

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 15, 2012

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
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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 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.

ATHENIAN RELIGION

by Tom Wacaster

In their book, *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, Conybeare and Howson have this interesting note:

It [the Greek religion, TW] was a religion which ministered to art and amusement, and was entirely destitute of moral power. Taste was gratified by the bright spectacle to which the Athenian awoke every morning of his life. Excitement was agreeably kept up by festal seasons, gay processions, and varied ceremonies. But all this religious dissipation had no tendency to make him holy. It gave him no victory over himself: it brought him no nearer to God. A religion which addresses itself only to the taste, is as weak as one that appeals only to the intellect. The Greek religion was a mere deification of human attributes and the power of nature...It had no real power to raise him to a higher position than that which he occupied by nature (pages 280-281).

I found that statement to be of interest insofar as it relates to what seems to be taking place in our society. I read somewhere that more than 85% of our population professes some sort of religious faith. The same article pointed out, however, that less than 15% of those surveyed admitted that their religion had any direct bearing upon their lives. In short, their religion is no better than that of the Athenian citizen. There is no real power to transform them into something different, spiritually and morally speaking.

We have all seen the pitiful soul who plays the part of the hypocrite. He has a "form" of religion, but possesses no real substance. James pointed out that "faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:26). It seems that our society has moved ever closer to having the type religion characteristic of the ancient Greeks. Human wisdom is deified, and men today, like those in Athens, spend "their time in nothing else but to either tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). When they have determined some "new thing," they glory in their knowledge, failing to realize that such knowledge just might be wrong. Witness if you will the constant change in our encyclopedias and libraries. Volumes hot off the press today are out-of-date history tomorrow. Knowledge without God is vain, at best. The Greeks placed the emphasis upon that which appealed to the flesh and the gratification of the same. It is really sad to see men today, while professing a sense of religion, failing to control the flesh. In fact, they go so far as to engage in the things of the flesh in the name of religion. The bottom line? Philosophy without application is a dead philosophy, and religion without power to change is useless.



Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

Acts 17:22-23

Greatness Is Not Accidental

By Mike Bonner

In our generation, many desire to be great ones at any and all cost. As a matter of fact many have denounced God, family and even self image to achieve this so called "greatness." But what is greatness? Why is it paramount to us? Why do people want it to come to them without diligence, honest work and dedication?

First we are compelled to define greatness. Greatness means to be significant, enormous, distinguished, exceptional, remarkable, famous, and important and the terms mount up continuously. The term "greatness" actually describes the person, place or thing. Many throughout time have sought to make themselves great on their own merit. Consider the tower of Babel, notice how they wanted to make a name for themselves, "*And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*" (Genesis 11:4). Now we must conclude that these individuals had tenacity, but the wrong motive. They wanted to make themselves great. Conversely, in the next chapter, we're shown how true greatness is obtained. "*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him*" (Genesis 12:1-4a). With our focus on the highlighted words in the verse, it was God that gave a command, it was God who was going to make Abram great, and this was obtained when Abram obeyed in departing his home town.

There is nothing wrong with being great, as long as it is for the correct reason. So many individuals look at greatness as being very important for numerous reasons.

Prestige, exaltation and self esteem could be a few of the multiplicity of reasons why greatness is paramount. Simon the sorcerer was "*giving out that himself was some great one:*" and the people were saying, "*To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying this man is the great power of God*" (Acts 8:9-10). When Simon obeyed the gospel, Peter had to rebuke him for wanting to purchase the Holy Spirit. Maybe he wanted this power for selfish gain, power and prestige? We must conclude that this attitude can be deep seated and must be repented of immediately.

Remember the sons of Zebedee, they approached Jesus desiring to sit on the Lord's right and left hand in glory. The Lord responded with questions, "*Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?*" James and John responded saying "we can...", this arrogant attitude of desiring to be great causing friction among the other disciples (Mark 10:35-39). Notice the reaction to James and John, "*And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John*" (10:41). Having the desire to be great while seeking to leave others out or exalting self before others is the recipe for disaster. The apostle Paul dealt with this pernicious when he was in prison at Rome, there were those who were seeking to cause stress and agony to his chains while preaching Christ (Phil. 1:12-18).

Jesus gave His disciples and the known world the antidote for true greatness towards man and before God. The way up is down, he that humbles himself shall be exalted, but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister. Jesus led the way by humbling Himself to the Father becoming a servant and was made in the likeness of men (Phil. 2:7). Because of His loyalty and dedication to the Father, God highly exalted Him giving Him a name that is above every name. . .every knee should

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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 16

Leviticus 1-6 & Mark 3-4

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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bow and every tongue confess...Jesus is Lord (2:9-11). Greatness was demonstrated by the Lord and God made Him a household name whether or not man obeys Him or not. God put Him on His own right hand because of His obedience to His will.

