

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 29, 2012

Contact Us:

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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.

How Firm A Foundation?

By Jeremy Sprouse

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is an architectural wonder meant to be a monument to the glory of God, but primarily it is the flaw that is remembered. In 1173, the third story was completed and the tower began to lean to the North due to a meager 3 meter foundation resting on weak soil. 100 years later, four more stories were built at an angle in attempt to right the tower. This, however, only made the tower tilt the other way. Stories continued to be added trying to compensate for the tilt, but the tower only took on a slight banana-like curve and the tilt remained. Nothing has been able to completely compensate for the tower's bad foundation. In the same way, many Christians who ought to be monuments to the glory of God have flaws in their spiritual lives due to an improper foundation. Nothing will compensate—not adding this or altering that. There are certain foundations that just will not work.



First, a foundation built on our emotions will not work. Many have built the foundation for their life on themselves—on what they think and feel is right—not knowing this is the path of destruction (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, Jeremiah 10:23) and foolishness (Proverbs 28:26). Emotions are an ever shifting sand that cannot be trusted (Jeremiah 17:9). One day life is great, the next day it can seem miserable. Emotions have led people into bad relationships, bad business decisions, and into thousands of dollars of credit card debt. The fact is, if we make decisions on our emotions alone, we make bad decisions. Instead, we must build upon the words of Jesus—not just hearing and knowing, but putting them into practice (Matthew 7:24-27). If we base our life on anything else, we have built our lives on the sand.

Second, a foundation built on man's knowledge will not work. In Colossians 2:8, we are warned not to be taken captive by philosophy, persuasive arguments, man's tradition, and the principles of this world. There is no stability to be found in man's knowledge. One minute what they proclaim is good for you is the worst thing for you the next (take the "incredible, edible egg" as an example). Man's knowledge is meager, fickle, and rife with prejudice. It is childish to base our lives on it and we will just be tossed here and there by man's opinion (Ephesians 4:14-15). How can there be any stability when there is no absolute, unchanging truth? How can there be knowledge when our Creator is not acknowl-

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Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things
the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 5:19

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edged? How can there be wisdom when what's contrary to nature is just an alternate lifestyle (Romans 1:26-27)? How can life be precious when a child's life is merely a mother's whim? There is only one truth that will set us free and bring us to the Father's house (John 8:31-23, 14:6). We must firmly root ourselves in Christ and walk in His ways (Colossians 2:6-7).

Third, a foundation built on faithless religion will not work. Many are holding to a form of godliness, but they have denied its power (2 Timothy 3:5). They searched out a religion that tells them what they want to hear and makes them feel good—they have based their lives on myths (2 Timothy 4:3-4). They say the Bible is inspired, but that it is not our instruction book. They have chosen to sear their consciences and live as hypocrites (1 Timothy 4:1-3). They call Jesus Lord but they do not do what He says (Matthew 7:21-23) and do not love Him (John 14:6). In reality, they didn't really believe God had the solutions for their lives, so they just pretend while they are really following man's knowledge and their own thoughts and feelings. We must look to God for the wisdom to live our lives fully knowing He has the solutions to our problems (James 1:5-8).

There is only one foundation we can build our lives upon if we want to stand straight and true—Jesus. Our emotions, logic, deepest thoughts, and worldly knowledge cannot enable us to live pleasing to God, we must follow His instructions. Empty words and faith will not help. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

How to React in Unsettling Times

By Sam Willcut

As we look around us and view world events, we realize that times are certainly unsettling. Even on one hand to be a citizen of the greatest country in the world, it does not change the fact that on the other hand, our society within America is morally and spiritually falling apart and indications show it moving further and further away from God. In spite of the best of efforts of Christians, we are facing the reality that the vast majority care not for God or the blessings associated with the church of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 7:13-14). Therefore, how are we to react in these unsettling times?

I recall a statement that Jesus made to His Jewish disciples in their own circumstances of unsettling times. In Mark 13, He was forewarning them of events that would take place less than forty years in the future—a horribly violent time when the Roman Empire would destroy the city of Jerusalem. He refers to this act with the term "*abomination of desolation*" (Mark 13:14—sounds horrible, does it not?) and points from the prophecy of Daniel to its fulfillment. Just casually read through this chapter, and you will hear many things that show an unsettling situation. In the midst of this, and in view of our own impending Judgment Day forthcoming, Jesus said, "*Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is*" (Mark 13:33). We may see the unsettling nature of the approaching Judgment Day with the clarifying words, "...*for ye know not when the time is,*" just as He also mentioned in the preceding verse (Mark 13:32).

In the first place, He begins with the words, "*Take ye heed....*" It comes from a single Greek verb that indicates the act of beholding and taking caution. It very often renders itself with the idea of looking. Thus, it is as if Jesus is encouraging them, "Stop! Open your eyes!" Other places render it as, "*Beware!*" (cf. Mark 8:15; 12:38; Phil. 3:2; Col. 2:8). As a matter of fact, Mark uses this word five times in this chapter alone. Therefore, we cannot close our eyes to what is ongoing around us. This is not a time to get "tunnel vision." We cannot afford to act as ostriches with our heads buried in the sand, completely oblivious to what is happening in the world. The very first reaction from us is to become aware of what is happening, because the very first step in falling to deception is when we close our eyes to what is happening (cf. Matt. 24:4).

