

# 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 27, 2012

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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 Transformation in Conversion

By Sam Willcut

The Bible refers to the process of salvation also as a process of conversion. As a matter of fact, Jesus refers to the process of becoming His disciple in the same way. In Matthew 18:3, Jesus stated, "Verily I say unto you, 'Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.'" He alluded to the fact that forgiveness of sins was a condition He based upon the conversion of heart (cf. Matt. 13:15; Mark 4:12; John 12:40; Acts 28:27). In Acts 3:19, Peter preaches to the gathered crowd in Jerusalem, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." James closes his epistle, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (Jas. 5:19-20). Let us notice this transformation process with regards to what humanity needs to do in response to the gracious offer of salvation that Jesus has made possible through His offering on Calvary.

Faith changes our focus. By the very nature of faith, it shows that our focus is not on ourselves, but our focus is God. It pronounces our trust in God (cf. Rom. 4:3). It demonstrates our belief in Jesus (John 8:24). Thus, it signifies that we place our focus completely on God. Hebrews 11 (the Hall of Faith) provides this evidence concerning every faithful man and woman that the Hebrew writer lists. One by one, we see their focus. Abel focused his sacrifice to being righteous with God. In a world where many were focusing their walk in other ways, Enoch focused on walking with God. Noah focused his obedience to God. Abraham focused his travels on fulfilling the will of God. The same is true with us. The focus of our faith is the gospel of Jesus Christ (cf. Rom. 10:10-17).

Repentance changes our mind. From our introduction, the very definition of the term "convert" indicates a process of turning, and repentance involves a turning of our mind. The apostle Paul wrote, "As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor. 7:9-10, ESV). We may see one of the classic examples of repentance in the prodigal son when "he came to himself" and said, "I will arise and go to my father, and

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*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits:*

*Psalm 103:1-2*



# Fighting Giants

By Steve Higginbotham

Did you know that the Old Testament character David fought a giant? You may say, "Well of course I do. Nearly everyone knows that, right?" Well, while it is true that most people know about David's battle with a giant named Goliath, few people remember his battle with Ishbi-benob, Goliath's brother. This battle is recorded in 2 Samuel 21.

However, this battle wasn't nearly as glorious as David's encounter with Goliath. It was nothing as dramatic as five stones and a sling against a fully armed warrior. No, this time were it not for a friend of David who came to his rescue, this giant would have killed David.

What can we learn from this all but forgotten story in the Bible? Well several things. Consider...

- ◆ Past victories don't get us through our present battles.
- ◆ Our adversary isn't impressed by our reputation.
- ◆ The fact that you have done battle with a giant in the past and been victorious doesn't mean you won't have other giants to battle in your future, which have the potential to destroy you.

Vigilant is the word that describes what we should be. Give thanks to God for the "giants" you've slain in the past, and seek his help for the "giants" in your future you've yet to face.

# Fighting But Not Striving

By Tom Moore

Throughout the epistles of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus there is a very prominent theme of soldiers fighting for Christ and opposing Satan and his angels. Paul charged the young preacher, Timothy, to "war a good warfare" (1 Tim. 1:18), to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:16), and encourages him to be a "good soldier of Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). Paul, in his farewell address, declared, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Clearly, fighting for the cause of Christ should be the desire of every faithful Christian.

Interestingly, though, in 2 Timothy 2:23-24, Paul tells Timothy not to engage in gender strife – but to be gentle. Is it possible for us to fight for Christ, and yet, not engage in gender strife and be gentle? I believe we can and must, and briefly, I would like to suggest something for us to think about as we go about to accomplish this vitally important task.

I believe there are two types of fighting in which men find themselves involved. There are those, on the one hand, who fight with reckless abandon, who jump into a situation without thinking, having no regard for the innocent parties involved. Their job is to accomplish the task no matter what. Then there are those who keep a cool head while in the midst of fighting, those who are aware of the innocent parties involved and try to keep them from being hurt. This is the type of person who will not drop an "atomic bomb" when a "hand grenade" would have easily done the job.

I believe when Paul says, "fight" and then later says "don't strive, but be gentle," he was pointing out that when one fights for the Lord he must have the proper attitude, purpose, and method. We do not want to have the attitude of some, it seems, whose attitude declares, "Let me at that false teacher so I can rip his eye balls out!" Is this person's motive or purpose what it should be?

We are to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3) – we are to fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 1:18), but at the same time we are to do so with the purpose of saving souls. "Seek and destroy missions" have no place in Christianity, but we are to "seek and save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). We must "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). "If any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins" (Jam. 5:19-20).

## 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 22

### Numbers 10-15 & Mark 15-16

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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will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants” (Luke 15:17-19). Thus, repentance changes our mind from living as we want to living as God desires because we develop a conviction based upon godly sorrow.

Confession changes our allegiance. “...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:10). What is it that we confess? In this case, we confess what we believe in our heart (Rom. 10:9)! That is, we confess that we have switched allegiances! Confession is that courageous confirmation that we desire to follow Jesus Christ. When Philip prompted the Ethiopian eunuch concerning his allegiance regarding his faith, the eunuch announced, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). Far too many Christian martyrs have died for verbally demonstrating such allegiance.

