

# 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 22, 2012

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
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

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

## The Rich Fool

By Randall Evans

In Luke 12:13-21 we find the parable of the rich fool. We often notice that this man was called a fool, but seldom do we ask why. Following are some reasons Jesus called this man a fool.

**He thought about the gifts, but not about the Giver.** God is the giver of every blessing (James 1:17). Yet this man gave credit to himself, and not God. The man had an I problem. He said, "I" will do this, and "I" will do that. He was focused on his material wealth, to the exclusion of the Giver of those gifts. Today we are rich in this nation. We must never forget that the blessings we have are from God. Whatever talents we have to earn money are given from God as well. Without Him we would be nothing.

**He thought about himself and forgot about his neighbor.** The rich fool was making plans for all his wealth. He was going to tear down his barns and build greater ones. He was storing up money all for himself. There is no mention of his planning to help anyone else. Today we must be willing to share our wealth to help others. First John 3:17 says, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" Let us remember the Words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Look for someone in need, and help him or her, sharing the blessings God has given you.

**He thought about his body and forgot about his soul.** The rich fool had great plans to nourish himself physically. He was going to eat, drink, and be merry, but what about his spiritual condition? It seems he had no concern for those things spiritual. Let us realize that our physical bodies will decay and wax old, while our souls are eternal. As Christians we should make those things spiritual a priority over those things physical.

**He thought about life and forgot about death.** The rich fool was not concerned about death at all. How could he have been? He was too busy making plans for all he was going to do with his money. It seems that he thought he was going to live forever. But the sobering words of God rang in this man's ears when He said, "Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" What is the lesson for us? Our lives are short at best (James 4:14), and death is certain (Hebrews 9:27). With this in view, we should lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven instead of treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19-21).

*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*



# I Said Nothing

By Wade Webster

Robert Benchley once remarked, “Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.”

No matter how great your vocabulary may be. Sometimes, the right thing to say is to say nothing.

**First, if you cannot speak with purity, the best thing that you can say, no matter how large your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** We read, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Eph. 4:29).

**Second, if you cannot speak with sweetness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how rich your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** We read, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: But be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:29, 31-32).

**Third, if you cannot speak with grace, the best thing that you can say, no matter how full your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** Paul wrote, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye

may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6).

**Fourth, if you cannot speak with self-control, the best thing that you can say, no matter how full your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** We read, “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth (Col. 3:8).

**Fifth, if you cannot speak with truthfulness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how huge your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** We read, “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds (Col. 3:9).

**Sixth, if you cannot speak with love, the best thing to say, no matter how big your vocabulary may be, is nothing.** Paul wrote, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Eph. 4:15).

Obviously, I could go on and on. However, I believe that you get my point. Let’s make sure that what we say is what it needs to be. If it isn’t, the best thing that we can do is to say nothing.

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## The Nature of the New Testament Church

By Wendell Winkler

Body of Christ — we are united (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Temple of God — we worship (Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Kingdom of God — we are obedient citizens (Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 2:19)

Vineyard of the Lord — we work (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 3:9)

Bride of Christ — we live lives of purity (Ephesians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 11:2)

Family of God — we love as brethren (1 Timothy 3:15; John 13:35; 15:12)

Fold of God — we follow the Shepherd (Acts 20:28; John 10:14)

Army of God — we fight for the “right” (Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)

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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 17

#### Leviticus 7-12 & Mark 5-6

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)



## Sails and Anchors

By Bill McFarland

I've heard it said in several ways. An old seaman said a worthy ship had to have both great sails and a strong anchor. A family counselor writes that it is the task of parents to give their children both roots so that they will know who they are and wings so they can soar to heights of accomplishment. An auto maker stresses both the power of a car's engine and the safety of its steering and brakes.

In each case the point is the same. Things that work in life have on the one hand energy and imagination and enthusiasm, and on the other hand something which guides and controls them.

It's true in the live of every individual. A person needs the spark of hopes and dreams and aspirations. He needs also a solid foundation of convictions and principles and faith. Where either of these is missing, the person's life suffers.

It's also true for the church. A congregation must be grounded solidly on Christ and what His word says. But it also needs high purposes and goals which inspire it to action and guide its work. Without the former it will lose sight of the truth and get off track; without the latter it will lose interest and die on the vine.

There is no joy in being securely dead. Neither is there any merit in being in a hurry to crash. Our aim must ever be to accomplish great things for our Lord while standing firmly upon His word.

### Something to think about...

"There is a Chinese parable about faith and feeling:

Fact, Faith, and Feeling are three men walking along the top of a wall. As long as Faith keeps his eyes on Fact, ahead of him, all three keep walking. But when Faith takes his eyes off Fact and turns around to worry about how Feeling is doing, both Faith and Feeling fall off the wall. (But Fact never does.)"

