

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



March 11, 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

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Ryan Smithey.....

Works We Support:

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.

"Go Ye Also into the Vineyard"

By Gary Colley

There is no room for inactivity in the lives of those who come to Christ and want to go to Heaven, whatever our age (Matt. 20:1-16)! There are many continuous actions involved in living the Christian life (II Pet. 1:5-11). Are we "giving all diligence" in our Christian walk of life? This is the exhortation of many Bible passages, as the grace of God teaches and thereby directs us (Tit. 2:11-12). We must give heed to what we hear as well as how we hear! Our love for God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit have been exemplified in our becoming Christians. Further, our "brotherly love" for those in the same family of God has already been assigned. Hence, what is the meaning of this last word "love" in II Peter 1:7?

Love for All

Bible love no doubt refers to the universal love for all mankind, in which we as Christians must seek for the highest good of all mankind. There is for sure to be a particular love and affection for God and our fellow Christians who are our brothers and sisters in Christ. But beyond that, we are to also show deep interest and concern for the world at large! For this cause we are to be willing to go teaching and preaching the Gospel to those in our own town, cities, and states. We are even to go or send missionaries to other nations or lands to preach Christ, due to the Lord's command in the Commission and due to our concern and interest that they too may be saved (Mk. 16:15-16).

Human Liability

Our responsibility toward the souls of those about us is measured by our ability and opportunity, and we must not overlook these since we are accountable for their use. None should allow themselves to be counted among the "foolish virgins" when the Lord comes (Matt. 25:1-13). If there are no works of righteousness in our lives, our "lights" are burning low (Matt. 5:14-16). Whether we have been given by our Lord five talents, two, or one to be used while we tabernacle here below, we must not fail to use all fully and to the glory of God (Matt. 25:14-30).

Work in the Lord's Vineyard

We are to give love to all the race called mankind. How wonderful the world could be if every Christian added this virtue to their life! How enriching would be the results in happiness for each of the souls of men, both in those whom we show the love and our own lives! Just think for a moment how far-reaching the work of the Lord's church could be in bringing many to salvation and thereby giving glory

(Continued on page 3)



Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly,
that God hath made that same Jesus,
whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:36

A Crucial Reminder

by Chuck Webster

I need reminders.

I make myself a to-do list every morning, then program my phone to alert me about appointments ahead of time.

Even then, I sometimes forget things, occasionally something quite important.

That's one reason I'm thankful for how God uses the Lord's Supper. Around the table he reminds me that the cross should guide everything I do, a wake-up call I need every week.

In fact, I need him to remind me more often than that...do you?

We live in a media-saturated culture that overwhelms us with what it thinks is important: we can't possibly survive without this new time-saving device, it tells us, and we're so 2010 if we're still using that antiquated smartphone.

We receive thousands of messages every day—some subtle, others blatant.

But most of them don't matter much, if at all.

One message is crucial, though, and Jesus was determined for his apostles to get it.

Below is the second of three times Mark records a conversation that's almost identical in all three accounts. Read it carefully:

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him (Mark 9:30-32).

Mark wants us to know that Jesus was so serious about this discussion that he purposefully avoided the crowds in order to have focused conversation time with the apostles.

What did he want them to know?

That he would die and rise again, of course.

They didn't get it yet, but they would later.

Two thousand years later, we're not that different.

We need constant reminders about the cross. We desperately need to meet with other believers every Sunday and focus on Calvary.

That's why it matters when we miss the weekly assembly.

Not because we miss an opportunity to get our ticket punched, but because we miss the time for the Lord to walk with us back to that Friday so many years ago. We miss his leading us to think about something more consequential than anything else we'll do during the week.

But we need to think about the cross more often than every week.

Calvary needs to consume us. In a world that's pulling us in so many different pointless directions, we need to re-center daily. To block out the deafening noise of a culture that's lost its bearings.

To think again about what really matters.

Just as he did with the disciples, let him do it for you.

Today, every day, take a little time to interpret what's happening in your world in light of the cross.

He was delivered into the hands of men. He was killed. He rose.

That's what he kept telling his disciples, and that's the most important thing you'll think about today.

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 11

Exodus 11-16 & Matthew 21-22

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)



Upcoming Events:

- ◆ We will be hosting the last **Bible Search** here on March 25 at 2 PM. We will need some help with graders and other tasks if you can help and also will need cookies/brownies/etc...there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the auditorium if you can help.
- ◆ Keep **our meeting** in your prayers and on your calendars...Wayne Jones will be with us May 20-23 and will be speaking on *Fortifying the Family*.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series**...its still early but go ahead and mark your calendars for each Tuesday between June 5 and August 14 at 7 PM. A schedule will be out soon.
- ◆ **Summer Camp** is just around the corner! Applications are now out on the back table and should be completed and returned as soon as possible to guarantee your place. JR. camp will be July 1-5 and SR. camp is July 15-20.



Seek Ye First...

Now has a website...If you have internet access add **www.syfirst.org** to your favorites. Almost every issue of this publication is now online in PDF format and new issues will be added as they are released.

