

# 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



May 13, 2012

## Contact Us:

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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.

## REAL PEOPLE – REAL HEROS

By Jason R. Roberts

One of the most appealing qualities of the Bible is the realistic way in which it presents the lives of God's people. This fascinating—but not surprising—principle tucked away in the scriptures is yet another compelling proof that the sacred Book in our possession could not be the product of *mere* man, but rather a Divine document of inspired Truth (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Unlike many resource volumes that deal strictly with theory, the Bible presents to us huge doses of reality. It's not that there is no idealism in scripture, but invariably where there is it is balanced well with realism. It is the purpose of this article to show the realistic portrait of God's people painted on the sacred canvas of the scriptures.

### THE TENDENCY TO BE BIASED

It is common for human authors to write with a *partial* pen. A typical newspaper in America validates this truth. Further, those who write biographies of famous people they deeply admire, tend to exaggerate the good qualities of that person and gloss over their mistakes. One would expect this concept to be present in the lives of the Bible writers if they wrote without a supernatural agency in the production of their documents, but it's not. Their presentation of the lives of God's people is fair and balanced, revealing both their triumphs and tragedies with equal clarity.

### THE NATION OF ISRAEL

The nation of Israel was God's chosen people—"the apple of His eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10). His passionate love and care for His people is beautifully threaded throughout the Old Testament (See Deuteronomy 7:6-9). Time and time again, God is pictured as their "deliverer" through the hands of others (Judges 3:9, 15). God protects them from innumerable enemies throughout their history. He graciously provided for their physical and spiritual needs: (1) *He gave them a leader* (Exodus 3), (2) *He gave them a law* (Exodus 20) and (3) *He gave them a land* (Joshua 10-22). The Old Testament writers do not hesitate in chronicling Israel's celebrated victories (which were many). When Israel obeyed, they were blessed, and the Bible writers did not pause and consider whether or not they should preserve it in the Bible for man's reading.

Interestingly, the same God Who mentioned Israel's obedient spirit, via the Holy Spirit, doesn't hide from us the truth of their sinfulness, their failures, and their outright rebellion. Ezekiel wrote, "But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they rejected mine ordinances . . ." (Ezekiel 20:13). The "apple of His eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10) had

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Happy Mothers Day! Today and always let us:

Honour thy father and mother;  
(which is the first commandment with promise;)

Ephesians 6:2



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now become the object of His wrath. Ezekiel continues. "...Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to consume them" (Ezekiel 20:13). The point is both the positive and negative sides of Israel are set forth realistically for all of us to see. The principle of realism is vividly seen as God speaks of the nation Israel.

### NOAH

The Bible also presents individual men and women who are people of great courage. He shows them standing alone at times against the sinful current of their day. As we see their lives decorating the pages of the Bible, we are somewhat taken back by their uncompromising character. We applaud their courage and conviction. However, the Bible never hedges in revealing their scars. Their tragic mistakes appear in the Bible without hesitation and without an apology. Noah is a case in point.

In Genesis 6, we learn that the wickedness of man had reached a certain level; that the sands in God's hourglass of judgment, were on the verge of running out. Consequently, a Divine decision was made to destroy man from the face of the earth (Genesis 6:1-7). However, there was one man whose righteousness set him apart. His name was Noah, who "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). This "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5) proclaimed a message of repentance and judgment to the antediluvians, and between his sermons, he constructed the Ark as God had directed him. We are impressed as we picture him hammering away on that Ark, against all odds that it would ever rain. We are further impressed with his persistence for well over a century, a persistence that finally paid off. However, only a short time after the flood we see him in a shameful condition of drunkenness, and we are somewhat embarrassed by what we see (Genesis 9:20-24). God's Word shows us both sides of Noah's life with no apology offered for the blemish that stained his character.

### DAVID

The selection of Israel's second Monarch was a com-

plete surprise to everyone (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Soon thereafter, we see the young lad standing alone and fighting the mighty Goliath (1 Samuel 17). We stand in awe as we observe David's determination to stand up for God, even against the intimidations hurled at him from Saul and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:33, 42-44). We are further impressed as we see him described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; cf. Acts 13:22); the only man in the Bible privileged to wear such a lofty title.

The same Bible that reveals to us the heroic actions of this man after God's own heart doesn't hesitate in revealing to us a deep scar carved across that same heart—his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11; see vv. 9-14). Like two posts on a car battery, the Bible presents both the positive and negative sides of the illustrious King's life. Truly the Bible doesn't hide the scars of its heroes.

### SAUL OF TARSUS

The unbiased record of the lives of God's people didn't cease with Malachi's pen; the principle is graphically depicted in the New Testament as well. Saul of Tarsus (who later became Paul) is a classic example. After the death of Stephen (Acts 7:59-60) "Saul was consenting unto his death" (Acts 8:1). At that time the Jerusalem church experienced a great persecution and the first recorded Christian martyr is laid to rest (8:2) As for Saul, he made havoc of the church by putting its members in prison (8:3). At this point, the reckless and ruthless Saul has no idea of the great plan that God has for his life, a plan which started to unfold in Acts 9. Upon his conversion in the city of Damascus, the once *militant persecutor* of Christians became a *mighty proclaimer* of the gospel of Christ. The record says, "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogue, that He is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20). About twenty years later, Saul (now Paul) describes his life to the young Timothy in these telling words:

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath

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Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p> <p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p><b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p><b>Week 20</b> <b>Leviticus 25-Numbers 3 &amp; Mark 11-12</b></p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p> <p><i>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



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enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. Who was before a blasphemer and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:12-15).

