

# 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



February 12, 2012

## Contact Us:

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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.

## Lessons From A Lost Soul

By Marvin L. Weir

The "rich man" in Luke 16 had to pass from this life and into eternal torment before admitting to a wasted life while on this earth. How sad! But Jesus warns, "no man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other" (Matt. 6:24). Both God and mammon demand the mastery over a person. The Pharisees sought to justify before men their love of money and mammon while ignoring the fact that God knew their hearts and considered the things they exalted as an abomination (Luke 16:14-15). The Master's words that follow about "a certain rich man" and "a certain beggar" (not a parable) are solemn, serious, and worthy of remembering. Let us reflect seriously upon the lessons we may learn from the Lord's remarks.

**A person may appear successful and have a pleasing appearance in the sight of men, but be absolutely corrupt and nauseating to God!** The "purple and fine linen" (Luke 16:19) that impresses and blinds worldly people does not dazzle God or guarantee His acceptance! In fact, so many professing Christians today who believe they have need of nothing and most surely will inherit Heaven are in God's eyes wretched, poor, blind, and naked (Rev. 3:17). The Lord called the Pharisees "blind" and admonished them to "cleanse first the inside of the cup and of the platter, that the outside thereof may become clean also" (Matt. 23:26). Jehovah made it clear to Samuel regarding Saul: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

**A man can be disgusting and poor in the eyes of his neighbor, but be pleasing and rich in the eyes of God!** Lazarus was no doubt the object of disdain to his rich and prosperous contemporaries, but God was not judging the poor beggar by what he did not have and could not help. There is no doubt but that the "inside" of the beggar "full of sores" (Luke 16:20) was in much better condition than the "inside" of the rich man who was "faring sumptuously every day" (Luke 16:19). It would also be safe to say that most people of Lazarus' day were more impressed with the rich man than the sore-ridden and destitute beggar. It is not uncommon for the **character** of faithful children of God to be held in low esteem by the influential and wealthy of the world. The soul of Lazarus, however, was indeed precious to God even though its container was no longer impressive or pleasing to one's sight. Most of us have lived long enough to realize that many people we once were **impressed** with did not turn out as we thought!

**A man may receive only the burial of a pauper, but be "carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom" (Luke 16:22)!** It is not what one has accumulated in this life that will be of importance in the day of his death. Neither is how one is treated in this life what matters most! People need to be very careful as to what they allow to influence them in this life. What will one day matter to every person is whether or not the angels carry their souls to Abraham's bosom!

**A person may have a pompous funeral, but in reality be a poor, miserable soul**

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*But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance,  
or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him:  
for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh  
on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

1 Samuel 16:7

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(vss. 22-23)! It is indeed a truth that there would be more *genuine mourners* at funerals if only they could see within the veil. Here is a thought that should cause one to think soberly upon his life. People eulogize the **past** of one who has departed this life, but what about their **present**? What if people could hear the wails of lost souls in torment? Would the preacher hearing the cries of one in torment cause him to change what he would otherwise say at a funeral service? What if the audience could hear the cries of the lost? Would they then believe what is said at most funeral services?

**A man may in this world be a millionaire, but in the world to come not be able to receive even a small act of compassion (v. 24).** Mercy and comfort cannot be purchased in eternity. Those who choose to serve "*mammon*" (Matt. 6:24) and profit while on this earth quickly discover in eternity that the wealth they accumulated is not evidence that their soul is right with God. So many today equate success in this world as God approving of their lives. The rich man's thirst for a simple drop of water is a terrible shock to one who never suffered want and who lived only for the gratification of the flesh.

**A person who neglects and ignores his obligations and responsibilities in this life will have an eternity to recall his folly!** "*Son, remember that in thy lifetime...*" (v. 25) are words that will haunt many souls throughout an eternal hell! A wasted lifetime is a tragedy. In this lifetime, one has an opportunity to lay up "*treasures in heaven*" (Matt. 6:20). Failure to do so will ensure anguish in flaming fire throughout eternity!

**A unrighteous person may be in the midst of a righteous person in this world, but the day will come when they will be eternally separated (v. 26)!** Earthly relationships will mean nothing when the "*great gulf [is] fixed.*" As proclaimers of the gospel have stated for years, when one finds his soul lost in torment all the prayers and penance of the papacy or of purgatory will never bridge the great gulf, for it is **forever fixed**, and one will not cross over to the other side.