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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 18

Leviticus 13-18 & Mark 7-8

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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Second, Jesus continues with the encouragement to watch. It was not enough to open their eyes momentarily, but they were to keep them open. The term literally means, "Do not fall asleep!" What a wonderful encouragement we gain in one of the few occasions we see this term when the Hebrew writer states of elders, "...for they watch for your souls" (Heb. 13:17). In other words, elders never fall asleep at their watch when it comes to their role of shepherding the flock, because the moment they fall asleep, this is when wolves will sneak in and devour the sheep. Pertaining to our discussion of how we are to react in unsettling times, because of the unsettling nature of these times, we cannot afford to fall asleep at the wheel! We must not only open our eyes, but keep them open and avoid falling asleep!

Third, we react in unsettling times through prayer. Mrs. MA Kidder wrote,

When you met with great temptation, did you think to pray? When sore trials came upon you, did you think to pray? When your soul was bowed in sorrow, Balm of Gideon did you borrow at the gates of day? O, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day; so when life seems dark and dreary, don't forget to pray.

By the encouragement of our Lord to pray, He was encouraging His disciples to stay near to God. Through His admonition to pray, He was encouraging His disciples to rely upon God and realize their need for Him! So many times in difficult and trying situations, we throw up our hands and turn our backs on God. However, whenever we face these unsettling times, we evermore need to pray!

Therefore, as we may face unsettling times, Jesus provides us with the encouragement to react in the proper way—become aware of what is happening, stay alert and focused so that proper preparations may be in order, and "pray without ceasing" (cf. 1 Thess. 5:17).

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 **28 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ◆ April 29-May 2 — Meeting at San Angelo with Barry Grider
- ◆ Remember our own meeting starts in just 3 weeks on May 20th with Wayne Jones...please be keeping this effort in your prayers, mark your calendar, and invite friends, relatives, etc. **Flyers are now out at the back of the auditorium.**
- ◆ 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: Shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant. *Please drop off any items by Wednesday night.*

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (05), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd (14), Kami Hardy (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peg Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Ryan Smithey (23), Gracen Hardy (30).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	April 15, 2012	April 22, 2012
Bible Class	51	48
AM Worship	65	60
PM Worship	46	39
Wednesday PM	38	32
Contribution	\$1626	\$1507

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/29/12	Next Week: 5/6/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	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	The Maninger Family	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum	Gene Bannister*, Ken Maninger Allen Griffith, James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith <i>Hebrews 12:25-29</i>	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 2 Allen Griffith	May 9 Tom Wilcox	May 16 Garrett Barnum	May 23 Gospel Meeting

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 29, 2012	Sunday Class Romans 12-13 Wednesday Class Bible/Redemption Survey
<p>Strange Fire (Leviticus 10:1) <i>Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, were destroyed by fire from God when they transgressed God's will concerning their worship...from this account we can learn some important lessons.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We should offer that which is commanded (v1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strange fire indicates that which is foreign or profane, that which had not been authorized by God. While they were priests and authorized to offer these sacrifices, they failed to obey God's will in carrying them out. They need to serve as a reminder that God expects His will to be followed (John 14:6; Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17; John 4:24). Deviating from what God has authorized will not be pleasing to Him (Lk 6:46). When He spells out His will concerning salvation, worship, and Christian living, then these are not things that are subject to man's will. We should offer that which sanctifies and glorifies God (v3) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Man's purpose is to obey the will of God and in so doing glorify Him (Eccl. 12:13; Matt. 5:16); but these two men failed to do so in the eyes of Israel. They needed to differentiate between what was common and what was not and teach the people so (v10-11). We need to remember that we cannot supplant the wisdom of God with our own and bring glory to God (Isa. 55:8, Jer. 10:23; Matt. 15:8-9, Col. 2:23). <p><i>Free Sermon! Mk 5:19: Jesus gives us a pattern for evangelism that everyone can do (no great knowledge, expense, or travel)... tell those about us what great things the Lord has done for us!</i></p>	<p>PM: Guest Speaker, Jeremy Sprouse</p> <p>Once again it is the 5th Sunday of the month and so we are doing our typical preachers swap between some of the area congregations. Tonight I will be traveling to the Patrick Street congregation in Dublin to preach and visit with the brethren there. In my place their "new" preacher, Jeremy Sprouse, will be traveling here to preach and I hope you enjoy getting to meet him and his family. Jeremy moved to Dublin in October of this past year to begin working with the Patrick Street congregation along with his wife, Erynn, and their four boys, Jaden, Isaiah, Isaac, and Ean. In addition they are expecting their 5th boy in a few months.</p> <p>Jeremy is a graduate of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. While I have not gotten to hear him preach, he is an excellent writer and maintains a blog titled <i>A Preacher's Study</i> (http://jeremysprouse.wordpress.com) which not only has sermons and articles he has done but he is currently posting an excellent series called <i>A Proverb for the Day</i>. For the ladies, Erynn also keeps busy with numerous works. She has spoken on a number of ladies' days and also maintains a blog and weekly podcast titled <i>Come Fill Your Cup</i> (http://comefillyourcup.com). If you have access to the internet, make sure and check out those resources as I am sure you will benefit from them.</p> <p>We look forward to being back with you on Wednesday night as we continue our study of Redemption Through The Bible. Have a great week.</p>