

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 22, 2012

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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.

Just Preach About Love

By Jerry Joseph

In response to hearing the Truth upheld and false doctrine being refuted, some say, "Why don't you just preach about love?" Some have the notion, and it is false, that you cannot declare and defend the Truth and at the same time have love. The thinking of some is that love will never condemn sin, and if one does so, he is unloving.

Some are confused about what Bible "love" really is and how it is to be demonstrated. Preaching Bible "love" in no way precludes declaring, demonstrating and defending Bible Truth. If we are to preach "love" and we must, what is involved?

To preach "love" is to preach the LOVE OF GOD. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9).

To preach "love" is to preach LOVE FOR GOD. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:36-38). "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). It is not enough just to declare with our lips our love for God, our love must also be demonstrated by and in our lives. Therefore, we will (1) spend time in prayer (Col. 4:2); (2) search and study His Word (John 5:39; 2 Tim. 2:15); (3) seek spiritual things first (Matt. 6:33); (4) serve him in obeying His Word (John 14:15) and (5) state and show our love for others (1 Jn. 4:21).

To preach "love" is to preach LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD. "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). If we have a love for God's Word, then that will be demonstrated in what we proclaim and practice. A love for God's Word means that we will "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2); "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15); not preach a perverted Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9); "rightly divide the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15) and not "wrest" the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:16).

To preach "love" is to preach LOVE FOR THOSE WHO ARE GODLY AND THOSE WHO ARE GODLESS. We are to love all mankind, including our enemies (Matt. 22:39; 5:43-44). "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 Jn. 4:20-21). We are to "love one another with

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*Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth.*

Psalm 46:10

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a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:23). Love for others means that we will do what we can to help physically and spiritually (Galatians 6:1-2, 10; 1 John 3:17; James 5:19-20; Jude 23). Proclaiming the Truth to others, praying for others, persuading people to give up their sins and to promptly obey the Gospel is demonstrating the proper kind of love for others. We cannot say that we are preaching "love" and that we genuinely love others when we withhold the saving Gospel from them and refuse to "reprove, rebuke and exhort" (2 Timothy 4:2).

The Only Opinion That Counts

By Tom Moore

An umpire named Babe Pinelli once called Babe Ruth out on strikes. When the crowd booed with sharp disapproval at the call, the legendary Ruth turned to the umpire with disdain and said, "There's 40,000 people here who know that the last pitch was ball, tomato head." Suspecting that the umpire would erupt with anger, the coaches and players braced themselves for Ruth's ejection. However, the cool headed Pinelli replied, "Maybe so, Babe, but mine is the only opinion that counts."

Friends, there are many opinions out there in the world - but there is only one opinion that counts and that is God's. Thus, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). In religion it does not matter what man thinks. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" • (Pro. 14:12). God's way — not our own — is the only way that leads to heaven.

CHALLENGES FACING THE CHURCH TODAY

By Gary McDade

The Challenge of Purity

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself a peculiar people zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14). "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8). "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2).

The Challenge of Self-Control

"For even hereunto were ye called because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (1 Pet. 2:21-23). "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:29-32). "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him: if he thirst give him drink: for in so doing

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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 30

**Deuteronomy 22-27
& Luke 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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thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:17-21).

The Challenge of Faithfulness

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4). “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”(Phil. 3:13-14). “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (2 Tim. 2:10).

The Challenge of Spiritual Growth

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (2 Pet. 3:18). “But sanctify the Lord god in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness” (Col. 1:9-11).

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 **30 contacts** were made.

News & Notes

- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** this week will be at Park **Heights in Hamilton** on Tuesday at 7 PM. Next week will be Rising Star.
- ◆ There is an update from **Rohan Jones** on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please keep him, his family, and their work in your prayers along with the other works we support.
- ◆ **Camp Report:** We had another great week at Brady with the high school session this past week. Again it was a great time of worship, Bible Study, fun, and food. Over the course of the week there were five responses asking for prayers and two baptisms. I have no doubt others were greatly encouraged to mature as Christians or begin thinking more seriously about making the decision to become a Christian. Our prayer always is that the benefit of these two camp sessions will continue on for years to come in the lives of these young people. Thank you again for support in this great effort and also especially to Tom Wilcox and James Fuller for preaching in my absence.
- ◆ Thank you...so much for the cards, calls, prayers and support during the loss of Michael’s dad. WE also want to thank you for the wonderful lunch and for the use of the building. Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated. Your thoughtfulness and actions have demonstrated what Christian love is all about.

Michael & Diana Bickford (card on bulletin board)

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 8, 2012	July 15, 2012
Bible Class	50	54
AM Worship	62	75
PM Worship	48	32
Wednesday PM	40	32
Contribution	\$1648	\$1684

	This Week: 7/22/12	Next Week: 7/29/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	July 2012 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller August 2012 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller <i>2 Thessalonians 1:3-10</i>	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 25 James Fuller	August 1 Allen Griffith	August 8 Tom Wilcox	August 15 Garrett Banrum

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)

<i>Studies for the week of July 22, 2012</i>	Sunday Class <i>Philemon</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p align="center">God Loves Justice</p> <p><i>It is clear from our reading last week (Deut. 16-21) that God expected His people to practice justice. It is a quality seen in God (Ps. 89:14; Deut. 32:4), praised in godly men (Gen. 18:19; 2 Sam. 8:15), and expected of His people (Deut. 10:12-13; Micah 6:8). When practiced it:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protects The Innocent <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God's laws were designed so as ensure that an innocent person was not false accused or wrongly punished. He provided for judges (16:18-20; 17:8-10), required investigation into charges against another (13:12-14; 17:2-4), and required multiple witnesses (17:6-7; 19:15-20). Provided even for protection of accidental killings (19:4-10) and just judgments (19:21). Punishes The Wicked <ol style="list-style-type: none"> But there is also a reminder that one is responsible for their actions (Ex. 34:7; Eze. 18:20). While investigation must be made, once guilt was determined, punishment was described and to be carried out without pity (13:15-16, 18; 17:5, 6-7, 10-12; 19:11-13, 21). Preserves The Righteous <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In properly administering justice, they will put away evil from them and encourage one another to do right (13:18; 17:13; 19:13, 19-20). Solomon realized that things would not go well when justice was perverted (Eccl. 8:11). <p><i>God is just; He will not acquit the guilty or convict the innocent (1 Pet. 2:23; Rev. 16:7; 2 Thess. 1:6-10); as we walk with Him we can take comfort in that fact (2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:13-14; Titus 2:11-15).</i></p>	<p align="center">Letter To Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)</p> <p><i>A church should use its opportunities. This church stands out as a church that receives no criticism; they are reminded of the One they serve and exhorted to keep hanging on.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God Knows Our Opportunities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They have an open door (v8); either a door of salvation (no one could close; Jn 10:29), or, more likely, a door of opportunity (a city known for spreading Hellenism, would spread the gospel). We should pray for and use such open doors (Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3). This door was there because of their past faithfulness in keeping God's Word (1 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 1:16; Lk. 9:26). He trusts them and has confidence in them to use it (Lk. 19:17). God Knows Them That Are False: There were those who claimed to be the people of God, but He knew they were liars (v9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 7:21ff). God Knows Them That Are His: These Christians are reminded of God's love for them (v9); they have patiently endured and so would be safely brought through a time of trial (v10). What a comfort to know that God knows His children and will protect them (2 Thess. 1:7-10). These faithful are assured to be counted among God's special people (v12; 2 Pet. 2:5, 9).