**A lost man in torment will realize that his prayers for himself or others avail nothing (vss. 24, 27-28)!** It is too late to care about one's own soul or the souls of others in

eternity. The rich man did not want his brothers to come to where he was. He thought if one went to them from the dead they would repent (v. 30). Abraham's answer needs to be understood today. Listen carefully! "*If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead*" (v. 31).

God speaks to all today through His Son (Heb. 1:2). The Son speaks to all through His inspired Word. Again, listen carefully! "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day*" (John 12:48).

Will you benefit from these lessons from a lost soul?

## The Truth About Tolerance

By Robert Hatfield

Tolerance rings throughout our land. It is preached from the president's podium at the White House to the picket line's posters on city streets. Meanwhile Christians, trying to uphold Biblical values, are labeled intolerant and unloving. They are already experiencing pressure from the government and the media to "tolerate" the "homosexual lifestyle." In some cases, Christians are even experiencing persecution from law enforcement (*yes, in the United States!*).

The doctrine of tolerance simply does not square with New Testament values. Webster's dictionary says that to tolerate is "to put up with" some belief or practice with which one does not agree. Christians do not discriminate against anyone because "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Christians realize that every man ought "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3). It should not be a matter of "putting up with" someone, but rather a matter of loving one another ... as God loves us (1 John 4:11)!

But true love does not overlook sin. Sexists and racists ought to repent of the sin of discrimination, and they ought to be taught Biblical love. For that matter, no sinful activity should be tolerated (whether racism, sexism, homosexuality, or any other sin). Has our nation become so haughty to think that it can rewrite the Law of God to

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### Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)  
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 7

#### Genesis 37-42 & Matthew 13-14

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)



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fit its own agenda? Despite the title as “the land of the free,” the United States should realize that true freedom comes only from obedience to the truth (John 8:32).

Despite the preaching of God’s Word, the message of tolerance is preached in our nation. Elizabeth Bauchner, a columnist for *Teaching Tolerance* (tolerance.org), says that “people can still believe [homosexuality is] a sin if they want to, but that shouldn’t have anything to do with someone else’s rights.” Bauchner goes on to advocate the attendance of children to homosexual marriage ceremonies because, “kids who grow up attending gay weddings will see them as normal.”

On May 26, 2009, the Alameda County Board of Education (California) approved a mandatory homosexual curriculum for children as young as five years old. Parents will not be allowed to remove their children from the lessons.

President Obama announced on Tuesday, June 1 [2009] that June is now “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month.” The president added, “I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.”

However, advocates of the tolerance doctrine are not very tolerate themselves. On Thursday, May 28, 2009, Fox News ran a story about a couple who were ordered by San Diego county police to stop holding a Bible study within their home. The officer claimed that the couple needed a permit (which costs several thousand dollars) to hold religious meetings in their own home. The couple’s attorney said, “The county asked, ‘Do you have a regular meeting in your home?’ She said, ‘Yes.’ ‘Do you say amen?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Do you pray?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Do you praise the Lord?’ ‘Yes.’” Following this dialogue, the county notified the couple that the small Bible study, averaging 15 people, was in violation of County regulations.

It is time to wake up from apathy and “tolerance” and uphold the truth of God’s Word. What will our nation reap later from the seeds being sown today? “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7).

### 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 **40 contacts** were made.

### Thank You

*Thank you for the birthday cards...they made my birthday special.  
In Christian Love, Peggy Chism*

*Note: this card along with others and a recent update on Rohan Jones are all posted on the bulletin board in the hall.*

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** meets each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school class room.
- ◆ **Game Night...**We hope to start planning a game night for those who want to get together every other month. The Smitheys will host the first one at their home on **Friday night February 24th**. Bring games and of course your favorite foods. If you wish to host one either at your house or here at the building see Ryan or Priscilla to schedule .
- ◆ **Bible Search...**Hillcrest in Stephenville will host the next session on Sunday, February 26th @ 2 PM. We will host on Sunday March 25 to close out this year.

## Celebrate

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

**February Birthdays:** Peggy Chism (03), Carol Wilcox (05), Lunday Maninger (08), Patti Bannister (14), Jonathan Fuller (28).

**February Anniversaries:** Mariah & Steven Martinez (04), Peggy & Billy Chism (26).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



## Records

	Jan. 29, 2012	Feb. 5, 2012
Bible Class	54	47
AM Worship	77	67
PM Worship	39	
Wednesday PM	42	
Contribution	\$1768	\$1547