In conclusion, when man obeys the gospel of Christ, he leaves the life of a sinner and God gives him a new name, "Christian"(Acts 11:26; 26:28). When Christians humble themselves and apply God's word to their lives they're exalted by the Father in due season (I Peter 5:6). When time is over and we are privileged to stand before the throne of God, we'll hear those faithful words of the Lord, "well done thou good and faithful servant, you've been faithful over a few things, I'll make you ruler over many." True greatness takes work and commitment. Let us not be slothful in business, let us not be arrogant thinking we're God's gift to the world. But let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling. **Greatness is not accidental!**

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. Also remember this is the **3rd Sunday** and we will meet for finger foods tonight following the meeting.

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 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
- ◆ Remember our own meeting starts in just 5 weeks on May 20th...please be keeping this effort in your prayers, mark your calendar, and invite friends, relatives, etc.

Harris & Moore — some may now be able to pick up the Harris & Moore weekly radio program on 91.1 FM at 6 PM each Monday.

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: Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates), liquid laundry soap, spray & wash.

Something to think about...

"Our actions spy on us and report our hearts to the world around us." ~Jason Sparks

Compare

And [Jesus] said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

Mark 7:20-23

and

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

When the world looks at us, can they see a heart that is set on God and heavenly things?

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

	April 1, 2012	April 8, 2012
Bible Class	51	54
AM Worship	68	79
PM Worship	40	44
Wednesday PM	28	45
Contribution	\$1528	\$1678

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/15/12	Next Week: 4/22/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	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	Billy & Peggy Chism	Jack & Joyce Hill		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum Jim Moore, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Jim Moore		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Joshua 1:5-9</i>	James Fuller		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 18 Jim Moore	April 25 Don Smith	May 2 Allen Griffith	May 9 Tom Wilcox

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)

<i>Studies for the week of April 15, 2012</i>	Sunday Class Romans 12 Wednesday Class Bible/Redemption Survey
<p>The Gospel of Mark: Portrait of a Servant</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Objective/Perspective: Each of the gospel accounts has a unique appeal; Mark shows Jesus as a perfect Servant of God, possibly appealing to the Roman mindset. Showed Jesus' Service: Shows Jesus constantly busy. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Less about His teaching, more about works/miracles. Roman's wanted to know more about what He did/accomplished than who He was/said. Mark shows an active (6:31), compassionate (6:34), selfless servant of God (10:45; cf. Acts 10:38). Consider: 19 miracles in 16 chapters; words like straightway or immediately occur some 40 times throughout the book. Showed Jesus' Authority: One who could command. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He was not just a servant but a powerful man of action. He is shown to have authority over demons, sickness, death, and nature causing people ask what manner of man He was (4:41). He caused people to be astonished (7x's) and amazed (6x's). He silenced His critics (12:34) Indeed, Mark shows Jesus is the Son of God (1:1); the One who rightfully calls upon us to follow Him (1:14-15; 8:34; 16:15-16). <p>Notes _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>A Leader Like Joshua</p> <p><i>Joshua 24:29-31 is a great tribute to the effectiveness that Joshua had as a leader of God's people. All of us can be leaders in some way and can learn from his example.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> He was a Humble Servant — Showed himself a servant before and after he was a leader (Ex. 24:13; Josh. 4:7, 9ff; 5:13-15; see 1 Tim. 3:10; Mark 10:42-45). He Trusted in God — Demonstrated as a spy/reporter and again at Jericho (Num. 13:25-28; 14:6-9; Josh. 6:1-5; Heb. 11:30; see 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:17; Phil. 4:13; 1 Cor. 3:5). He Revered the Word of God — His success was tied to adhering to God's Word (Josh. 1:7-8); the book of Joshua shows he was ready to follow God at His Word (11:15; 23:6); shown again in the reading of the law (Josh. 8:30-35). See 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Acts 20:20-32; Col. 3:17; 1 Jn 1:7). He Prayed—Prayed for those he led (Josh. 7:6-9); he prayed in the midst of warfare (10:9-14). Paul both prayed for others and requested prayers from them (Rom. 1:9; 1 Thess. 1:2; 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1; Col. 4:2-4). He Was Convicted and Resolute—One could know without a doubt where Joshua stood and he urged others to do the same (24:14-15). See Acts 4:29-31; Rom. 1:15-16; Phil. 1:15-17, 27; 2:15-16; 1 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 3:14-16 <p>Notes _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>