

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



January 8, 2012

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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 On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism
325-646-4345 325-643-3164

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore
325-643-5187 325-998-6585
Don Smith..... James Thomas
325-998-1120 325-643-2782

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey..... 325-600-4143

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.

DEATH IN THE POT

By Tom Moore

“And Elisha came again to Gilgal. And there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and boil pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage; for they knew them not. So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot” (2 Kgs. 4:38-41). There are many valuable lessons to be learned from this biblical event - let us consider a few.



As there was a famine in land during the days of Elisha, so is there a famine of the word of God in our day. Amos writes, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of Jehovah. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of Jehovah, and shall not find it.” (Amos 8:11-12). Friends, such seems to describe our day as well. In many places the word of God is not found. Sadly, even in the Lord’s church (at least in many places) little of the word of God is found. Many of our pulpits are preaching more “philosophy” than they are the word of God - that’s a spiritual dearth! Can you hear the prophet’s cry, “My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). Will you heed the prophet’s cry? “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Pt. 4:11).

The world, too, is starving without the gospel message. We need to provide the “bread of life” so the world will not hunger or thirst spiritually (Jn. 6:35). Friends, do you care enough for your family, your friends, and your neighbor down the road to help them in their spiritual famine? Will you be involved in teaching to help stop this terrible spiritual starvation?

But, let us beware lest we be as the servant of 2 Kings 4 and gather wild gourds and poison the pot. Many in our day think they are being fed good spiritual food—-but in many places, “there is death in the pot!” There is “death in the pot” because

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Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines;
the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the
flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

To Benefit from the Bible

By David Sargent

A preacher and a soap manufacturer were walking down the street one day. As they walked they noticed how wrong people were treating each other. The streets were filled with corruption. The soap manufacturer looked at the preacher and said, "Preacher, that Bible you preach must not be any good; it's not helping anyone. Look at all the filth and corruption." The preacher didn't say anything; he just kept walking. After a while they came upon some children that were filthy and dirty. It looked as though they hadn't taken a bath in weeks. The preacher looked at the soap manufacturer and said, "That soap you make must not be any good. Look how filthy and dirty these children are." The soap manufacturer replied, "Soap doesn't work unless you use it and apply it." "That's right!" said the preacher. "It's the same way with the Bible. The Bible won't work unless people use it and apply it to their lives." In **James 1:21-25**, we learn how each of us may benefit from the Bible, God's Word.



To benefit from the Bible, one must be willing to RECEIVE THE WORD: "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). The word "receive" is a hospitality term which literally means "to openly welcome." If we're going to benefit from the word of God, then we must welcome the word God into our lives. God's word will never benefit us until it gains access into our lives.

To benefit from the Bible, one must also be willing to REFLECT ON THE WORD: "If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes

away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (James 1:22b-24). **Examination** is the main purpose for owning a mirror; a mirror enables us to see our outward appearance in order to identify areas in need of improvement to make ourselves look as clean and neat as possible. As we look into the mirror of God's Word, we gaze inward to see ourselves as we really are **AND** as we ought to be. If we are to use God's mirror profitably, then we must gaze into it carefully and with serious intent (James 1:25). **No quick glances will do!** We must examine our own hearts and lives in the light of God's Word. This requires time, attention, and sincere devotion.

To benefit from the Bible, one must also be willing to RESPOND TO THE WORD: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). It is not enough to read or to hear the Word; we must do it. The blessing comes in the doing, not in the reading of the word (James 1:25). In Acts 2, we find a group of hearers that were blessed in doing the Word. To those hearers who believe in Jesus and were convicted of their sin of crucifying the Son of God, Peter gave the following words of instruction: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). "Then those who gladly **RECEIVED** his word were baptized [**RESPONSE**]; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:41). "He who **looks** into the perfect law of liberty and **continues** in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a **doer** of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25). **Will you receive, reflect on, and respond to the Word of God?**

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)

Bible Study Schedule

Week 2

Genesis 7-12 & Matthew 3-4

We encourage you to study your Bible with us. Each week a study guide will be provided at the back the auditorium. This program will guide you through a study of the Old Testament once and the New Testament three times during the course of 2.5 years.

"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)



Ladies Bible Class will resume this Wednesday, January 11 at 10 AM in the high school class room. Hope you can join us as we continue our study of the life of Christ.

Bible Bowl... Rising Star will be hosting the next Bible Bowl on Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM. We will be hosting in March and will have more details on that soon.

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false doctrine is being taught. It is the pure word of God that saves-not the doctrines of men. False doctrine is deadly whether it is a little or a lot. This is why Paul warned that “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6). In rat poison, over 99% of the ingredients are good, but it is the other 1% that kills the rat. Friends, spiritually speaking, this is why we need to be concerned that we are true to the teaching of the Bible in every point.

But, consider this about the servant that gathered the poison gourds - he was sincere in what he did but still he poisoned his fellows. The servant “thought” he was doing the right thing, but he was fatally wrong. Many today are sincere in what they believe - but they are sincerely wrong. This is why it is so important that we examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5). What we think or what we feel in our hearts is not the test of truth - it is strictly what the Bible says.