Here is an interesting question. Would a mere human author describe his dark past in such graphic terminology, as Paul did to Timothy, knowing that his words would be forever etched in the scriptures for generations to read? Hardly!

The same man who had such an evil past went on to become one of the most zealous proclaimers of the truth the world has ever known. This same hater of Christianity was privileged to travel the world as a mighty missionary for God and was selected to pen at least thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books.

One of the greatest men in the Bible had both his strengths and weaknesses laid open for all to see. One thing is certain, when it comes to covering man's mistakes and making him appear more suitable to the public eye, God is not in the embalming business. He shows us everything.

### SIMON PETER

If ever a Bible character existed, who rode the spiritual roller-coaster of life it would have to be Simon Peter. One moment he's out front, sword drawn, and ready to fight, and the next moment the coward cannot be found. One moment we see him in Jerusalem proclaiming the gospel with the eleven apostles (Acts 2). Eight to ten years later, he unprejudicially proclaims the gospel to the household of Cornelius (See Acts 10:34-35). Years later, he is sternly rebuked by the apostle Paul for his blatant hy-

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### 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 **27 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Meeting

- ◆ Remember **our meeting starts next Sunday, May 20 with Wayne Jones!** Please be keeping this effort in your prayers, mark your calendar, and invite friends, relatives, etc. **Flyers are out at the back of the auditorium.**
- ◆ For our meeting, on **Sunday, May 20th we will have a potluck lunch** following the morning worship in place of our normal 3rd Sunday finger food dinner. We would love to have everyone stay and bring plenty for any guests that we have.
- ◆ Also on **Wednesday, May 23** we will have a **class at 11 AM** followed by a **baked potato and salad lunch.** There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the auditorium to make sure we get everything covered...please sign and indicate what you plan on bringing if you are coming.
- ◆ Finally we also plan on having **finger foods, sandwiches, etc. on Monday and Tuesday night following the meeting** in the fellowship hall. This gives us further time to visit together and with Wayne and his family as well as any visitors that are in. We would love to have you join us if you can as this is always and enjoyable time. Again a number of guests may stay so if you are coming please bring plenty for your number and extra guests.



## 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 29, 2012	May 6, 2012
Bible Class	48	41
AM Worship	62	64
PM Worship	53	43
Wednesday PM	36	31
Contribution	\$1483	\$1747

# Privileged To Serve

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

	<b>This Week: 5/13/12</b>	<b>Next Week: 5/20/12</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	<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>June 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey	
<b>Greeters</b>	James & Cindy Fuller	Charles & Bennie White		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, John Barnum	Jim Moore*, Allen Griffith John Barnum, Garrett Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Matthew Churchwell	Billy Chism		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Jim Moore <i>1 Peter 3:8-13</i>	Garrett Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 16 Garrett Barnum	May 23 Gospel Meeting	May 30 James Fuller	May 6 Jim Moore

# 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 May 13, 2012</b>	Sunday Class ..... Jim Moore Wednesday Class ..... Is The Bible From God (DVD)
<p><i>(Continued from page 3)</i></p> <p>pocrisy and prejudiced heart (Galatians 2:11-14). Again, God's Word shows both sides.</p> <p>In that great discourse between Jesus and His apostles, as recorded in Matthew 16, we find Peter standing alone against the people of his day and even against some of the disciples as he triumphantly declares to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16). We applaud his willingness to take a stand for His Master and Lord, but only in a matter of months, we see this same Peter hovering around a fire, denying that he even knows the One Who is to be crucified (Luke 22:54-60). That's realism!</p> <p><b>CONCLUSION</b></p> <p>The evidence for the inspiration of the Bible is abundant. Certainly one of those evidences is the unbiased record of the lives of God's people. Their great faith and moments of great failure appear in the Bible with equal clarity. The Bible writers never once apologized for documenting the embarrassing and dark chapters in the lives of God's heroes. They couldn't, because they were guided by a hand much greater than their own: a hand that was certainly not composed of flesh and blood (2 Peter 1:20-21).</p>	<p><b>AM: Allen Griffith / PM: Bryan Makuta</b></p> <p>My family enjoyed a wonderful time in San Marcos last week at the Focal Point preacher's workshop hosted by the University congregation. This has always been an encouraging and challenging week geared at strengthening the preacher and then by extension the local congregation. I appreciate the congregation allowing us the time to be out and attend that event; it helps more than I can express.</p> <p>Sadly we are off again and will miss being with you this week. We came in long enough to wash our clothes and head back out! We are in Marlin, TX this week beginning a meeting with the Ward Street congregation today dealing with the topic "Revive Us Again: Strengthening the Local Church". I am sure we will enjoy being with the brethren there but will look forward to being back with you next Sunday and beginning our own meeting here on "Fortifying the Family". I hope you are anticipating that event as well.</p> <p>Thank you again to the elders and members here for these opportunities that not only help me and my family but I believe help our work here as well. Also thanks to those who have helped during my absence, particularly Jim Moore and Allen Griffith filling-in this morning, James Fuller for making sure the Wednesday class runs well, and to Bryan Makuta who will be preaching, I believe, for the first time tonight. He is no stranger to almost all of you and I hope that you will enjoy getting to hear him and will encourage him.</p>