

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



July 15, 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.

Who Is Missing Out?

By Allen Webster

Students are told by sin-loving peers that they are missing out by not getting drunk, attending wild parties, dancing, frequenting public beaches, and having sex. Young adults are made to feel that they are missing out if they don't barhop and bed-hop. Sinners just can't see how a Christian could enjoy life without imbibing deeply at sin's fountain. On the other hand, Christians see that sinners are the ones who are missing out. The best life and the most enjoyable times come to those who have learned God's secrets to abundant living (John 10:10; 1 Peter 3:11).

Paul wrote of the prior sinful lives of some Christians, contrasting their present state with their former one. The contrast was significant and all in favor of their new world. Paul said, "*At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace*" (Ephesians 2:12-14). From Ephesians 2:12, what is such a sinner missing out on?

A sinner is without Christ. He is a sheep without the Shepherd (Luke 15:1-7), a traveler without a way (John 14:6), a hungry man without bread (John 6:41). He is a weary pilgrim without a place to rest (Matthew 11:28-30), a soldier without a captain (Hebrews 2:10), a branch without a vine (John 15:1-7), a sinner without a friend (Luke 7:34). He is a child without an inheritance (Acts 20:32), a student without a teacher (John 3:2; Mark 12:14), a condemned man without an advocate (1 John 2:1), a soul without a savior (Philippians 3:20).

A sinner is without citizenship. "Commonwealth" refers to "the rights of a citizen." Americans believe that we are citizens of the greatest country on earth. (I guess patriots of other countries feel the same way.) But national citizenship is limited to political rights and freedoms. Each earthly citizen needs dual citizenship – political and spiritual, temporary and permanent, earthly and heavenly.

Sinners are the "aliens" referred to in this passage. The word means those who are "alienated, estranged; shut out from one's fellowship and intimacy." So sinners are without any rights in God's kingdom (cf. Nehemiah 2:20) and are outside of fellowship with God. From God's perspective they have "*the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart*" (Ephesians 4:18; cf. Colossians 1:21). A Christian's citizenship "*is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 3:20).

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*But godliness with contentment is great gain.
For we brought nothing into this world,
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

1 Timothy 6:6-7



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A sinner is without promise. “Strangers” are what we would call “foreigners.” Interestingly, the word includes the meaning of “without knowledge of, without a share in; unheard of.” At Judgment Day, the Lord will explain that He has not heard the names of the sinners seeking entrance at heaven’s gate (cf. Matthew 7:23; 25:12). They will be without a share in the bounty of heaven’s treasures (John 14:1-2). All the Bible promises belong to Christians, not sinners.

Sinners are without hope. “Hope” here refers to

a “joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.” How pitiful to be without hope! French scientists once experimented on a criminal who had been convicted for murder and sentenced to death. The condemned man was strapped to a table and told that an artery in his arm was to be severed and that he would bleed to death in a matter of minutes. The scientists proceeded with their experiment but made only a superficial wound on the surface of his skin. They did not tell him how superficial it was. Then they poured warm water over his arm, which he thought was blood. In just a few minutes he died because he had been convinced of the hopelessness of the situa-

tion. It is a sad thing to be without hope. Conversely, what a blessing it is to have hope! Consider these precious verses:

SOME BIBLE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ◆ Exodus 32:36 – “Who is on the LORD'S side?”
- ◆ Psalm 113:5 – “Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high...?”
- ◆ Isaiah 6:8 – “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
- ◆ Mark 8:37 – “...what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- ◆ Luke 18:8 – “...when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”
- ◆ Romans 6:1 – “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?”
- ◆ Romans 6:3 – “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?”
- ◆ Romans 8:31 – “If God be for us, who can be against us?”
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 1:13 – “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”
- ◆ Galatians 4:16 – “Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”
- ◆ Hebrews 2:3 – “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation...?”
- ◆ 1 Peter 4:17 – “...what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”
- ◆ Revelation 6:17 – “For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

◆ *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* (1 Peter 1:3).

◆ *“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel... To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”* (Colossians 1:5-27).

◆ *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

◆ *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our*

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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 29

Deuteronomy 16-21 & Luke 13-14

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)



Vending Machine Religion

By Joe Wells

Sitting in an automobile repair shop, I was recently confronted with one of the biggest opponents to health – the vending machine. As a young boy, like a magnet I was drawn to the bright lights and the colorful display of pure sweetness found within every wrapper. The thrill of putting money in and selecting what I wanted was, at times, a fun and joyous occasion. Looking at this enemy of the waistline today, I can't help but see an illustration relating to the American concept of religion.