We also need to be careful because just as the gourd looked good, and yet, was poisoned, so error can go around disguised as truth. Do you remember the warning of Jesus? - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous Wolves” (Mt. 7: 15). Things may not always be as they appear. Friends, if there is “death in the pot,” then let us use the “meal” of God’s word to remove the poison. Add the “meal” to the pot and “serve it to the people” and you will find nothing “harmful in the pot.” Be careful lest there be death in the pot!

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. Remember **next week is the 3rd Sunday** and time for finger-foods again!

Thanks... Thanks for all of the beautiful birthday, anniversary, and Christmas cards that we received from the members here. They were very much appreciated. We love all of our family here.

~ Allen & Linda Griffith

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Kathy Burcham (3), Billie Jean Walters (5), Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: Peg & Jim Moore (22).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Dec. 25, 2011	Jan. 1, 2012
Bible Class	54	61
AM Worship	78	84
PM Worship	51	47
Wednesday PM	41	34
Contribution	\$1532	\$1832

	This Week: 1/8/12	Next Week: 1/15/12		
January 2012				
Make Announcements: Tom Wilcox				
Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister				
Clean Building: John Barnum Family				
Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey				
February 2012				
Make Announcements: Ken Maninger				
Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family				
Clean Building: Cindy Fuller				
Keep Grounds: James Fuller				
	This Week: 1/8/12	Next Week: 1/15/12		
Sunday AM:				
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
Communion	James Fuller*, Gene Bannister James Thomas, Don Smith	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum Jim Moore, Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Hebrews 5:11-14</i>	James Fuller		
Communion	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Matthew Churchwell	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 11 Garrett Barnum	January 18 James Fuller	January 25 Jim Moore	February 1 Jim Moore

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 January 8, 2012		Sunday Class Romans 5-6	Wednesday Class Malachi (Chap. 3-4)
<p>God's Creation (Genesis 1) <i>Genesis, meaning origin or beginning, is an inspired, historical account of a number of beginnings that fittingly starts with the very beginning of creation and shows us:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God's Creation — He made everything out of nothing! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All three members of the Godhead were involved (Gen. 1:1, 3, 26; John 1:1-3) He created all things (Ps. 33:6-9; Heb. 11:3; 3:4). God's Order — He did in an orderly fashion. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> V1-31 detail the orderly fashion in which God created all things with evidence of His design and handiwork (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20). Also set order/structure within His system (after their kind, v11-12, 21, 24-25; idea of rule and dominion v6, 28). God's Time — He did this on His own timetable/order, but in so doing He established/defined time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Light/day and darkness/night defined a day (v5); sun, moon, and stars given to mark days and seasons (v14, 16); seven days defined the week of creation. The text describes these days as literal 24-hour days and Moses defined their week and Sabbath by it (Ex. 20:11) God's Perfection — God saw that the things He did were good, and the whole was seen as very good. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Everything of God's creation fit together and worked perfectly (amazing design) (Ps. 139:14; 8:1-5). This was a world without imperfection! 	<p>Exercising Our Senses Unto Discernment (Heb. 5:14) <i>Just as our physical senses can be trained and made more alert, so our spiritual senses must be trained to discern good and evil.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of Taste — "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8) and gracious (1 Pet. 2:3). Desire "the sincere milk of the word" (1 Pet. 2:2) that we might mature and be able to digest the meat thereof (cf. Heb. 5:14). Appetite ought to be trained (1 Thess. 5:21-22; Matt. 5:6). Sense of Hearing — Tuned to hear that which God has revealed to us (Rom. 10:17). God begged the people to "hear, and your soul shall live" (Isa. 55:3); likewise Jesus spoke of those whose "ears are dull of hearing" but who could be converted and healed if they would "hear with their ears, and understand with their heart" (Matt. 13:15). Should be with the intent to understand/apply (Rev. 1:3; 2:7; James 1:22). Sense of Sight — One must also open their eyes to see (Matt. 13:15). Then he may "behold wonderful things out of [God's] law" (Ps. 119:18) and have "the eyes of [his] understanding (heart/mind) be enlightened" (Eph. 1:18). We can become nearsighted (2 Pet. 2:9); therefore we must control our eyes (Job 31:1; Phil. 4:8). Sense of Smell — Jesus had His delight in the fear of the Lord, literally "quick-scented in the fear of Jehovah" (Isa. 11:3). Our spiritual sense of smell should be aligned with that which God approves of (cf. Phil. 4:18; 2 Cor. 2:12-17). Our sacrifices then can come approved before God (1 Pet 2:2) because of Christ's sweet-smelling sacrifice (Eph 5:2). Sense of Touch/Feeling — Have a soft touch, that is a tender/humble heart before God (2 Kings 22:19; Matt. 5:3-6; James 4:10). Otherwise we begin to grow calloused and lose our sense of touch (Eph. 4:17-19 contrast with Heb. 4:15). Also to one another (Phil. 2:2-5). <p><i>Are our sense exercised to discernment or fading through lack of use?</i></p>		