

# 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



June 24, 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  
325-646-4345 325-643-3164

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore  
325-643-5187 325-998-6585  
Don Smith..... James Thomas  
325-998-1120 325-643-2782

## Preacher:

Ryan Smithey..... 325-600-4143

## 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 Beauty Of It All

By David Harris

Sometimes I wonder what God thinks of His people. We are so abundantly blessed that we cannot get around it all. We live in the greatest country in the world, with the most blessed freedom, and still we bemoan the fact that we don't have everything we want. We, for the most part, forsake the simple beauty of the life God has given us. We are "fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Ps. 139:14) and most of us cannot see. We live in the country of the "fruited plain" and yet do not regard it as anything special. When we are blessed with health we take it for granted, as if it were owed to us. When we get sick, we get in a depressed state and demand to know why. Perhaps we need to go back to the basics of His teaching and understand the beauty of it all.

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork" (Ps. 19:1).* How fortunate most of us are to be blessed with eyes that can see; the beauty of a thunderstorm, the magnificence of a bolt of lightening, the sun gleaming through the darkened clouds that are full of rain. How blessed we are to be able to stand out in the open to view the glory of the stars that glitter the sky at night, the moon that makes even babies take notice with its celestial beams, and the planets that blend in so well we cannot identify them all. *"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and suckling's hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou are mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Ps. 8:1-4).*

When the Lord blesses us with glory to behold, we often refer to it as ugly and dangerous, but even the rattlesnake is beautiful in its own way. When we struggle with any part of life, we refuse to see the beauty of it all. How many different colors of horses did He make? What about the cattle, and the beasts of the field? How many different creatures did He make for us to admire, and over the which we have dominion? Why should it be then, that we cannot enjoy the life and the person that God has made in His own image, after all He is here with us? *"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or wither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into the heaven, thou are there: if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou are there, If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea the darkness hideth not*

*(Continued on page 3)*



*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

*Isaiah 2:2*

# 3 Reasons Young Americans Shouldn't Give Up On God

By Andy Brewer

Perhaps you saw the news story out last Thursday that reported that young Americans are giving up on the concept of God:

“Young Americans are drifting away from God, according to a new Pew Research Center poll. Only 67 percent of Americans under 30 say they ‘never doubt the existence of God.’ That’s down from 76 percent in 2009 and 83 percent in 2007 – a 15 percent point drop in just five years.”

While the survey did not include any potential reasons as to why this generation is abandoning God the story offered three theories. (1) Fundamentalists are turning off some young people, (2) atheists and agnostic role models are getting more vocal, and (3) liberal attacks on religion are to blame. I cannot leave the impression that such a report does not bother me. Any time there is an indication that people are losing their faith it has to be troubling. However, the reality is that while these are possible reasons that people are giving up on God they are not good reasons to give up on God. In fact they are themselves better reasons to strengthen our faith. Let’s put these theories into proper perspective and notice three reasons young Americans shouldn’t give up on God:

1. Christianity is fundamental. The word fundamental has almost become a curse word in today’s society. But for something to be fundamental demands that there is a standard expectation. The problem we face as a society is not law itself it is man’s reaction to law. The story states that we are “evolving toward greater acceptance of divorce, premarital sex, women’s equality, and gay rights.” Society may be evolving but truth is standard. With society you never know where you are heading but with God you always know what you get (Hebrews 13:8).

2. Skeptics are getting more vocal, thus so should we. This has been a problem the church has been facing for decades. It is not that more and more people are turning to atheism. The atheistic crowd actually makes up an extremely small portion of our populace. The problem is that they are just getting louder than those who believe. We’re not outnumbered we are just out voiced. Christians need to be too stubborn to be outworked by the devil’s army (Jude 3). I am encouraged to see an upswing in evangelistic activity among the church’s younger generation so hopefully this point is already in action.

3. The attacks on Christianity are liberal. I have never understood the liberal concept either politically or religiously. The liberal mindset wants to loosen the stringencies of law. Social liberals despise the laws of the land and actively seek to skirt them. Spiritual liberals despise God’s law. The problem is that God’s law cannot be logically defeated so the only option they have is to attack it. We should be for anything the devil hates. It’s obvious from his servants that Satan hates Christianity and God so we should be for them at all costs and actively give an answer for our faith (1 Peter 3:15).

While the news story cited only lists these three theories there are many, many more reasons we should step up our efforts to exalt God. He is the only hope we have for our lives and for our world. Let’s not give up on Him!

---

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God...Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*  
1 Corinthians 1:18, 25

| Television  | God’s Plan for Redeeming Man   | Bible Study Schedule  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)<br/>Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord’s Way<br/>Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network<br/>Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on<br/>Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p> <p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light)<br/>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 26</b><br/><b>Numbers 34-Deuteronomy 33</b><br/><b>&amp; Luke 7-8</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> |



(Continued from page 1)

from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee: for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Ps. 139:7-14).

As beautiful as it all is, nothing will compare with the attributes of our Creator; "I will worship toward thy hold temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" (Ps. 138:2). God's Word is His greatest attribute. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,, (and we behold his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14).

When we understand Jesus Christ, the Word, we will then truly understand the beauty of it all.

### Kathy Burcham

(1922-2012)

Once again we have to say goodbye to a sister in Christ but with the hope and comfort that we all will be reunited one day as we "meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:13-18).



Kathy was a very giving and serving person. Not only had she worked as a nurse but throughout the time that I knew her she looked for ways to serve others: helping those who she could at the Vicksburg with whatever they needed, passing out bulletins to residents there, and encouraging others. In fact it seem to often bother her that she could not do more! What a wonderful example she leaves behind for others to follow.

