



## 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 .... 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.

## Servants vs. Volunteers

by David Shannon

Volunteers usually serve with less commitment than servants. They often need to fit their volunteer hours around other priorities in their lives. Volunteers generally view their work as a "gift" to the organization. Rarely do they not feel that appreciation is due them, after all, they have given all their time instead of being compensated. Volunteers usually have lower expectations placed on them, because they are free to go at anytime. And if you listen to their reasoning on why they give their time, it is often because it makes them "feel good about themselves." Notice, God doesn't call us to volunteer, but to serve. Consider that servants are committed--totally committed. "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16).

Servants don't just place God first on the list, then follow with number 2, 3, 4 and so on. Servants make sure God is first in all areas of their life! God is first. Then He is first in the 2nd area, He is first in the 3rd area and so on. "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Servants do not see their work as a gift that deserves gratitude, but instead they understand it is their duty. "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do'" (Luke 17:9-10).

Instead of expecting appreciation, servants are thankful for the opportunity recognizing it as a part of God's grace. That is correct, the opportunity to serve God is a gracious opportunity we don't deserve. Paul understood it when he said, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Timothy 1:12).

A servant's service isn't motivated by self promotion or glory. A servant's service is accomplished through obedience to the Master who knows our purpose and has work for us to do. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Don't Volunteer, Serve! It is Your Duty!



*Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.  
Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us,  
and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Psalms 100:2-3*

# 10 REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO REJOICE

By Roger Campbell

Christians are not exempt from difficulties and problems in life, moments of sorrow, or disappointments. Yet, God wants us to be people of joy. "Joy" is defined as "a very glad feeling; happiness." In our service to Jesus the Christ, despite having to face occasions in this earthly life that are not what we would call pleasant, there is reason to have joy! Let us take a few moments to reflect on just why all followers of the Christ ought to be filled with joy or rejoicing. All Christians should rejoice because:

2. The Lord wants us to. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).
3. We have salvation in Jesus. That famous eunuch from Ethiopia "went on his way rejoicing" because he had his sins washed away when he was baptized into Christ (Acts 8:39). The jailer in Philippi did the same (Acts 16:34). Nothing in life should bring greater joy than our salvation in Christ!
4. Our names are written in heaven. When seventy of Jesus' disciples returned to Him "with joy" because they had cast out demons in our Lord's name, Jesus told them, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).
5. We have the word of God to exhort, comfort, and save us. "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil" (Psalm 119:162). "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1 John 1:4).
6. Trials strengthen us and help us develop patience. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2, 3).
7. We are privileged to suffer for Jesus. "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" (1 Peter 1:6). "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings ." (1 Peter 4:13).
8. We preach the gospel and see souls being saved as a result. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5,6). "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:35,36).
9. We see other members of the church living faithfully to Christ. "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father" (2 John 4). "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4).
10. We see that other saints have joy in their lives. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice" (Romans 12:15). "The members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Corinthians 12:25,26).
11. We have the privilege to contribute to and be a part of the Lord's body and His work. "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality" (2 Corinthians 8:1, 2).

## 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 4

### Genesis 19--24 & Matthew 7-8

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.

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



## On the lighter side...

Ministers often struggle with feedback following the message. While many ministers hear the typical, "Good sermon." followed by a handshake, they would much rather see the benefits of the message in the daily life of Christians. (i. e. – if we preach on evangelism, then see members evangelizing.)

I have decided I would come up with a top ten list of "Signs Your Sermon Went Well." Some are comedic, two are serious.

### Top Ten Signs Your Sermon Went Well

1. A visitor requests you apply at their congregation.
2. No one threw a song book.
3. Instead of saying great sermon someone says "I am going to go do something with the message."
4. The elders cancel the meeting they were going to have with you after services.
5. No one offers to pay for you to do mission work in a foreign country for the rest of your life.
6. Members congratulate you for "finally doing it right."
7. No one gives you a website where you can download sermons.
8. Your congregation stops taking applications.
9. Someone asks you if you are preaching again next week.
10. You preached the gospel of Christ.

By Chris Gallagher

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with singing:  
then said they among the heathen,  
The LORD hath done great things for them.  
The LORD hath done great things for us;  
whereof we are glad.*

Psalm 126:2-3

### 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** meets each Wednesday 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 next Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM.

### New Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. The theme is "**Facing The Future.**" Make sure you pick one up and study it with an open Bible. Then keep it for reference or pass it along for someone else to study!