Baptism changes our state. As Paul reveals in Romans 6, when we are submerged into the watery grave of baptism, we are demonstrating that we have crucified our old man of sin (cf. Gal. 2:20), but as we come up from the water, we experience a spiritual rebirth (cf. John 3:3-5; Tit. 3:5). We are in a new state—we begin to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17). It is because the blood of Jesus washes our sins away in the process of baptism that we understand the change of state before and after baptism (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5).

Therefore, through our response of faith, repentance, confession and baptism, we change our focus, our mind and our allegiance, and thus, God changes our state from one unsaved to one whom God saves or from non-Christian to Christian. Here is the transformation in conversion!

### 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.

### News & Notes

- ◆ Congratulations to **Jonathan Fuller** and **John Greer** who graduated from Brownwood High School this past Friday.
- ◆ Thanks to everyone who helped make our recent gospel meeting a great success. We had great attendance and positive feedback.
- ◆ I hope you can join us this Wednesday night as **Ron Brown**, a missionary in China, is to join us and tell us about the work that he has been doing in that country.
- ◆ Remember that the **Summer Youth Series** starts a week from Tuesday. The first one is hosted by Bangs on Tuesday, June 5 beginning at 7 PM with Jason Rollo speaking.
- ◆ There is a new update from **Rohan Jones** on the bulletin board in the back concerning their work in South Africa.
- ◆ New editions of **House to House** are available at the back of the auditorium. Please use these materials for your own study and also consider passing them along to others who will benefit from them as well.

Records	May 13, 2012	May 20, 2012
Bible Class	42	54
AM Worship	61	68
PM Worship	47	56
Monday PM	N/A	70
Tuesday PM	N/A	106
Wednesday AM	N/A	30
Wednesday PM	26	70
Contribution	\$1542	\$1497

## 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...

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/27/12	Next Week: 6/3/12		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	Lead Singing: James Fuller	<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>	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kalich		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Garrett Barnum	James Thomas		
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum	Hank Wheeler*, Garrett Barnum Gene Bannister, Tom Wilcox		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	John Barnum		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Matthew Churchwell		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox <i>Philippians 4:6-9</i>	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 30 James Fuller	June 6 Jim Moore	June 13 Don Smith	June 20 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of May 27, 2012</b>	Sunday Class ..... Romans 14 Wednesday Class..... Ron Brown, Guest Speaker/Missionary
<p><b>God's Guidance (Num. 9:15-23)</b>                      As Israel prepares to leave Mount Sinai, they are reminded that they don't face their journey alone. God will be with them all the way as represented by the cloud by day and the fire by night. This should serve as a constant reminder of:</p> <p><b>1) God's Care</b></p> <p>a) He had not left them alone at any time, they could always look and see this reminder (v16; Num. 14:14).</p> <p>b) But neither has He left us alone (1 Pet. 3:12, 5:6-7; Heb. 13:5-6; Ps. 139); no matter the difficulties we face in life, we don't have to question the faithfulness of God.</p> <p><b>2) God's Direction</b></p> <p>a) Not just was He with, He was guiding them. He was reminding them He was the leader of His people and they were not to rely on human wisdom.</p> <p>b) Even so today we are not left without instruction (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2, 2:1-4); just as they were to follow God's instructions, so are we (Col. 3:17; John 12:48; 1 John 3:4; 2 John 1:9); we do so by turning to His guide-book, the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17).</p> <p><b>3) God's Expectation</b></p> <p>a) The cloud/fire was not just there as a suggestion. God expected them to watch it and to follow it.</p> <p>b) We too must remember that God's Word is more than a suggestion book. We are to watch/stay in in readiness (Mark 13:32-37; 1 Thess. 5:1-6) and go/stop as He commands (Matt. 7:21-24; Rev. 22:14).</p>	<p><b>Remember (2 Peter 1)</b>                      We are overwhelmed with information in our lives but there are certain things we can't afford to forget. Peter understood this and so wrote of things they knew (v12):</p> <p><b>1) Lest They/We Forget (v8-11)</b></p> <p>a) Not fairy tales we can afford to forget (v16), it is the inspired word of God (v20-21).</p> <p>b) Focusing on these things would secure our eternal reward, but neglecting them would lead to falling.</p> <p>c) Even Moses appreciated how important reminders would be to Israel (Deut. 8:11-20; 6:6-9; 31:10-13).</p> <p><b>2) To Stir Them/Us Up (v13)</b></p> <p>a) The purpose of remembering something is to stir one up to action (2 Pet. 3:1-2).</p> <p>b) So too the Christian should be stirred up when He turns to God's Word (Rev. 2:4-5; 1 Cor. 11:24-25; 2 Pet. 3:11).</p> <p>c) Was not this the point of Moses' instructions to Israel? To stir them up to faithfulness and teach such to future generations? (Deut. 6:12-19; Josh. 4:20-24).</p> <p><b>3) In The Face Of The Brevity Of Life (v14-15)</b></p> <p>a) He would not always be here but would use his influence while he was so its impact would continue (Heb. 11:4).</p> <p>b) Even this serves as an important reminder to keep these things in mind for our lives are short, we can't afford to set them aside for a while (James 4:14; Ps. 10:10, 12).</p> <p><i>Will we then remember to continue growing in knowledge, grounded in the faith (2 Peter 3:17-18)?</i></p>