sanctification, and it also demands punishment from the Omni-just God.

Are there any who commit this sin of Moses today? Under the New Testament, God has not commanded us to speak to a rock, but He has commanded us to "speak" in the music we offer Him: "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Eph. 5:19; cf. Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13). When we obey the command to sing, we are "*speaking*," and the "*melody*" is made in the "*heart*." Since God has commanded us to "speak," we are not authorized to "strike" the keys of a piano, the strings of a guitar, or the head of a drum in worship.

Those who use mechanical instruments in worship often argue that God authorized mechanical instruments in the worship of the past (Old Testament), so they claim we can still do this with God's approval under the New Testament. The truth is that just because God may have authorized something in the past, that does not mean that He authorizes such today. Is that not the lesson to be learned from Moses' disobedience and punishment? People who use mechanical instruments in worship today are like Moses striking the rock instead of speaking to it! They are doing something that is no longer authorized by God. Such blatant disregard for God's clear commands in the New Testament demonstrates a lack of belief and sanctification of God. Such disobedience will also keep people out of "the promised land" of Heaven if they will not repent and be content with God's command to "speak."



*Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,  
but unto thy name give glory,  
for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.*

*Psalm 115:1*

# In Everything Give Thanks

By Patrick Swayne

Thanksgiving. Even the mere mention of that word floods the mind with images: turkey and mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and pecan pie, and stuffing and cranberries just to name a few. The wonderful smells, the smiles of friends and family, the Macy's Parade and the football game to follow... with the vast array of memories and emotions to choose from, it is easy to forget what Thanksgiving actually means: Giving Thanks. On the one day set aside for giving thanks in America the actual purpose of the day is buried in tradition and turkey, and thus far too many Americans have forgotten what it means to be grateful – even some Christians. However, Christians would do well to remember the command given from the Lord by Paul when he stated, “In every thing give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Why give thanks “in every thing?” Paul responds, “For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Yet what exactly does this mean? Does this mean that in the midst of sorrow and despair, perhaps having received news of the death of a loved one or after having tested positive for cancer, that we should kneel to the ground and thank the Lord? How could one do so and truly mean it? The key is in the phrase itself: “give thanks **in** every thing.” Paul is not relaying a command from the Lord for us to be thankful **for** everything, but **in** everything to give thanks.

The key is developing an attitude of gratitude for what the Lord has done, in spite of outward circumstances. Paul was writing to “the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ,” (1 Thessalonians 1:1) a congregation which knew hard times: “and ye became followers of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction” (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Going back to the account of the establish-

ment of the church at Thessalonica, found in Acts 17, one finds that after only three weeks “certain lewd fellows of the baser sort” “gathered a company” and “assaulted the house of Jason,” one of households that had accepted Paul’s teaching (Acts 17:5). The persecutors of the church were said to have “set all the city on an uproar” (Acts 17:5).

Paul said of the Thessalonians that they had “suffered things” of their “own countrymen” (1 Thessalonians 2:14); few Americans can say the same of themselves. Our burdens may seem great, but they are no greater than has ever faced mankind, and certainly not greater than the burdens of our High Priest, Christ, who “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). In light of a God who has granted us redemption from our sin, and a Savior who bore everything in providing a way for that redemption, we

cannot but give thanks in every thing. The end of the Christian’s faith is the salvation of his soul (1 Peter 1:9) – no outward circumstance can change that fact, and therefore ultimately all outward trials are but “light affliction” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Thanksgiving ought not just be a one time a year holiday celebrated with football, friends, and food – it ought to be the everyday practice of each Christian who knows that he can make it through each trial, because the Lord saved his soul upon his obedience to the gospel. Riches, fame, health, and all other aspects of life can change in the blink of an eye; however, nothing can take away the Christian’s reason to give thanks in every thing. May we learn to do as we sometimes sing: to count our blessings and to name each one, finding we always have something for which to be thankful.



Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Daily Bible Reading Schedule
The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB	<b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).	“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)
In Search of the Lord’s Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB	<b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)	Sun: Ezekiel 12-13 Hebrews 11
Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org	<b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)	Mon: Ezekiel 14-16 Hebrews 12
Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208	<b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5) Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)	Tue: Ezekiel 17 Hebrews 13
<b>Radio</b>	<b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	Wed: Ezekiel 18-20 James 1
Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		Thu: Ezekiel 21 James 2
		Fri: Ezekiel 22-23 James 3
		Sat: Ezekiel 24-26 James 4



## Thankfulness

By Tom Moore

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective. It makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks to God for all the bounty we have been provided by Him, instead of worrying about wanting more. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 The. 5:18).

### 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 **38 contacts** were made. Remember **this week is the 3rd Sunday**; join us for finger-foods following.