In a culture of moral relativism and unbiblical tolerance telling us that all belief systems are equally valid and for someone to stand up and say otherwise is judgmental and pushy, it's easy to see why we are in the shape we're in. Just like when we stand in front of the vending machine to select our snack, culture tells us to pick the religion we want, the one that fits us best. In the end, religion is not based upon anything other than what we desire – if we desire anything at all.

In Matthew 22: 37, when confronted with a trapping question pertaining to the greatest commandment of all, Jesus replied, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* With this single answer, Jesus placed all teachings pertaining to religion into the proper perspective – **It's All About God!** When He's first, there's no room for my particular desires. It's not about my cravings. Rather, it's about loving – wanting and doing what's in the best interest of another – God.

Individuals are the kings when we stand in front of the blissful vending machine. We get what we want, when we want, and truth-be-told, that's okay in matters pertaining to peanut butter crackers verses cheese filled crackers. However, let us never adapt that same mentality when we approach our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. May we always remember that it's about God and not us!

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
(John 14: 15)

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. Please note we won't have our 3rd Sunday finger-foods tonight.

News & Notes

- ◆ There will be no **Summer Youth Series** this week during Sr. Camp. We will resume next week at Park Heights in Hamilton.

Psalm 119:97

By Eddie Parrish

There's an old adage that says, "Familiarity breeds contempt." That may hold true in some situations, but not when you're discussing the law of God. Familiarity breeds love. It was because of the psalmist's daily and day-long contemplation of God's word that he could exclaim, "O how I love Your law!" And, in turn, his growing love for the law motivated him to contemplate it more.

I don't know about you, but that's a repeating cycle I'd like to be in!

Celebrate

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

July Birthdays: Mariah Martinez (08), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Steven Martinez (13), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: Priscilla & Ryan Smithey (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...

Records

	July 1, 2012	July 8, 2012
Bible Class	59	50
AM Worship	81	62
PM Worship	27	48
Wednesday PM	28	40
Contribution	\$1653	\$1648



	This Week: 7/15/12	Next Week: 7/22/12	July 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Greeters	The Maninger Family	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum Jim Moore, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox	August 2012	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger	Clean Building: Smithey Family	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum <i>Matthew 7:21-27</i>	James Fuller	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Communion	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 18 Don Smith	July 25 James Fuller	August 1 Allen Griffith	August 8 Tom Wilcox

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 July 15, 2012	Sunday Class Responding To Unpopular Decisions Wednesday Class How We Got The Bible (DVD)
<p>A Willing Servant (Deuteronomy 15:17) <i>In the year of release, every seven years, the Jews were to release their brethren from servitude, but there was a provision by which one could choose to continue serving his master (Deut. 15:12-18; Exod. 21:1-6). There are certain similarities between such willful servitude and following Christ today; such a one should:</i></p> <p>1. Serve Willingly</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The master had no right to demand continued service, it had to be voluntary. In the same way, our service to Christ is based on our love for Him (1 John 4:19; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3) and is voluntary (Rev. 22:17; Luke 9:23-24; Rom 6:13, 16-18). We would do well to remember that this freedom can be found nowhere else (2 Pet. 2:19; John 14:6). <p>2. Serve For Life</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There was a commitment made before his master and before others that he would serve for life. In like manner, we make a commitment to Christ when we become a Christian (Luke 14:27-33; Matt. 6:24, 33; Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32-33) and we must continue with Him (John 8:31-32; John 15:4-8). <p>3. Serve as a Marked Man</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The servant would have his ear pierced with an awl at the doorpost and thus bear the mark of his master. While our ear is not pierced literally, we should bear the "mark" of Him whom we follow (Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 5:14-16; John 13:35; Eph. 5:1; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:21). 	<p>(Continued from page 2)</p> <p>hope" (1 Timothy 1:1).</p> <p>◆ "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3).</p> <p>Sinners are without God. The word, <i>atheos</i>, is the word from which we get <i>atheist</i> and is found only here in the New Testament. It means "knowing and worshipping no God; denying the gods, especially the recognized gods of the state" (cf. 2 Chronicles 15:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6).</p> <p>It can also mean to be "abandoned by the gods." God can get to the point where He gives up on people (Romans 1:28-32). Solomon said, "<i>But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity... they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord</i>" (Proverbs 1:25-31). How truly sad to think that some are abandoned by God. The truth is God doesn't want anyone to miss out. God "<i>will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth</i>" (1 Timothy 2:4).</p>