

# 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 19, 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.

## Giving a Sense of the Law

By Mike Bonner

No one should desire to be unlearned, especially when it comes to the word of God. When individuals assemble to fellowship and extol the Lord, they must hear the glorious words of the Lord. But what happens when one assembles and leaves without understanding? Or, what happens when one gives a lesson but doesn't explain it for those to understand? Let's explore the words of Nehemiah as Ezra read the Book of the Law, then proceeded to give a sense of the Law.

The book of Nehemiah is filled with gems that are worthy of our consideration. Paul stated in the Roman letter, "the things written aforetime were written for our learning..." (15:4). The keen student of the word should conclude that the law of Moses was for the Israelites, in preparation for the Promised Land (Exodus 20:1ff). The Law of Moses was their schoolmaster, to bring them (Jews) to Christ (Galatians 3:24-25). This same Law was nailed to the cross by Jesus (Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15). However, the scriptures teach emphatically the holiness of the law (Romans 7:12). It was the Law that Jesus kept perfectly thus pleasing God and fulfilling all righteousness (John 8:29; Matthew 5:17).

Nehemiah, was a cup bearer for a Persian King named Artaxerxes. He lived during the time of Ezra the scribe; this was an important time because of the deportation of God's people from Babylonian captivity. The time frame of this final deportation was about (445-428 B.C.), God's people were allowed to return home and finish rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. This cupbearer was important to the king even though he was a slave. He was a vital part of the life of the Persians for he made sure the King was safe concerning his food and wines. Nehemiah wasn't alone by any stretch of the imagination, he had good men like Hanani who was faithful to God and feared Him greatly (7:2). Hanani was the one who told Nehemiah about the condition of the people and how they were being mistreated and a reproach as a nation. This bothered the man of God; this caused him to seek out a way to help his countrymen (2:1-10).

After surveying the damage and the city, after rebuilding the wall to a certain point, the bible records for us that "the people had a mind to work" (4:6). They worked with their families thus forming bonds to help them in the fight against the enemy. They dealt with oppression and conspiracy against their leader all the while they were still able to complete the wall in chapter seven. But something special happened after that, the law was read in their hearing (8:1-12). Ezra, the scribe, read the Book of the Law to the people of God in front of the Water Gate from the morning to the midday to those who could understand (8:2-3). In verse five the scriptures relay a powerful message to the church today, "they **STOOD** at the opening up of the book". The people of God were so taken by the word of God that they honored God to the highest. Notice this passage "**And Ezra blessed the**

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And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will  
build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

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**LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with [their] faces to the ground."** What an awesome sight to behold, God's people were just reverent to His word and we should be as well.

However, the man of God didn't just read the word to them, he explained it as well. Notice this passage, **"So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused [them] to understand the reading."** Literally this verse could read like this, they continued to read the book of the law of God distinctively or clearly and gave a sense or understanding thus causing them to understand the reading. Friends and brethren, this is our responsibility as teachers and preachers of the word of God. We must make sure that we explain God's word very clearly to His people and to the world thus convicting their hearts towards obedience (Acts 8:35-37). When we are having casual conversations about the word, let us be clear in our explanation that men and women would want to make a difference in their lives. We must champion the truth by giving those to whom we talk a sense of the word. We must rightly divide the word (2 Timothy 2:15). We must explain the oneness of the church and the necessity of unity in the faith (Ephesians 4:1-6). We must demonstrate with the scriptures the responsibility of a righteous life and holiness towards God and show respect and patience for our fellow man (Romans 1:17; Matthew 22:37-40).

In conclusion, a responsibility is laid upon the teacher to make sure understanding is at least offered. Instructors are aware of the fact of what it takes for learning, one must teach and one must be willing to learn. Solomon said it like this, "and with all thy getting, get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). May we study God's word to the end of understanding and knowing what His will is (Ephesians 5:17). Let God be true.

# THE MYSTERY OF INFLUENCE

By Neal Pollard

A few years ago, a fourteen year old girl named Shannon Smith was shot to death in her own back yard. A bullet lodged in her brain. Though already tragic and horrific, the story was made more tragic by the inexplicable nature of the shooting. Police, judging from the trajectory made by the entry wound, concluded that the bullet fell from the sky. Somewhere nearby, some unknown person had fired a gun for no known reason. The bullet completed its path of travel inside an unsuspecting teenager. Tragic, indeed!

Who fired the gun and why? The action pales next to the consequence. Someone aimlessly fired a weapon. A child died and parents were left to mourn her loss. It was all so unnecessary and avoidable!

Christians are a special people, a God-possessed, holy group (1 Pet. 2:9). The world sees Christians (Matt. 5:16). They react to children of God, either "glorifying" (Matt. 5:16) or "blaspheming" (2 Sam. 12:14) Him. Christians are either transformed from worldliness or conformed to it (Rom. 12:2). Conformity carries tragic consequences.

Influence is an inevitable burden carried by every Christian. Others watch what we do, hear what we say, and evaluating our judgments. What we wear, how we talk, where we go, and with what we entertain ourselves may seem harmless or at least harmful only to us. Yet, we can aimlessly fire and eternally wound another's soul by our influence.

