

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



April 8, 2012

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
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 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

What is "Right"? And What is "Wrong"?

By Carl B. Garner

Today, when you discuss this issue, it is not unusual for one to conclude that "right and wrong" are determined in each person's mind. In other words, it is all "relative," and moral issues are solved by allowing each person to decide for himself. Abortion, adultery, alcohol, gambling or homosexuality—they are either good or evil only in the minds of each individual. This view states that there are no moral absolutes, just what is determined in the mind of each person.

When you get down to applying this "rule" in our everyday life, most of us don't want to live in a society in which the other fellow decides if it is all right for him to kill your child or steal your wallet. That is a major objection to this "relative" argument—it becomes an "everyone is doing what is right in his own eyes," and that idea has been biblically opposed since the days of Moses, the Judges and the Old Testament Prophets (Deut. 12:8; Jdgs. 21:25; Isa. 5:21).

Universities are now offering classes on this very subject under terms like Behaviorism, or Utilitarianism, and some degree of "own eyes" is a major factor in those classes. Building on the writings of B.F. Skinner, John Stuart Mill and others, many are leaving those courses with very strong opinions that there are no absolutes in the areas of morality, decision-making, etc.

Does it not make you feel a bit worried that so many are thinking that whatever is right in their mind is the only moral "law" for all? In the book of Proverbs we find some interesting thoughts:

Proverbs 3:7: Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 12:15: The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 16:2: All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

Proverbs 21:2: Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 30:12: There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Surely it is evident that God has something to say about man's behavior, and an authoritative standard of morality reveals principles of behavior. Some deeds are right, others are wrong. This may be the main reason so many do not want to read or study the Bible. Yes, in the Bible we find the word, "sin," and that word often is attached to what choices we make in life. Some choices are righteous and good; some are wicked.

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Psalm 103:11-12



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

When ‘Conservative’ Isn’t Sound

By Mike Vestal

Being religiously “conservative” is not necessarily the same as being sound in the faith (Titus 1:13; 2:2). The two are not synonymous terms. Without any doubt, there are many areas in which Christians are to be, and must be, conservative. But this is not always so. Rather, we must always endeavor to be sound. Of the twenty-three passages where the Greek word for “sound” does occur, twelve are in the gospel accounts and nine are in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. The Greek word always has reference to health, wholeness and well being, whether in a physical or spiritual sense.

The idea of spiritual soundness is especially to be seen in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. We are to be sound “in the faith” (Titus 1:13; 2:2). We must cling to sound doctrine (1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1). And we must speak, hold and yield to the sound words of Christ (1 Timothy 6:3; 2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:8). The emphasis in these passages is on God’s word as a received body of fixed teaching that is to be used to give us the spiritual health we all should desperately desire, as well as to counteract any teaching, concept or practice that would threaten our soul’s health and well-being.

The fact is, there are real dangers in thinking that conservative always equals sound and vice versa. And this is not just an exercise in semantics or straining at some technical, but unimportant, subtlety. This becomes particularly true at a time in which an increasing number of brethren seem to be showing less respect for the authority and all sufficiency of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is possible to become so carried away with the disregard for God’s word that we are seeing on the part of some brethren that we fall from our own steadfastness (2 Peter 3:16-18). And just as some in their quest for something more have been guilty of compromising Scripture and of damaging their relationship with God, so some in their efforts to be conservative may unwittingly have exhibited something considerably less than what the Lord desires. Chris-

tianity involves all the love a man has—his heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). Sometimes “conservative” is merely a buzz word for being sound asleep, or for excusing oneself from at least some aspect of the will of God. And that’s when “conservative” isn’t sound! To be more specific, consider the following occasions when being “conservative” isn’t sound.

Soundness always has reference to good health, wholeness and well being, whether in the spiritual sense (cf., 2 Timothy 1:13) or physical (cf., Luke 15:27). But this is not always true of conservatism. There is a “carnal conservatism” that is every bit as real and wrong as the increasingly blatant disregard a number of brethren are displaying toward the authority and all-sufficiency of Scripture. To be more specific, consider the following occasions when being “conservative” isn’t sound.

When One is Not Motivated by Love. Revelation 2:1-7 speaks of the church at Ephesus. This church was an active congregation as well as one interested in doctrinal purity. In many ways it would have seemed to be a wonderful congregation. But the Lord said they had “left” their “first love.” And that’s serious! 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 speaks of the possibility of eloquence in communication, depth in knowledge and sacrificial giving (all good things) being worthless unless one is motivated by love.

When One Fails to Act Wisely and Expediently. This has to do with the need to humbly respect God’s will and to do what He has authorized in a manner that reflects sound judgment and action (1 Corinthians 6:12). It is possible to believe what is right, but to lack a sense of discernment and diligence in properly carrying things out (Philippians 1:9-11; Hebrews 5:11-14).

When One Talks but Doesn’t Do. What is so sound about any individual or church that talks but does not practice it? (See James 4:17). And while none of us is

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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 15

Exodus 35-40 & Mark 1-2

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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perfect, those who truly love the Lord will ever strive to do His will more completely (Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 3:8-10). As John penned, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Are both our actions and attitudes sound?