## 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

	Jan. 8, 2012	Jan. 15, 2012
Bible Class	46	49
AM Worship	66	67
PM Worship	39	47
Wednesday PM	37	39
Contribution	\$1682	\$1493

		This Week: 1/22/12	Next Week: 1/29/12	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith		Billy & Peggy Chism	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith		Ken Maninger	
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler		Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Banniser		Hank Wheeler	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore		Billy Chism	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith Acts 20:31-38		Jim Moore	
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith		Jim Moore	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas		Tom Wilcox	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 25 Jim Moore	February 1 Don Smith	February 8 Allen Griffith	February 15 Tom Wilcox

**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

## 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 January 22, 2012</b>		Sunday Class ..... Romans 6-7	Wednesday Class ..... OT History—Bible Timeline
<p><b>Abraham, A Friend of God (Part 1 of 2)</b>  <i>Abraham was called a friend of God (James 2:23); what can we learn from him and try to imitate?</i></p> <p><b>1. He Was Obedient</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ready to follow God and His will (Gen. 12:4; Heb. 11:8).</li> <li>Promptly (Heb. 11:8; Gen. 22:3; cf. Acts 2:37-38, 41; 16:32-33; 26:19, 22:16, 9:20).</li> <li>Humbly (he submitted to God's will; Gen. 18:27).</li> <li>In faith &amp; trust (Heb. 11:8, 9, 13-18; Rom. 4:18-22; cf. Acts 27:25; 2 Tim. 1:12).</li> <li>No wonder God placed confidence in him (Gen. 18:19).</li> </ol> <p><b>2. He Overcame Obstacles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sin/Deficiency of Faith – Gen. 12 tells of a great famine (v10) in which Abraham fled to Egypt and told Sarah to lie about their relationship (v12) which led to Pharaoh rebuking him (v18-20). But Abraham returned to worship God (Gen. 13:3-4; cf. 1 John 1:7, 9).</li> <li>Strife – he sought peace with Lot and their herdsman by offering Lot to choose where he would like to go and Abraham would go the other way (Gen. 13:8-9). He again showed humility in so doing but also a desire for peace (cf. Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18, 10).</li> <li>Dangers &amp; Temptations – Willing to defend Lot and others at personal cost and risk (Gen. 14:14; Phil. 2:3-4); but also not overcome with the desire for possessions (Gen. 14:23; cf. James 1:17; Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:9-10).</li> </ol> <p><i>May we learn from Abraham and "...walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham..." (Rom. 4:12)</i></p>	<p><b>The Heart of Paul</b>  <i>Looking at Paul's heart (his emotion) one can see what he treasured (cf. Matt. 6:21)—he loved others, especially his brethren in Christ, loved the truth, and loved God and such is evident by his tears.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>He Cried Over The Spiritual Condition Of Others</b> (Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1). He desired and longed for the salvation of others. Do we feel the same towards others that are lost? Do we share the same urgency (Rom. 1:15-16; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)?</li> <li><b>He Cried When He Rebuked Others</b> (2 Cor. 2:4). He did not take joy in such; his letters were an expression of his love (2 Cor. 7:3, 7-10, 12). Does our love show (Eph. 4:15; Prov. 27:5-6)?</li> <li><b>He Cried When He Preached</b> (Acts 20:30-31). His example shows he was a faithful watchman (Eze. 33:6-7), he was impartial (1 Tim. 5:21), he was constant and untiring (Eze. 3:17-21), and he was compassionate (Eze. 3:15). Are we emotionally involved?</li> <li><b>He Cried When He Thought Of Enemies Of The Cross</b> (Phil. 3:8; Acts 20:19). Paul's enemies were those that stood opposed to the truth: they destroyed themselves and others who heard and followed them. Yet his prayer was not for retribution or comfort, but for the cause of Christ (Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:3-4; 2 Thess 3:1-2). Does error/opposition bring us to tears?</li> <li><b>He Cried When He Thought Of The Hardships Of Others</b> (Rom. 12:15; 2 Tim. 1:4). Paul's care for individuals and congregations is evident in his writings; he did not belittle the problems of others in light of his own but rather put them first (2 Cor. 11:23-28); he was merciful/sympathetic (Matt. 5:7) and like Christ had a tender heart (Phil. 2:4-8). Do we care for others?</li> </ol>		