The man or woman who fired that gun may not realize even now what they did with one "harmless" squeeze of a trigger. Maybe they will not know on this side of time. Just so, we may be shocked on that day to realize how many or exactly whom we influenced. We're on a spiritual battlefield (Eph. 6). Let's be careful not to shoot at the wrong side! We may wind up doing harm to the very people we're commissioned to save. Let's watch our aim!

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.  
Matthew 5:16*

## 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 8**  
**Genesis 43-48 & Matthew 15-16**

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)*



### 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 **27 contacts** were made. Also remember that tonight is the **3rd Sunday** and time for finger foods following the meeting...hope you can join us.

### 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.

### *The Final Home* By JC Choate

How great and glorious it will be  
To cross that river dark and deep;  
To land upon the gilded shore  
And dwell with God forevermore.

To walk on streets all paved with gold  
And live with saints from days of old;  
To talk with Peter, Paul, and John  
While ages roll forever on.

To sit beside that river there  
And never know another care;  
To see the tree of life in bloom  
And dwell in mansions safe from doom.

To sing in rapture with the throng  
And praise the Lord in word and song;  
To walk with Him who died for me  
And live with God eternally!

How many blessings are in store  
For those who ope that narrow door;  
And walk along that path so strait  
Until they enter Heaven's gate.

A place, a land forever fair  
How sweet 'twill be to worship there;  
How bright a hope that Christian owns:  
To call God's land his final home.

## 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

	Feb. 5, 2012	Feb. 12, 2012
Bible Class	47	45
AM Worship	67	70
PM Worship		39
Wednesday PM		37
Contribution	\$1547	\$1906

# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 2/19/12	Next Week: 2/26/12		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	<b>February 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Cindy Fuller <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller  <b>March 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Jim Moore <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism <b>Clean Building:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Garrett Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore*, Allen Griffith John Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Garrett Barnum <i>1 Peter 1:3-5</i>	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore	Ken Mainnger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	February 22 Garrett Barnum	February 29 James Fuller	March 7 Jim Moore	March 14 Don Smith

# 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 February 19, 2012</b>	Sunday Class ..... Romans 8 Wednesday Class ..... Bible/Redemption Survey
<p><b>The Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 13)</b></p> <p><i>This chapter contains a wealth of information concerning the kingdom of heaven, the church, as Jesus teaches in parables:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Open For Reception (v3-23)</b> - The word of God would come to many people, but not all would receive it and hold fast to it. Some would reject it immediately, others turn from it later, still others allow it to be crowded out, yet others would allow it to flourish. The difference is in the individual but there is joy for those that receive it.</li> <li><b>Exists In The World (v24-30, 36-43)</b> - They should not think that the church would exist by itself in the world but rather surrounded by the wicked until separated in the end. A reminder we are in the world (1 Cor. 5:10) and that God knows His own (2 Thess. 1:6-10).</li> <li><b>Growth &amp; Influence (v31-33)</b> - The church, while it would start seemingly small and insignificant, would grow quietly yet surely, influencing the lives of others (Acts 4:13, 5:35-42, 17:6; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).</li> <li><b>Valuable/Worthwhile (v44-46)</b>—How valuable should the knowledge of the kingdom be to us, so much that one would give everything that he has for it (Matt. 16:25-26)!</li> <li><b>Approaching Eternity (v47-50)</b> - Another reminder of the coming judgment which will be a time of separation — to one everlasting fire, the other life eternal (Matt. 25:31-46). <i>The disciples were then charged with taking what they knew and using it and sharing it with others (v51-52).</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>The Future of the Church...</b></p> <p><i>One can worry about what is happening the church locally or world-wide and become depressed and anxious, but when we consider the church, remember that it has:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A Divine Source Planned It</b>—It was made in the mind of God, not man (Eph. 1:4; Eph. 3:10-11; Gal. 1:11-12).</li> <li><b>A Divine Sacrifice Purchased It</b>—Christ shed His blood for it to purchase our redemption; would not have done so for a worthless thing (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:7, 5:25; Heb. 12:28; Matt. 16:18).</li> <li><b>A Divine Spirit Prepared It</b>—Not left up to man to “figure it out,” it was divinely set forth (John 14:26; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; 2 Pet. 1:3)</li> <li><b>A Divine Sword Protects It</b>—Prepared for whatever attacks come her way (Eph. 6:11-16; Heb. 4:12).</li> <li><b>A Divine Seed Perpetuates It</b>—God’s word is a seed that brings forth Christians when planted in the hearts of men and allowed to flourish. It is always possible to turn back to His plan (Luke 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).</li> <li><b>A Divine Salvation Promised It</b>—A promise from One who cannot lie (Titus 1:2)! Regardless of what happens on this earth, we have a glorious home in heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-5; Jn 14:1-3; Eph. 5:27; Matt. 7:21, 25:46; Rev. 21:3, 22-27). <i>Regardless of how things may appear in this life, when we remember these things let us remember the future of the church:</i> <b>...is Bright</b></li> </ol>