When Sinful Pride Replaces Humility. Is it not possible to become so proud of our stand on various biblical matters, as well as the acclaim, associations, and opportunities that may come along with that stand, that pride rears its ugly head in us? (cf., 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 16:18). One may take a stand for truth without knowing God deeply and richly, but God desires both! (Colossians 1:9-10; Philippians 3:10). Humility drives away sinful ego when we truly seek to know Him. As John the Baptizer said, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

When the “Whole Counsel of God” Gets Lost in the Issues and Controversies of the Day. Truth is often controversial, and error must be dealt with, but the “whole counsel of God” must be proclaimed too (Acts 20:27). It is not enough to just rebuke and reprove error; one must exhort, comfort and strengthen (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 20:20). God’s people must not be known only for what we are against. We must also be known for what we are for! (Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). There is seemingly no end to the number of errors which may be seen about us, but that is no reason to give congregations a steady and constant diet of every issue and controversy among us. Evangelism and vital forms of edification can easily get lost in the shuffle when this is done. May God give us all greater wisdom in exercising biblical balance in this regard.

One of the greatest dangers of “carnal conservatism” is that it is so insidious. It is easier seen in others than in ourselves. And while I trust, “carnal conservatism” isn’t so in any of us, it is still wise and proper to ask, “Master, is it I?” (Matthew 26:22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10). For to be guilty of such is to be unhealthy and unsound.

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 **32 contacts** were made.

Game Night

Our next game night will be **Friday, April 27** at the Fullers beginning at 6 PM. Bring games & food and come enjoy a good time.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ◆ April 14 – Ladies Day at DeLeon as well as one at 5th & Grape.
- ◆ April 15-18 — Meeting at Hamilton with Mike Bonner
- ◆ April 22-25 — Meeting at Hico with John Moore
- ◆ April 22-25 — Meeting at DeLeon with Ed Rodgers

Cherokee Day is Saturday, May 5th. A list of items they would like to gather for the children is available on the back bulletin board. Please drop donations off in the entry way.

Suggestions for this week: Trash bags & Zip-loc Bags; canned meat; canned fruit & fruit juices

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Julie Baker (01), Lu Whitsett (06), Ginger King (08), PJ Lewis (09) Kristi Maninger (09), Darlene Smith (10), Earlene Burge (17), Birdie Reynolds (17)

April Anniversaries: Tina & John Barnum (08)

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	March 25, 2012	April 1, 2012
Bible Class	49	51
AM Worship	68	68
PM Worship	43	40
Wednesday PM	43	28
Contribution	\$2283	\$1528

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/8/12	Next Week: 4/15/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	April 2012 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: Charles White May 2012 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Billy & Peggy Chism		
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	John Barnum		
Communion	James Fuller*, Gene Bannister James Thomas, Don Smith	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum Jim Moore, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum <i>1 Corinthians 4:1-5</i>	John Barnum		
Communion	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Matthew Churchwell	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 11 James Fuller	April 18 Jim Moore	April 25 Don Smith	May 2 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 April 8, 2012	Sunday Class Romans 11-12 Wednesday Class Bible/Redemption Survey
<p>He Is Not Here: For He Is Risen (Matt. 28:5-6) As Matthew concludes, he records the death and burial of Christ but also the joyous resurrection. Here we see the empty tomb which forever declares the:</p> <p>1) Reality of Jesus' Death</p> <p>a) He was crucified and had been there. b) Matthew 27 records His trial before Pilate, being mocked of the Romans and the Jews, His crucifixion on the cross, and His burial in the tomb. c) He tried to prepare His disciples for this time (16:21; 20:18-19, 28; 26:2, 28) which was foretold in the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3; Acts 2:22-23; Isa. 53; etc.)</p> <p>2) Reality of Jesus' Resurrection</p> <p>a) He was no longer there, for he was risen, as He had said. b) The tomb was now empty; they had made it as sure as they could (27:65-66) but the grave could not hold Him. c) Again this had been taught by Jesus and was prophesied of (Rom. 1:4; Acts 2:24-32; Ps. 16:8-11).</p> <p>3) Reality of Jesus' Reign</p> <p>a) He was no more to die. Matthew states His resurrection as a fact, Paul goes further in 1 Corinthians 15:4 and indicates He was risen and would continue in that state. b) He was raised to sit on His throne as Lord and Christ forever (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:30-36; 1 Cor. 15:20; Phil. 2:8-11; Heb. 7:24-28; Rev. 1:17-18;). May we continue to weekly commemorate His death (1 Cor. 11:23-26) and daily live changed lives (Rom. 12:1-2).</p>	<p>Eliezer, A Faithful Steward (Genesis 24) Eliezer (Gen. 15:2) may be the servant charged with finding Isaac a wife; as a faithful servant, he received his charge and:</p> <p>1) Took His Responsibilities Seriously (v2-6) - he asked questions and wanted to know what was expected of him. 2) Believed He Could Do It With God (v7-9) - confident that God would bless him as Abraham. (Num. 13:30; 14:8-9) 3) Went To Work (v10) - he set about the task assigned him. 4) Went Into A Far Country (v10) - he was dedicated; it was a difficult task with many unknowns, but he still went. 5) Prayed About The Task (v12-14) - he asked God to bless the specific work he was doing (Heb. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:17). 6) Recognized God's Blessings (v15-21, 27) - he credited God for blessing his work (Acts 14:27). 7) Gave Thanks To God (v26-27) - He not only recognized the blessings but thanked God for them (Col. 4:2; Lk. 17:17). 8) Did Not Leave The Task Half Done (v33) - completed his task without distractions (Matt. 13:22; 1 Cor. 15:58). 9) Praised His Master (33-35) - spoke well of his master. 10) Boldly Stated His Charge (v26-49) - unashamedly stated his business (Acts 4:13; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:15). 11) Had Success From His Humble Service (v50-51) 12) Did Not Allow The Task To Be Hindered (v55-59) - was urgent in completing the task (Gal. 6:9). 13) Gave An Account Of His Stewardship (v66) - one day we will do the same before God (Matt. 25; 2 Cor. 5:10). As stewards of God, are we faithful like Eliezer?</p>