

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 26, 2012

Contact Us:

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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

“Why Callest Thou Me Good?”

By Dave Wood

*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins:
for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins (John 8:24).*

The greatest mistake a person can make is in his failing to recognize Jesus as the Son of God. In one of the most heated debates Jesus had with the Pharisees, He told them that they had to believe that He was the I AM, or they would die in their sins. These Pharisees were carnally minded; they refused to comprehend the signs and to understand the teachings of Jesus. These men who belonged to one of the strictest sects of the Jews rejected salvation by failing to recognize Jesus as the I AM.

One should notice that the King James Version translated this scripture, “...for if ye believe not that I am *he*.” The pronoun “he” was supplied by the translators to assist the understanding of the English translation. In this verse, the supplied word does not assist one’s understanding but rather it takes away the full impact of this “I AM” statement. Perhaps the Pharisees did not understand, at first, the implications of Jesus’ statement. Later, however, the Pharisees understood what Jesus meant by “I AM.” They understood Him to mean that He was Deity.

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
(John 8:58)

We know that they eventually understood, because after this reiteration of Jesus’ Deity, the Pharisees tried to stone Him. Tragically, these Pharisees were not the only ones who failed to recognize Jesus’ Divine Nature. Equally tragic is the state of any today who fail to understand that Jesus as the Son of God.

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.
(Matt. 19:16-22)

(Continued on page 2)

*For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

Psalm 84:10

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.



(Continued from page 1)

First, one must focus on the one who came to Jesus. The young man brought Jesus a pertinent question: “What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” The question that the rich ruler asked is one of the most important questions a person can ever ask. Much like that which the multitude on the day of Pentecost asked: “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). The ruler, in order to ask this question, must have had some knowledge about eternal life. From his statement, “All these things have I kept from my youth up,” one must surmise that he had, at least, a rudimentary knowledge of the Mosaic commands. This inquisitive ruler had been instructed from his youth and had kept those instructions.

There was, however, a nagging question in his mind: “What else is missing?” To find the answer to this question, the young ruler went to Jesus and addressed Jesus as Good Master. The news about Jesus had spread like wildfire—truly Paul did not exaggerate when he had told King Agrippa, “For this thing was not done in a corner” (Acts 26:26). Another ruler, Nicodemus, had come to Jesus and stated, “We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:2). One should notice that Nicodemus used a plural pronoun: “We” know you are an inspired teacher. Perhaps this is the reason the rich, young ruler had come to Jesus as well. Although the rich ruler understood Jesus to be an excellent teacher, he was woefully misguided, not recognizing Jesus as the Son of God. There was evidence to bring the young man to such a conclusion, because Scripture speaks about others who had known Jesus to be the Son of God. The problem with failing to recognize Jesus for Who He truly is, is that if one does not like the answers given by one teacher, then he may continue seeking other opinions until discovering one that better fits his desire or preconception. The rich ruler’s view of the “Master Teacher” denigrated any spiritual teaching to the level of opinion instead of authoritative Doctrine.

Second, one should focus on the One Who was called “Good.” Without a clear understanding of the Divinity of Jesus, there is no recognized need for true loyalty to Him. One must remember that Jesus demands something of His followers: they must know Who it is they are following. People are usually only loyal to those whom they trust and love. If there is no trust, sooner or later there will be a separation. Which marriages are the ones that survive? The marriages that have a deep level of trust and love. Jesus used this moment with the young ruler to develop love and trust; “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matt. 19:17).

Sadly, some have taken the position that Jesus denied any Divine character when he asked, “Why callest thou me good?” Jesus did not deny His deity, He wanted the young man to think about the one to whom He had posed the question. The ruler already trusted in God by recognizing the authority of the Mosaic law. If the ruler recognized God’s authority in the lives of men, then he must come to recognize the Son of God and His authority in the lives of men as well. The powerful verse at the end of the book of John reminds the reader of the importance placed on believing in Jesus: “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31).

What happened to the rich ruler? All we know for certain is that he had rejected the authority of Jesus (“If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me”). This was a Divine command for the rich ruler. However, the young man did not place his trust in Jesus. The ruler had walked away from Jesus in sorrow rather than walk with Jesus in joy. “Why callest thou me good?” Because Jesus is the Son of God, and, by believing in Him, we have life.”

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord’s Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>Week 9</p> <p>Genesis 49-Exodus 4 & Matthew 17-18</p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p> <p><i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



Whose Voice Do You Follow?

By John Deffenbaugh

In the grandest of scales and from the highest viewpoints, mankind cannot in any conceivable way see what God sees, know what God knows or think as God thinks (Isa. 55:8-9). God made it all (Ex. 20:11). God sees all (Heb. 4:13). God purposed it all (2 Tim. 1:9-10), and someday, in God's own good time, He will destroy it all (2 Pet. 3:9-13) and bring us all into judgment (Acts 17:30-31). We **will** answer the great "I AM."

