

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



December 4, 2011

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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
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.

Facing Life's Difficulties

By Marvin L. Weir

The Bible does not promise that living our lives in this world will be easy. In fact, God's Word makes it very clear that a Christian's citizenship that matters most is not of this world. Paul says, "For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). Even though a child of God realizes where his citizenship lies, it does not keep him from fretting over enemies and evildoing. No one in his or her proper mind desires to be used, abused, or treated badly. Such unwanted and undeserved treatment, however, does occur on a regular basis to those who are striving to live godly lives. As a result of such "undeserved" treatment, a child of God may begin to question God's love for him. One may ask, "What have I done to deserve this treatment?" or "Why does God not care for me anymore?" Another may observe, "The harder I try to do what is right, the more persecution and ridicule I receive." Let us t

hink for a moment about our enemies, evildoing, and why, many times, we receive treatment we do not deserve.

God makes it very clear that Christians will face opposition and have enemies! As a member of Christ's body, I must accept this truth. Paul reminds Timothy, "Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). One will note the Bible does not say, "might," "could," or "possibly," but "**shall.**" The Lord taught His followers, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22). Again, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, "Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12). Christ, the Master Teacher and Perfect One, had enemies. As His followers, we must not think it strange that we also will have enemies. Jesus gives an explanation in John 15:18-19: "If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Coffman, commenting on John 15:19, observes:

Inherent in the world's hatred of Christ was also the undying hatred of the apostles and the divine message they delivered to men. In this lies the reason why unregenerated men have authored whole libraries of rejection and hatred against the Gospel of John. Given the two facts, (1) of what unregenerates are in themselves, and (2) of what the glorious Gospel of John is, and the hatred of this Gospel becomes absolutely inevita-

(Continued on page 2)



Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD,
mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice,
ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalm 32:10-11

ble. Can anyone believe for a minute that the word of Christ through the apostles is treated with any less bias and hatred than that which marked the world's treatment of Christ and the apostles themselves?

Christians are in opposition to the world! If one is not going to be a friend of the world, the world will not be a friend to him. James warns those who will listen in saying, "*Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God*" (James 4:4). The most remembered verses are probably these verses penned by John: "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*" (1 John 2:15-17).

Paul makes it absolutely clear that a Christian **cannot** have fellowship with a worldly person. Why? A worldly person and a Christian should have **nothing** in common.

Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing: And I will receive you. (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

Paul reminds the Ephesian brethren to "*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them*" (Eph. 5:11). The world will not take kindly to such actions; thus, the world **will be** our enemy.

The secret is to endure! Christians can have the strength to do the Lord's will (Phil. 4:13). God will not allow us to bear more than we are able to bear (1 Cor. 10:13). As we face Satan and this world, let us remember, "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" (Rom. 8:31).

AT TIMES, WE ALL NEED A PUSH

By Neal Pollard

Irene Sax is an award-winning cookbook author, food critic and food writer whose work is often syndicated. One of her best known articles, run in the huge Newsday newspaper, was a feature on Jean Nidetch. Nidetch was a 214 pound housewife who met a friend in the supermarket, telling her how good she looked and asking her when the baby was due. Not pregnant, Nidetch allowed this to motivate her into action. She went to the New York Department of Health to get a diet plan to treat her obesity. She was losing a little weight, but it was when she decided to invite six other overweight women to her apartment that everything changed. The meeting was a hit and snowballed into the global success and household name, Weight Watchers. Over a million people in 24 countries are members of the nearly half-century-old program.

Nidetch told Sax how she succeeded with Weight Watchers. When she was a teenager, Nidetch crossed a park where young mothers were sitting and talking together while their toddlers just sat in swings with nobody pushing them. Nidetch would give them a push. She said, "And you know what happens when you push a kid on a swing? Pretty soon he's pumping, doing it himself. That's what my role in life is--I'm there to give others a push" (Irene Sax, Newsday Inc., n/d, and Nanci Hellmich, USA Today, 3/27/10).

One purpose for our assembling together as the church is to "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24). God knew that we would all need a push--to do what is right and stay away from what is wrong. We can get stagnant and stuck when we try to go it alone. But, God has given us each other. As we each battle Satan, we need each other's help (cf. Eph. 6:10-17). With your help, I stand a better chance of resisting the devil (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9). Find a brother or sister, get behind them, and push!

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 42-44 | 2 Peter 2 |
| Mon | Ezekiel 45-46 | 2 Peter 3 |
| Tue: | Ezekiel 47-48 | 1 John 1 |
| Wed: | Daniel 1-2 | 1 John 2 |
| Thu: | Daniel 3-4 | 1 John 3 |
| Fri: | Daniel 5-6 | 1 John 4 |
| Sat. | Daniel 7-9 | 1 John 5 |



No Gardener — No Garden

By Tom Moore

There was a business consultant who decided to landscape his grounds. He hired a woman with a doctorate in horticulture that was extremely knowledgeable. Because the business consultant was very busy and traveled a lot, he kept emphasizing to her the need to create his garden in a way that would require little or no maintenance on his part. He insisted on automatic sprinklers and other laborsaving devices.



Finally she stopped and said, "There's one thing you need to deal with before we go any further. If there's no gardener, then there is no garden!"