### Ladies Bible Class

Remember the Ladies Bible Class will not meet this week, Wednesday, November 23 but will resume next Wednesday, November 29 as they study the Life of Christ; hope you can be there.

### Opportunities to Serve

I will soon be creating the schedule for the monthly service assignments for next year. If there is any area in which you are not scheduled and wish to help or you are scheduled and wish to be removed, please let Ryan know quickly. Areas include cleaning the building, preparing communion, keeping the yard, and making announcements. If you have questions, please let me know. ~Ryan

**New editions of 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)*

**November Birthdays:** Linda Jimenez (08), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), Xavier Martinez (28).

**November Anniversaries:** Barbara & Gene Bannister (06), Bennie & Charles White (19).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

	Nov. 6, 2011	Nov. 13, 2011
Bible Class	54	56
AM Worship	85	82
PM Worship	47	48
Wednesday PM	45	48
Contribution	\$1672	\$1693

		This Week: 11/20/11	Next Week: 11/27/11	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Billy & Peggy Chism		The Maningers	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Garrett Barnum		James Thomas	
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger*, Ken Makuta James Fuller, John Barnum		Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		Michael Bickford	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith		Matthew Churchwell	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Michael Bickford		John Barnum	
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger		Hank Wheeler	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore		Don Smith	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 23 Tom Wilcox	November 30 Garrett Barnum	December 7 James Fuller	December 14 Jim Moore

**November 2011**  
**Make Announcements:**  
 James Fuller  
**Prepare Communion:**  
 Ryan & Priscilla Smithey  
**Clean Building:**  
 Jim & Peg Moore  
**Keep Grounds:**  
 Ryan Smithey

**December 2011**  
**Make Announcements:**  
 Don Smith  
**Prepare Communion:**  
 Tom & Carol Wilcox  
**Clean Building:**  
 Jessica Stultz  
**Keep Grounds:**  
 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)*

<i>Studies for the week of November 20, 2011</i>	Sunday Class ..... Romans 3-4 Wednesday Class ..... Zechariah 13-14
<p><b>Psalm 23: The Protecting Shepherd (v4)</b>  <i>The sheep is now pictured as talking directly to the shepherd in praise and thanksgiving for what he does:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Valley of the Shadow of Death</b> – Dangerous valleys are necessary to move on to higher ground             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The way is difficult but beneficial</b> –presents dangers but is the best way to travel; so life has trials but they can be for our good (2 Cor. 1:3-6, 8-10; James 1:2-4).</li> <li><b>The way leads to higher ground</b>—the sheep find good pasture; we are brought to greater spiritual maturity (2 Cor. 12:10; Phil. 1-4).</li> <li><b>The way is known by the shepherd</b>—as the shepherd knows where he takes his sheep, so too God knows the trials of our life (Heb. 4:14-16).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>The Shepherd Is There</b> – His presence and implements bring comfort; these instruments highlight the complementary nature of God and His Word (Rom.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>His Rod</b>—instrument of authority and power                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defense – wards off attacks (Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:16; Acts 20:32; 2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:9).</li> <li>Discipline – guides and corrects as necessary (Heb. 12:7-11; James 1:22-25; 2 Tim. 3:16); helps examine closely (Ps. 139:23-24; Heb. 4:12-13).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>His Staff</b> – instrument of love and concern; brings sheep together in unity (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:22), guides the sheep (Ps. 119:105; James 4:13-15); and rescues those in need (2 Cor. 1:3; 1 John 1:9; 2 Pet. 3:9).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing</b>  <i>This is one of many songs that remind us we have much to be thankful for and ONE to them for them, the God of Heaven. Let's examine some important points that singing it ought to bring to mind:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>God Is The Source Of All Blessings</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the beginning God has blessed His creation and continues to do so (Gen. 2:8-10; Ps. 100:1-5; Lam. 3:22-23; James 1:17).</li> <li>Some of these blessings all upon all His creation (Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-28) but His rich spiritual blessings He has planned and reserved for those in Christ (Eph. 1:3; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Phil. 3:7-14; Eph. 1:17-19).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>It Is By God That We Are Saved</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ebenezer means a stone of help (1 Sam. 7:12), we too must recognize that it is God who has provided for our salvation (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Heb. 9:12; Col. 1:14).</li> <li>Man was unable to provide such for himself or put God in His debt (Titus 3:3-7; Rom. 6:23); but I must act in faithful obedience (Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11-12; James 1:22; 2:24; Matt. 7:21; Rev. 2:10).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>I Am Indebted To God</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizing what God has done should change how I live; I can't repay my debt owed but I can show thankfulness (Rom 1:14-17; 1 Tim 1:12-16; 2 Cor 5:14-15).</li> <li>Love should bind us to God (1 Jn 4:19; 5:3; Jn 14:15) as one who has wholly submitted and committed to God, trusting Him (2 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 John 5:13).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>