

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 18, 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.

What Does Christ Look Like?

By Mike Bonner

The question was always posed, what does Christ look like? Many answers were given; He's a white man with a crown of thorns with spots of blood and beach towel around His waist. Some pictured Him as a black man with an afro and blood running down His side waiting to die. Some even has Him as a Spaniard with female angels flying around Him on the cross. So many over the years have proclaimed they have seen Him in various places, in their trees, food, in shapes of clouds and the foolishness continues. **NONE OF THIS CAN BE VALIDATED!** We could carry on till we have exhausted every theory and opinion out there, however, what does the bible reveal concerning His looks? Can we truly look like Him once we find Him?

In Isaiah fifty-three, the Messianic prophet stated this concerning the Suffering Servant, "*For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, [there is] no beauty that we should desire him*", the Messiah was not going to be someone who would stick out in the crowds with His appearance (53:2). "*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem..., Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men*" (Matt. 2:1, 16). Mary, the mother of Jesus gave birth to Him and notice when Herod was fooled he decreed for all the babies two years old and under to be killed! We can safely conclude that Jesus as a baby looked like the rest of the babies of His time. One Sabbath day, Jesus was in the Temple teaching and notice the response of His critics, "*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?...*" (Mark 6:3). Apparently Jesus must have resembled His siblings in some fashion. When John saw Jesus coming, he identified God's sacrifice for sin by saying "behold the Lamb of God which take away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

So what does Jesus look like today? We could continue to notice passages as found in Revelation chapter one and verse fourteen which uses anthropomorphic language, but that wouldn't be sufficient for us to pattern ourselves after. Furthermore, does the Father truly want us to imitate Him in the physical or in the spiritual (I Pet. 2:21)? How can we follow Christ if we're not sure of what He looks like? God is Spirit... Jesus said, if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father... (John 4:24; 14:9)! Like us Jesus was a spiritual being wrapped in flesh, he went

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Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus,
that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God,
just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

about doing spiritual things which the bible calls good (Acts 10:38). He was the One who stated, "I always do that which pleases Him" (John 8:29). So let's explore more of the Christ!

Jesus had the correct mindset according Philippians chapter two and that is putting others before self, this was seen even before the foundation of the world when the determinate counsel acknowledged Him to be the sacrifice for man's sin. Christ never was involved with a power struggle with the Father in Heaven, which suggest He didn't have an unlawful pride issue (2:6). He listened to people on many occasions, the man with the mute son, the woman with the issue of blood, and even to the men who accused the woman of adultery (Mark 9; Mark 5; Jn. 8). He was compassionate to many, when Israel was being malnourished by its leaders He said they were like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:36-37). He was a great teacher to the people, all throughout His ministry He would go into the synagogue and instruct the people. Also, He would teach them with parables that they may know what He was saying, Jesus was very skilled in teaching (Matt. 13)!

Jesus was very balanced; He even taught man how to deal with conflict and even showed righteous anger. If your brother sins against you go to him alone, when the moneychangers were cheating the people of God, He turned over the tables and put them out saying, "**My house shall he called the house of prayer; hut ye have made it a den of thieves**" (Matt. 21:13). How about knowing when to talk and not? In the face of Pilate He did not respond to their foolishness, but rather waited for the right time to speak saying, "what is truth?" (Jn. 18). At times we must know when to talk and when to be quiet. Lastly, Jesus taught us how to die. Being the oldest of the children, He left Mary to His beloved friend, John. After being unlawfully tried and convicted He was beaten beyond recognition, He hung suspended on the cross between two thieves. We must note that Jesus even though He was hurting bad, still made time to talk with the thief, and because He had power to forgive sin on earth told him, "**today you will be with me in paradise**" then later He gave up the ghost (Luke 23:43; Mark 2:5)!

So what does Christ look like? I believe it's evident that the scriptures focused more on His mindset, actions and spiritual nature than any physical attribute He may have had. Let us follow His example of suffering, His illustration of love and forgiveness and His pattern of life and we will be assured of eternal life with the Father, Him and the Spirit! *Let God be True!*

The Hope of Heaven

By Kevin W. Rhodes

The apostle Paul told the Ephesians that, for the Christian, there is "one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4). However, it seems that many remain confused about what this hope really entails. The Christian's hope lies not in some prominent place in a kingdom upon this earth (Jn 18:36) but in the glorious victory that will allow us to transcend this earth, live beyond this earth's existence, and enjoy eternity in heaven itself (Mt. 25:46). Yet, many aspects of this hope confuse people, including trouble understanding the difference between going to Paradise after death and going straight to heaven. However, these distinctions will become clearer when we focus on God's Word and our hope.

As Paul points out, "we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" (Rom. 8:24). Thus, the Christian's hope is not simply salvation from sin today but specifically all that our forgiveness and faithfulness make possible in the future. Therefore, our hope lies beyond this time and this earth to our existence beyond this life. While some might see this as realized at death, the Bible indicates that there is still something yet to come. So, while the faithful Christian can enjoy the peace of Paradise after death, he has still not fulfilled his hope. While death brings separation of the body and the spirit (Jas. 2:26), thus releasing man from the trials associated with the flesh, it does not immediately bring the

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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: Amos 6-9 Revelation 7