Yet, in spite of all the grandeur and majesty which belong to God, we arrogantly and blindly listen to the advice of men, even as Christians! God is eternal. *"Before the mountains were born, or thou didst give birth to the earth and world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God"* (Ps. 90:2). Our life is not even a breath in God's existence. Within the realm of time, from the creation until now, our life is but a vapor or mist of one morning, which is burned away before the midday sun (Jas. 4:14), and time, when compared with eternity, is not even the mist of one morning! How foolish are we, when we invest too much time and energies in the things of this short life (Luke 8:14).

Why in the name of common sense do we insist on listening to voices from the mist of time (Prov. 14:12)? Regardless of the source, be it Plato, Socrates, Mohammed or the "intellectuals" of our day, they all speak, blinded by the shackles of flesh and time. On the other hand, God speaks from His eternal throne, of which time is only a small part! God was here before time began (John 1:1-2), and He will continue to be after time ends (1 Cor. 15:24; 1 Thess. 4:17).

May we as God's children listen to God's voice, which comes down to us in love from His eternal existence! God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son (Heb. 1:2).

"This is my beloved Son, hear Him" (Luke 9:35)! *"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you"* (1 Pet. 1:25). Finally, Jesus says, *"...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48b).

Are you listening?

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 **26 contacts** were made.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, & calls! It is wonderful to have Christian family and friends. In Christian Love, Anita Boyd

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** meets each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school class room.
- ◆ **Bible Search...** today at 2 PM at Hillcrest in Stephenville.
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** next week.
- ◆ **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - ◆ Bangs—March 18-21 with Rick Popejoy
 - ◆ Gordon—Ladies Day at Night March 20 @ 6 PM
 - ◆ 5th & Grape—March 25-28 with Mike Vestal
 - ◆ Hillcrest/Stephenville—March 25-28 with Carl McCann

Celebrate

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

Remaining February Birthdays: Jonathan Fuller (28)

Remaining February Anniversaries: Peggy & Billy Chism (26)

March Birthdays: Ken Maninger (04), Billy Graham (07), John Greer (07), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kalich (21), James Thomas (23), Kaitlyn Graham (28), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29)

March Anniversaries: Cindy & James Fuller (02), Billie & Clarence Ford (20), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23)



Records

	Feb. 12, 2012	Feb. 19, 2012
Bible Class	45	43
AM Worship	70	63
PM Worship	39	45
Wednesday PM	37	26
Contribution	\$1906	\$1641

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/26/12	Next Week: 3/4/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	February 2012 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller March 2012 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Charles & Bennie White		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	James Thomas		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler*, Garrett Barnum Gene Bannister, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Matthew Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Psalm 1</i>	James Fuller		
Communion	Ken Mainnger	Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 29 James Fuller	March 7 Jim Moore	March 14 Don Smith	March 21 Allen Griffith

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 February 26, 2012	Sunday Class Romans 8-9 Wednesday Class Bible/Redemption Survey
<p>The Church Jesus Built (Matthew 16:13-19) This section contains one of the greatest promises of our Lord as He speaks of the church that He certainly build.</p> <p>1) Time: Will build, in their time (v18, 28). The church was not then in existence, but the current time fit prophecy (Dan. 2:44) and promise (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7). He says it would come in their lifetime with power, which it did (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28; Rev.1:9).</p> <p>2) Possession: Jesus calls it HIS church (v18). It belongs to Him by right of purchase (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25) and headship (Eph. 1:22-23). Thus it is rightly called by His name (Rom. 16:16).</p> <p>3) Structure: Church, kingdom of Heaven (v18, 19). A singular, spiritual body unto which the saved are added by the Lord (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Acts 2:47; John 14:6). These terms are used to indicate the same body stressing their called out nature (Col. 1:13; 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Cor. 6:17) as well as their subjection to the king (Matt. 28:18).</p> <p>4) Foundation: Solid and Strong; it would be:</p> <p>a) Built on a rock (the truth that He is the Christ/Messiah and the Son of God—v16, 18; John 8:24; 1 Cor. 3:11; Acts 4:12)</p> <p>b) Founded on heavenly authority (v17, 19; Matt. 18:18; John 14:26, 16:13; Acts 2:14ff; 1 Cor. 2:1-2; Gal. 1:10-12; 2 Tim. 4:2)</p> <p>c) Undefeatable (v19, 28; Acts 2:24-36; Rom. 1:4).</p>	<p>Walking Bibles Members of the Lord's Church were once known as "people of the book". Let us strive to be known as such still to those around us.</p> <p>1) By Our Example –</p> <p>a) People will look at the things we do and take note of how we live and those things that influence our lives (2 Cor. 3:2; Matt. 7:20).</p> <p>b) Thus we need to be walking examples of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1, 6:9-11; 1 Thess. 1:5-10; 1 Pet. 2:11-12).</p> <p>2) By Our Defense Of The Gospel –</p> <p>a) Show the world that what we believe is worth defending (Jude 3; Phil. 1:17).</p> <p>b) Requires knowing what we believe and why (1 Pet. 3:14-16; Heb. 5:12).</p> <p>3) By Our Knowledge Of The Bible –</p> <p>a) Need to be grounded in God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) lest our zeal be misdirected (Rom. 10:1-2).</p> <p>b) This will benefit ourselves and others that see us (Ps. 119:11, 1:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:13-16).</p> <p>Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____</p>