(Continued from page 1)

to Him who hired us for labors in His vineyard (Matt. 20:1-8). True, warm, meaningful love should be shown by each of God's people to all the race. Could the Lord still be asking both to those out of Christ and some of us who are in Christ, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" (Matt. 20:6). Life is so short! What we intend to do we should begin to do now, even as the Lord stated (Jn. 9:4). What better way to live out our time here than in a loving active, fruitful, and joyous me toward all men, producing all of the fruits of genuine faith and love!

We have in the text of the New Testament the assurance that when we supply the labors, the Lord will supply the abundant entrance into Heaven! What a challenge to know that with love, Truth, and action incorporated into our lives we can enjoy a successful life here and a joyous entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Pet. 1:10-11).

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 **25 contacts** were made.

Thank You...

Thank you so much for the wonderful going away party. We're sad to leave but excited about this new adventure in our lives. We'll miss you all!
With Love, Mike & Patti Bannister

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)

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)

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Feb. 26, 2012	March 4, 2012
Bible Class	59	50
AM Worship	83	71
PM Worship	48	52
Wednesday PM	41	36
Contribution	\$1948	\$1830

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/11/12		Next Week: 3/18/12		March 2012 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox April 2012 Make Announcements: Gen Bannister Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: Charles White
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister		
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, John Barnum Garrett Barnum, Don Smith	James Thomas*, Tom Wilcox John Barnum, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith <i>Matthew 7:24-29</i>	Jim Moore		
Communion	Ken Maninger	James Thomas*		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Matthew Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 14 Don Smith	March 21 Allen Griffith	March 28 Tom Wilcox	April 4 Garrett Barnum

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 March 11, 2012		Sunday Class Romans 9 Wednesday Class Bible/Redemption Survey	
<p><i>It's Not Always Easy (Matthew 19-20)</i> While God has not made it difficult to find Him (Acts 17:27), nevertheless at times it can be difficult to follow Him if our hearts are not set on Him, His will, and His reward.</p> <p>1) Concerning Marriage/Pleasure (Matt. 19:3-12) a) After teaching the truth concerning marriage, even Jesus' disciples recognized this was a hard teaching (v10); but Jesus did not soften His answer, rather He stood by it. b) He recognized that for some to follow this teaching they would live as eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. This may seem difficult, but one must ask what he is willing to give up to be faithful to God (Heb. 11:25).</p> <p>2) Concerning Money/Priorities (Matt. 19:16-30) a) Next a young man questions Jesus; he was good, but there was something amiss in his life — his love of money. He chose rather to keep his money than follow Jesus. b) Jesus relates that it is difficult for those who are rich to enter the kingdom of heaven (v23-24), in fact it would be impossible as long as they refused to change their priorities. What is most important to us? (Matt. 6:24).</p> <p>3) Concerning Labor/Reward (Matt. 20:1-16) a) This parable possibly focuses on their desire for a reward (19:27), and reminds them that God will do what is right, even if it does not seem fair in our eyes (v12-15). b) It also reminds us that we are called to work, a work that at times may be difficult (v12), but God will reward what is right. Will we continue to labor in the kingdom? <i>Will we follow, even when it does not seem easy? (Lk.9:23)</i></p>		<p><i>Balanced Christianity (Part 1)</i></p> <p>1) What Is Balance? a) Not simply equality; rather avoiding extremes by using a proper standard, God's Word (Col. 3:17; Jn 12:48; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). b) Not straddling the fence (Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Acts 2:40; Rom. 6:13, 16; 2 Tim. 2:22). c) Not lukewarmness (Rev. 13:15-16; Matt. 6:24; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 1:13; 2 Cor. 6:17). d) Not compromise (Matt. 14:4; Acts 4:19-20, 5:29; Rev. 2:10, 6:9; 2 Tim. 2:4).</p> <p>2) Balance & Bible Study: Must be a balance between study & application (Psalm 119; Rom. 10:2; Titus 2:14; James 1:22-25). This trait will lead to balance in other areas of our life.</p> <p>3) Balance & Sin: How we look at it. Too harsh (expecting perfection), one becomes discouraged; too lax, one scoffs at sin. Sin should be unwelcome in our lives yet we joy in the fact that sin can be removed! (Ps. 130:3-4; Matt. 26:75; Rom. 6:1-18, 23; 1 John 1:7-2:2).</p> <p>4) Balance & Money: Has its place and use; we must seek to use it properly as a good steward (Acts 4:34-35; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Luke 21:1-4; Gal. 6:10; James 1:27; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 3:10-12; 1 Tim. 6:10, 17-19; Matt. 6:19-21).</p> <p>5) Balance & Family: Husband lead and love (Eph. 5:23, 25); wife submit to husband (Eph. 5:22; 1 Pet. 3:1-6); children obey parents (Eph. 6:1-3); parents discipline and love (Eph. 6:4; Prov. 13:24; Heb. 12:7-10); and all must put God first (Matt. 10:37; 1 Cor. 7:15).</p>	