Mon: Obadiah Revelation 8

Tue: Jonah 1-4 Revelation 9

Wed: Micah 1-4 Rev. 10-11

Thu: Micah 5-7 Revelation 12

Fri: Nahum 1-3 Revelation 13

Sat. Habakkuk 1-3 Revelation 14



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Christian the full joy awaiting him. Before this can take place, He must be raised from the dead and given a new, incorruptible body (I Cor. 15:35-50) for this is part of our hope as well (Rom. 8:18-25). This must occur before we see Jesus (1 Jn. 3:2), which will happen only at the end of time (1 Th. 4:13-16) when this earth itself will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10). At that moment, God will judge all mankind through Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). While those who had died understood their fate because of their own knowledge, at Judgment they will know their fate by divine declaration and action. For the lost this will be painful indeed (Mt. 25:30), but for the saved it will be joy itself (Mt. 25:21, 25). This defining moment of judgment will determine who is with the Lord throughout eternity (1 Th. 4:17) and who will stand outside of the presence of God and His blessings for all eternity (2 Th. 1:7-9). Thus, when the gospel speaks of "eternal life," it is not just any existence, but a wonderful one, made glorious not by fun things we get to do but by Who is there (Tit. 1:2; 1 Jn. 2:25).

Thus, retaining all of our previous memories of life, but with the perfection and peace of a godly perspective, and existing in a spiritual environment where knowledge is available through divine means, we will know one another and rejoice in perfect fellowship. What can we then do but say with the apostle Peter, "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..." (1 Pet. 1:3-4).

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 **43 contacts** were made. Remember too that this is the 3rd Sunday and time for finger foods following the meeting—hope you can join us.

Ladies Bible Class

Remember that the Ladies Bible Class is on break and will resume after the new year.

Christmas Day Dinner

Final reminder that we will be having a lunch here at the building next week for those who would like to join us. Please sign-up today at the back of the auditorium so we have an idea of who all will be coming. If you have any questions let me know.

~Ryan

***Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be ye steadfast, unmoveable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour
is not in vain in the Lord.***

1 Corinthians 15:58

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

	Dec. 4, 2011	Dec. 11, 2011
Bible Class	39	49
AM Worship	50	75
PM Worship	42	52
Wednesday PM	46	33
Contribution	\$1607	\$1937

		This Week: 12/18/11	Next Week: 12/25/11	
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	Charles & Bennie White		Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler		Jim Moore	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum		James Fuller*, Michael Fuller James Thomas, Ken Makuta	
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore		Hank Wheeler	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism		Don Smith	
Scripture Reading	Michael Fuller		John Barnum	
Communion	Allen Griffith		James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister		Matthew Churchwell	
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 21 Don Smith	December 27 Allen Griffith	January 4 Tom Wilcox	January 11 Garrett Barnum

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

January 2012
Make Announcements:
 Tom Wilcox
Prepare Communion:
 Gene & Barbara Bannister
Clean Building:
 John Barnum Family
Keep Grounds:
 Ryan Smithey

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 18, 2011		Sunday Class Romans 4-5	Wednesday Class Malachi (Chap. 1-2)
<p>"Asked Not Counsel At The Mouth Of The Lord" (Joshua 9:14) <i>In the midst of great success, Israel showed a great lack of wisdom that sadly many still make today.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Problem: Not doing what God desired. Israel had been instructed to destroy the cities of Canaan and make no treaties with them (Ex. 34:12-17; Deut. 30:10-18). But they were deceived into making a treaty with the Gibeonites (v1-15). Root of the Problem: They relied on their own wisdom (v14). We must realize that man needs the wisdom of God (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23) that has been revealed to us (Ps. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16). Too often God's wisdom and authority (Col. 3:17) is rejected because of ignorance (Hos. 4:6; Eph. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15); relying on our own wisdom (Isa. 55:8-9; 1 Cor. 1:18-19); trusting in others (Matt. 7:15; 15:8-9); and/or apathy (Isa. 30:10; 2 Tim. 4:3-4). Problem Evidenced: For Israel it was in making this treaty with the Gibeonites; for many today it is seen in not respecting the authority of God (Col. 3:17) in matters of: salvation (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; Luke 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38); organization of the church (Eph. 1:22; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3; 2:9, 12); unity of the church (Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 1:10; John 17:21; Rom. 16:16); worship of the church (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 16:1-2; Matt. 15:9); marriage and the home (Matt. 19:4-6, 9; Eph. 5:22-6:4); moral issues (Phil. 4:8; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 6:4, 6, 13; 12:1-2); etc. 	<p>Overcoming Discouragement (1 Kings 18) <i>Elijah was a great man of God but being a man of life passions (James 5:17) even he would face discouragement in his life. He had just had one of the greatest victories of his life (1 Kings 17) but now he is discouraged and ready to die (18:4). God's lessons in helping Elijah deal with that discouragement can help us in difficult times as well.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rest & Eat (v5-7) - physical care of our bodies should not consume our time/attention (Matt. 4:4; 1 Tim. 4:8) but it is important (Mark 6:31-32, 36-37, 41-42). Be Challenged By The Word of God (v8) - check our thinking by the word of God; why do we feel this way? what is really the problem; have we prayed about it? Can we do anything about it? what good can come of this? (Ps. 42:10-11; Gen. 3:9; Phil. 4:6-7; James 1:2-4). Remember The God You Serve (v11-12) - He is the same God at all times who will not leave us (Heb. 13:5-6; Ps. 23:4; 2 Cor. 1:3, 10). Go To Work (v15-17) - Having rested and refocused, Elijah needed to get back to work; sitting around would not help (2 Cor. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13) Remember You Are Not Alone (v18) - There were others enduring faithfully; we are not alone in the things we face (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Heb. 12:1-4). Get Some Help (v19-21) - You don't have to face life's problems alone (Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 5:14; 4:18; John 5:12; Heb. 10:24-25). 		