### 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 **18 contacts** were made.

### Game Night

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

### Upcoming Meetings:

- ◆ 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 4 weeks on May 20th with Wayne Jones...please be keeping this effort in your prayers, mark your calendar, and invite friends, relatives, etc.
- ◆ Also the **Summer Youth Series** will be starting in just over a month...that schedule is now on the bulletin board. This year's theme is *Ecclesiastes: Lessons From A Wise Man*.



**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:** Canned Tomatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Picante Sauce, Sweetened Cereals, Pop Tarts, Jelly.

## 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 8, 2012	April 15, 2012
Bible Class	54	51
AM Worship	79	65
PM Worship	44	46
Wednesday PM	45	38
Contribution	\$1678	\$1626

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 4/22/12		Next Week: 4/29/12		<b>April 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Charles White  <b>May 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Garrett Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Don & Darlene Smith <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jim Moore
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	Lead Singing: James Fuller		
<b>Greeters</b>	Jack & Joyce Hill	The Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Billy Chism		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller <i>Hebrews 8:1-8</i>	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 25 Don Smith	May 2 Allen Griffith	May 9 Tom Wilcox	May 16 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of April 22, 2012</b>		Sunday Class ..... Romans 12-13	Wednesday Class ..... Bible/Redemption Survey
<p><b>Why Jesus Taught In Parables</b>                      Mark 4:30 gives a good definition of parables: likenesses or comparisons of one thing to another. Jesus was a master at using common/understood things to teach spiritual truths.                      So why did He use this method of teaching so often?</p> <p>1) <b>Fulfill Prophecy</b> (Matthew 13:34-35; Psalm 78:1-2)</p> <p>2) <b>Reveal Truth</b> (Mark 4:2, 9, 11, 33-34; Matthew 13:9-11, 16-17) — Jesus wanted them to hear and wanted them to understand, even going so far as to explain what the parables meant to those who would listen.</p> <p>a) <b>Preserve Truth</b> — easily retained in their minds because they used objects/events they were familiar with (farmer, coins, sheep, lamps, workers, etc.).</p> <p>b) <b>Present Truth</b> — not only easily understood, but presented in such a way that one acknowledges the truth and then make application to himself. (ex. 2 Sam. 12:1-13; 1 Kings 20:38-43; Lk. 10:25-37; Matt. 25:1-13; etc. - cf. Matt. 21:28-46—understood but did not change)</p> <p>3) <b>Conceal Truth</b> (Mark 4:11-12; Matt. 13:10-15) — That is Jesus taught in such a way that those who did not wish to know the truth He presented would miss it. They could seek the truth and find it, but they chose not to and this to their own destruction. Fulfilled Isaiah prophecy—6:9-10)  <i>The teachings of Jesus continued to amaze the people (Matt. 13:54, 7:28-29) but sadly only the common people heard Him gladly (Mark 12:37), many others rejected. The same truths are still spoken today and still received the same reception.</i></p>	<p><b>Let Us... (Part 1; Hebrews)</b>                      The writer primarily addresses a Jewish audience and encourages them against apostasy. They are in danger of falling away, specifically falling back into Judaism.                      He shows the supremacy of Christ and the Christian system and urges the readers then to continue on with renewed effort.                      Consider the book through his 13 "let us" exhortations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>...therefore fear... (4:1)</b> - having highlighted the salvation that is available in Christ, he urges us to continue in a fear of God. This is contrasted to the unbelief of the Jews and is the start of a right understanding (10:31; Prov. 1:7; Matt. 10:28).</li> <li>2. <b>... labor therefore to enter into that rest... (4:11)</b> - rather than stopping short, they needed to continue on until they reached their eternal goal (10:4; Rev. 2:10; 14:13).</li> <li>3. <b>...hold fast our profession. (4:14)</b> - it was only by remaining faithful in Christ they would reach that rest; they needed to be reassured of who they served (John 14:6; Acts 4:12, 1:9; Heb. 1:3).</li> <li>4. <b>...therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace... (4:16)</b> - in whatever they were enduring, the only place they needed to turn or could turn was Christ, our merciful high priest (2:14-18, 10:19; 1 Pet. 5:6-11).</li> <li>5. <b>...go on unto perfection... (6:1)</b> - they had failed to mature (5:11-12); they must leave behind the first principles and be grounded in Christ, the only place of hope (6:6; Eph. 4:4). If they will, they are assured victory (6:10-12) based on God's faithfulness and salvation provided in Christ (6:13ff, 7:22).</li> </ol>		