There are no laborsaving devices for growing a garden of spiritual virtue. Becoming a person of spiritual fruitfulness requires time, study and application. How many of us are like that business consultant? We're very busy during the week and get caught up in work and social activities and don't spend the time we need to work on our spiritual growth? Then we come into church on Sunday for an automatic sprinkling of "holy water," feeding off the energy of those around us. How many times during the week are you running really low on your spiritual food and do nothing about it?

Paul declared, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (2 Peter 1:5-10).

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 **30 contacts** were made.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember the Ladies Bible Class each Wednesday morning at 10 AM in the High School Classroom as they study the Life of Christ; hope you can be there.

Why Eat Alone?

Noticed that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year? If you don't have plans, why not join us for lunch in the fellowship hall following the morning worship that day? We plan on doing a traditional Christmas dinner potluck style but need an idea of who all would like to come. There is a sign-up sheet at the back the auditorium for you to indicate that you will be there and either now or sometime before then you can indicate what you are planning on bringing so we make sure it all gets covered. If you have any questions let me know.

~Ryan Smithey

1st Sunday Lunch

Speaking of food...we hope you can join us today following the morning worship for our monthly potluck lunch. Come enjoy good food and time to visit with one another.

Celebrate

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

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).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

| | Nov. 20, 2011 | Nov. 27, 2011 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class | 50 | 47 |
| AM Worship | 81 | 66 |
| PM Worship | 54 | 41 |
| Wednesday PM | 42 | 42 |
| Contribution | \$1494 | \$1424 |

| This Week: 12/4/11 | | Next Week: 12/11/11 | | December 2011 | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday AM: | | | | Make Announcements: Don Smith | |
| Greeters | Peggy Luker & Hank Wheeler | James & Cindy Fuller | | Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox | |
| Opening Prayer | James Fuller | Garrett Barnum | | Clean Building: Jessica Stultz | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Makuta | James Thomas*, John Barnum Tom Wilcox, Hank Wheeler | | Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox | |
| Closing Prayer | Gene Bannister | Ken Makuta | | January 2012 | |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez | Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa | | Make Announcements: Tom Wilcox | |
| Sunday PM: | | | | Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannisterr | |
| Opening Prayer | Jim Moore | Michael Bickford | | Clean Building: John Barnum Family | |
| Scripture Reading | Hank Wheeler <i>Matthew 7:24-29</i> | James Fuller | | Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger | James Thomas | | | |
| Closing Prayer | Tom Wilcox | Matthew Churchwell | | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | December 7 James Fuller | December 14 Jim Moore | December 21 Don Smith | December 27 Allen Griffith | |

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 December 4, 2011 | | Sunday Class Romans 3-4 | Wednesday Class Zechariah 14 |
|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p>Psalm 23: The Enduring Shepherd (v6) <i>The sheep concludes this psalm of praise by reflecting over all the shepherd has done and expressing confidence in the shepherd and the desire to continue always with him.</i></p> <p>1. Confidence In The Shepherd</p> <p>a. The sheep is assured that the blessings and kindness of the shepherd will always be with him.</p> <p>b. This confidence is based on the past actions of the shepherd; he has proved himself a good shepherd.</p> <p>c. So it is that we can have the same confidence in God, knowing all these blessings will continue from His hand in good and bad times (James 1:17; Ps. 34:8; Mal. 3:10; John 10:11; Rom. 12:2; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 13:5 2 Cor. 1:10; Rev. 1:8). Has not He proved Himself?</p> <p>2. Dwelling With The Shepherd</p> <p>a. Could be both a decision and an assurance that here, with the shepherd, is right where he wants to be and will remain.</p> <p>b. Here in the house (family/flock) of the shepherd he will dwell and be content forever.</p> <p>c. That should be our decision and assurance as God's people too (Eph. 2:19) by entering and abiding in Christ (John 10:9; 14:6; 15:5-6, 10; 1 John 1:5-7) and looking forward to the same for all eternity (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Cor. 5:1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Is the Lord your Shepherd? Do you have this same confidence?</i></p> | <p>Remember Lot's Wife (Luke 17:32) <i>In teaching about the need to heed warnings, Jesus uses the example of Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32).</i></p> <p><i>Let us learn from her example by remember that she perished:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even Though She Was Married To A Righteous Man (2 Pet. 2:6-8); a reminder of our personal accountability before God (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). 2. Even Though She Was Warned By God (Gen. 19:17); hearing God's Word and not heeding it will always be detrimental (James 1:21-22; Matt. 7:26; Heb. 4:2). 3. Even Though She Made An Effort To Save Herself (Gen. 19:26); one can make a start and not follow through to the end (Gen. 5:4, 7; Heb. 4:1; 10:23; Rev. 2:10; Lk. 9:23). 4. Even Though She Did Leave Sodom (Gen. 19:26); too many seem to leave their heart behind in the world (2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn 2:15-17; Col. 3:2). 5. Even Though She Committed Only One Sin (Gen. 19:26); sin condemns, we cannot minimize its effects and consequences (Rom. 6:23; James 2:8-11). <p style="text-align: center;"><i>May Lot's wife ever be a reminder to heed the warnings of God and continue faithfully with Him.</i></p> <p>Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | | |