

# 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 27, 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 .... 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  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
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 POWER OF THE GOSPEL

By Don Walker

*So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess. 1:7-10)*

When we study the New Testament, we are impressed with the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are so many different passages which indicate or speak of that power. There are passages that proclaim it explicitly. Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). Then there are passages which speak of that power indirectly. For example the power of the Gospel is seen in Ephesians 4:28: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." It is the power of the Gospel that can turn a thief into a productive laborer who is benevolent with that which he earns. We can also see the power of the Gospel in the various conversions. Saul of Tarsus stands out in our mind, particularly. He was one who was persecuting the church—the very ones who had already obeyed the Gospel. In this fact, we see the Christian's willingness to suffer persecution with joy (Acts 5:41). We also see the power of the Gospel in that its influence was powerful upon Saul the persecutor, who did finally obey the Gospel and became the one persecuted.

The conversion of the Thessalonians was no different. In the above passage from 1 Thessalonians chapter one we see three items that were brought about by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. First, Paul said, "Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." We are not looking at the conversion of someone who was in a denomination who believed that God existed and that Jesus was His Son. We are looking at pagans who bowed down to the idols of the day, ate meat that was offered to them, and participated in the lascivious fornication that was also present among the heathen of the day. In Ephesians 4:17-19, we find a description of those that were in the world. In that description, we learn of the depths of degradation that must have existed in the Thessalonians before they were converted by the Gospel. Their life and conduct were marked by lasciviousness, uncleanness, and greediness. However, it is also related by Paul that it began with an empty mind that was ignorant, darkened, and blind. Yet, when the Gospel was preached, they had obeyed the Gospel. Not only did they obey the Gospel, but they did so in the

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*The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.  
But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.  
Praise the LORD.*

*Psalms 115:17-18*

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midst of very intense persecution. Truly this indicates the power of the message of the Gospel of Christ.

Second, we learn they were waiting for the coming of Christ from heaven. These converts were men who had spent their days in debauchery and hedonism with no thoughts of tomorrow, at least not in the context of the spiritual. Their lives outside of Christ must have been lived as if there were no God in heaven or no Son of God Who came to this earth to die on the cross for their sins. Now, however, by the influence of the Gospel in their lives, they not only had put the old man to death, but they lived with the understanding that Christ would return. And even though we recognize this was an area of teaching in which they had some misunderstanding, and thus some actions that were not in line, we still applaud the fact that they were in constant longing for the Lord's return. Their lives reflected a concern for the fact that Christ would return. Too often we forget all about the coming of our Lord, as we live our daily lives here on earth. Our lives, too often, have no reflection at all that He will return again. Heaven and hell are abstract thoughts instead of definite eternal destinations. We could learn much from these brethren concerning the Second Coming.

Third, we see that the Gospel had so affected their lives that their zeal and fervency was known abroad. Paul said that when they had entered a new area, they

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# HOW CAN I LIVE TODAY IN A WORLD SO CORRUPT?

By Neil Richey

Hebrews 11 is a thrilling account of men and women who, despite their mistakes, were faithful to God. Among those mentioned in this text is faithful Moses. His service to God is summarized in Hebrews 11:23-29.

Moses, like us today, lived in a corrupt world. How did he make it through the trials of life without giving up? I want to make five observations of how Moses was able to live in a world so corrupt.

**First, Moses never lost his faith.** Throughout these verses we learn that whatever Moses did, he acted by faith. Earlier in the text we are told "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). Moses knew that in order to please God, he must never lose his faith. Moses believed in God, and His promises (Rom. 11:22).

**Second, Moses chose his companions wisely.** Moses chose to "suffer affliction with the people of God." That old expression, "birds of a feather flock together," is a very biblical principle. Paul warns that, "Evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33 - ASV). Who we pick to be our friends is an important decision. Be like Moses, and choose your companions wisely.

**Third, Moses knew that sins pleasures were temporary.** Moses did not want to enjoy the pleasures of sin, even for a season. Sin often provides immediate gratification, yet those pleasures never last. John reminds us that "the world passeth away, and the lust thereof. but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:17).

**Fourth, Moses had a proper sense of values.** Moses, esteemed "the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Moses understood the principle that we are often reminded of, seeking the kingdom of God first, and all these things will be added unto you (Matt. 6:33).

**Fifth, Moses made his decisions based on eternity.** "By faith he forsook Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Heb. 11: 27). Paul wrote, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above..." (Col. 3:1-3). Our cares and concerns should be on things that are heavenly. We should ask ourselves the question, "Will this decision help me go to heaven?" Be like Moses, and make your decisions based on eternity.

## 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:	Ezekiel 27-28	James 5
Mon	Ezekiel 29-31	1 Peter 1
Tue:	Ezekiel 32-33	1 Peter 2
Wed:	Ezekiel 34-35	1 Peter 3
Thu:	Ezekiel 36-37	1 Peter 4
Fri:	Ezekiel 38-39	1 Peter 5
Sat.	Ezekiel 40-41	2 Peter 2



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did not need to proclaim the conversion of the Thessalonians, because those in that area were already proclaiming what success Paul and his companions had had in that area. Their faith was known abroad. These were a people who were converted by the power of the Gospel. They did not depart the baptistry only to blend back into the world of which they were once a part. Just the opposite was the case. They understood that they were no longer of the world, and that the distinction between the saved and the lost was one of great difference. Passages such as Romans 6:4, “*Even so we also should walk in newness of life,*” and 2 Corinthians 5:17, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,*” were seen as glorious truth that must be apparent by our example and conduct reflecting the Gospel of Christ.

Today you and I have access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have the power to bring about change in our lives. That is, we have the power to overcome those things of this world that will enslave us, if we allow it to do so. We also have the power to bring about change in the lives of others. The Gospel is for all and we, as the children of God, have the responsibility to take the Gospel to the lost. Jesus said, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:15-16). May we ever be soul conscious as we study our Bibles more and more.

### 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 **35 contacts** were made.

### Ladies Bible Class

Remember the Ladies Bible Class will resume this Wednesday, November 29 at 10 AM in the High School Classroom as they study the Life of Christ; hope you can be there.

### Psalm 119:97-99 by Eddie Parrish

*“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.”*

There are two thoughts I want to leave with you today:

1. When the law of God is loved, it will occupy one’s thoughts throughout the day. This is a big reason why memorizing Scripture is beneficial. With passages stored in your memory, you have something to think about when you can’t actually read the Bible.
2. The psalmist claims to have out-distanced his own teachers in understanding because he meditates on God’s word. Reading the Bible is important, but the real growth comes when you think about what you read. If you have to read less each day that you might meditate more, then do it!

## Celebrate

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

**Remaining November Birthdays:** Xavier Martinez (28).

**December Birthdays:** James Womack (04), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

**December Anniversaries:** Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25)).



## Records

	Nov. 13, 2011	Nov. 20, 2011
Bible Class	56	50
AM Worship	82	81
PM Worship	48	54
Wednesday PM	48	42
Contribution	\$1693	\$1494

		This Week: 11/27/11	Next Week: 12/4/11			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>						
<b>Greeters</b>	The Maningers		Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler		<b>November 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Ryan & Priscilla Smithey <b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey  <b>December 2011</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas		James Fuller			
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler*, Michael Fuller Garrett Barnum, Tom Wilcox		Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Michael Bickford		Gene Bannister			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>						
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Matthew Churchwell		Jim Moore			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum Jeremiah 9:23-24		Hank Wheeler			
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler		Ken Maninger			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith		Tom Wilcox			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 30 Garrett Barnum		December 7 James Fuller		December 14 Jim Moore	
					December 21 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of November 27, 2011</b>		Sunday Class ..... Romans 3-4	Wednesday Class ..... Zechariah 14
<p><b>Psalm 23: The Gracious Shepherd (v5)</b>  <i>The sheep continues to praise the shepherd for the bountiful provision and care that the shepherd provides:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Provision</b> – He provides for the needs of the flock                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The shepherd has prepared the tableland for his flock, nourishing it, ridding it of harmful weeds, providing water, all in a place he can protect them from predators.</li> <li>So God has richly provided for our spiritual growth (Ps. 1:1-3; 1 Pet. 2; 2Tim. 3:16; Acts 20:32; James 1:21-22).</li> <li>More specifically we have Jesus as the bread of life (John 6:35) which we partake of by listening to His word and putting it into action (Matt. 7:24).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Care</b> – He tends to the health and safety of the flock.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He is watchful for parasites that present physical danger to the flock as well as distract them from eating and thus maturing; with oil he will alleviate these problems.</li> <li>So too our shepherd knows we face distractions in life and has provided answers (Matt. 13:20-22).</li> <li>We are directed back from the cares and attention of the world to the Father (Matt. 6:25-34; Col. 3:2; 1 John 2:15-17; Phil. 4:8) that we might grow to greater maturity.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Abundance</b> – He realizes the bountiful blessings he enjoys.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Far beyond contentment, he is blessed beyond his needs.</li> <li>As Christians we should recognize we have been blessed beyond what one could ever deserve (Phil. 4:11-13, 6; James 1:17; Ps. 136; Ps. 150:6; Rev. 4:11; 5:13; etc.).</li> <li>“What is man, that thou are mindful of him?” (Ps. 8:4).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		<p><b>Materialism: Its Dangers and Remedy (1 Tim. 6:6-19)</b>  <i>This years “Black Friday” has once again shown that our society is afflicted with materialism. While the sales themselves are not necessarily the problem, the way some people act certainly is. So how do we combat this problem in our lives and in our homes?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Danger of Materialism</b>—first identify the problem                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Snares (v9)</b> - a sudden trap that one fall into that brings peril and destruction. Not necessarily planned; one can quickly find himself overtaken (1 Pet. 5:8; Gal. 6:1).</li> <li><b>Tainted Love (v10)</b> - avarice; exceeding greed for wealth. A love that has seduced many, even from the faith, but only brought grief and sorrow (Matt. 6:24; 13:22; Col. 3:5).</li> <li><b>Conceit (v17)</b> - value yourself based on riches and look down on others with less wealth (Lk. 12:15; James 2:1ff).</li> <li><b>Misplaced Hope (v17)</b> - trust in riches rather than in God (Deut. 8:11-14, 17; Prov. 23:4-7; Matt. 6:19).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Remedy For Materialism</b>—then set about to correct it.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fulfillment (V6-8)</b> - be content with what we have. Recognize material goods don’t last and are not a measure of faithfulness (Lk. 12:15; Matt. 6:20, 31-33).</li> <li><b>Flee (v11-12)</b> - run from the love of money and instead fix your sights on those things that are good and lasting (2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Thess. 5:21-22).</li> <li><b>Fix Our Hope On God (v17)</b> - remember He is the source of our blessings (Jms 5:17; Deut 8:10,18; Acts 17:25-28).</li> <li><b>Be Fruitful (v18-9)</b> - do good; be generous and ready to share (Acts 20:35; Lk. 10:27, 36-37; Gal. 6:10).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	