She also loved her brothers and sisters in Christ and spoke often of the congregation here, her love for you, and her desire to be able to assemble with us. May such a person remind us to continue faithfully, longing for the reward God has promised (Rev. 2:10, 14:13).

### 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.

### News & Notes

- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** will be hosted by DeLeon this week on Tuesday at 7 PM.
- ◆ **Summer Camp** starts next week with the Jr. Session. Please keep this effort in your prayers.
- ◆ **Address Update:**

### New Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. The theme is "Why Am I What I Am." Make sure you pick one up and study it with an open Bible. Then keep it for reference or pass it along for someone else to study!



## Celebrate

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

**June Birthdays:** Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04), Paul McClung (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Freda Womack (14), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

**June Anniversaries:** Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich, Lisa & David Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

|              | June 10, 2012 | June 17, 2012 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class  | 49            | 44            |
| AM Worship   | 68            | 55            |
| PM Worship   | 44            | 40            |
| Wednesday PM | 32            | 38            |
| Contribution | \$1747        | \$1476        |

# Privileged To Serve

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

|                               | This Week: 6/24/12   | Next Week: 7/1/12   |   |                      |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------|
| <b>Sunday AM:</b>             | Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox                                     | Lead Singing: Gene Bannister                              | <b>June 2012</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>John Barnum<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>The Smithey Family<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>John Barnum Family<br><b>Keep Grounds:</b><br>Ryan Smithey<br><br><b>July 2012</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>James Fuller<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>Tom & Carol Wilcox<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>Cindy Fuller<br><b>Keep Grounds:</b><br>James Fuller |                      |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Allen & Linda Griffith                                       | Billy & Peggy Chism                                       |   |                      |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Hank Wheeler   | John Barnum   |   |                      |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister<br>Don Smith, Garrett Barnum | Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox<br>Garrett Barnum, Ken Maninger |   |                      |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | Jim Moore  | James Fuller  |   |                      |
| <b>Attendance Cards</b>       | Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa                                   | Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez                          |   |                      |
| <b>Sunday PM:</b>             |  |   |   |                      |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Billy Chism  | Allen Griffith  |   |                      |
| <b>Scripture Reading</b>      | Jim Moore<br><i>Revelation 20:11-15</i>                      | Tom Wilcox  |   |                      |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Allen Griffith   | Hank Wheeler  |   |                      |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | Gene Bannister   | Don Smith   |   |                      |
| <b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b> | June 27<br>Tom Wilcox  | July 4<br>Garrett Barnum                                  | July 11<br>James Fuller   | July 18<br>Don Smith |

# 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 June 24, 2012</b>  | Sunday Class ..... Romans 16<br>Wednesday Class ..... Redemption Through The Bible  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Gathered To His People (Numbers 31:2)</b><br/>                     This is an express of hope and comfort that is spoken concerning many of God's faithful, but what does it indicate?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Separate From Physical Death</b>—Yes, this indicated that Moses would die but that phrase is used in addition to death (Gen. 25:7-8; 35:29; 49:33). One died and then was gathered to their people, a reminder that the soul lives on after the body dies (James 2:26).</li> <li><b>Separate From Burial</b>—Yes, Moses would be buried too; but still more was indicated. Many propose this simply means one is buried with their ancestors, yet a number of instances show a distinction between being buried with ancestors and gathered to their people (Gen. 15:15; 25:8-10; 49:33; 50:13; 35:29); Moses and Aaron are both examples in that neither was buried with ancestors and yet they are said to be gathered to their people (Num. 20:23-26; Deut. 32:48-50; 34:6).</li> <li><b>Indicates An Eternal Home Of The Soul</b> — What we are reminded of is that the soul is not destroyed at death, it lives and on would be united with those who had gone before. These believed they had an eternal, heavenly home (Heb. 11:16); an understanding shared by others (Eccl. 12:7; 2 Sam. 12:22-23). This is confirmed by Jesus teaching that, though dead, these men lived on (Matt. 22:31-32; 8:11). This was an expression that would give them home and comfort, and can do the same for us today as we realize we have a home we can anticipate with God and the faithful (John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:1; Rev. 14:13; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).</li> </ol> | <p><b>Letter to Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)</b><br/>                     A church should maintain moral purity.<br/>                     This was a wealthy city in which Christians may have been tempted to compromise their faith to succeed in business...all are reminded that God knows their actions and their hearts; in the end they are exhorted to remain faithful.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>God Knows Our Character</b> (v18-19) - Regardless of whether others took note or praised their character, God knew what manner of people they were (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:9).</li> <li><b>God Knows The Troublers Of His People</b> (v20) - They should have silenced the false teachers that led others astray (Eph. 5:11; 1 Cor. 5:6; Matt. 12:30); possibly some woman had led others astray into compromise and immorality as Jezebel of old (1 Kings 21:25; 2 Kings 9:22).</li> <li><b>God's Longsuffering Will End</b> (v21-23) - Time had been given to repent, but she refused; time for patience was over (1 Tim. 2:4; Gal. 6:7-8). There comes a time when God can no longer allow wickedness to continue.</li> <li><b>God Will Reward His People</b> (v24-29) - God knows each individual and will reward accordingly (Heb. 4:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 4:5); the Christians are urged to remain faithful to the end and gain the victory (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Thess. 1:4-10; Rev. 2:10).</li> </ol> <p>Notes: _____</p> |