

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 29, 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.

YOU Can Help Change Things!

By Jason Sparks

How do we react when evil people do evil things? As I think about the killing spree in Aurora I can't help but wonder how people are reacting. Fear? Depression? Apathy?

No doubt some are using it to score political points. Some are trying to use it to preach against the evils of guns and/or gun control laws. Others seem to be ignoring it altogether. Facebook is full of calls for prayer, and also full of indications that life is continuing as it always has.

My concern is about the response. We cannot control what people do. As long as we are alive, we always control how we respond. So how should a Christian respond? Assuming you do not know the individual who went on the rampage, I want to offer some thoughts about processing this tragedy. There are some certainties in this terrible situation--things that we can KNOW that we would do well to remember.

Evil Exists Through Freedom of Choice

Bad people are going to do bad things. That does not excuse anyone, but it is a reminder that sometimes people make very bad decisions. There is no point in blaming anyone but the man who pulled the trigger so many times. It's neither Romney's nor Obama's fault. It's not the economy, video games, nor failed gun control laws. It is certainly not God's fault, but there is little doubt but that He will be blamed.

Through His eternal wisdom, God blessed us with the freedom to make decisions. In matters of choice, God cannot be blamed for the poor choices humans make. But Satan is the master manipulator. He will convince people they have no choice but sin, just like he convinced the shooter. Therefore, with freedom comes the opportunity for evil. Evil always involves a decision.

That's not to say I am against freedom. To be free to choose is a great privilege! For evil to exist there must be decisions, but the same is true for goodness to exist. Goodness is a choice.

This is a Spiritual Discussion

The reason we do good or evil has everything to do with what we believe. Our beliefs determine our actions. It will always be this way.

Some will undoubtedly suggest that accidents happen, and I would not disagree with that. But (generally speaking) good and evil do not come by accident. That is why what happened in Aurora, Colorado should be discussed at a spiritual level.

(Continued on page 2)



Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

We will probably never know all the reasons for a massacre like that. Evil people cannot always be understood. Those who do such terrible things likely do not have a firm enough grasp on reality to adequately describe anything relating to their real motives. Motives are tricky things. Often we are fooled by them. We look at ourselves and think our actions are based on the purest of motives when later we discover that we were not as pure as we thought. A person who can pull the trigger on hundreds of people for no apparent reason other than thinking he was playing out some role in his mind likely will never be able to grasp his true motivations. But outside his own personal growth and development, his motives are irrelevant.

What is important to discuss, however, is the power of ideas and beliefs. They determine everything about us and determine our future.

What things should we believe? Where do our ideas originate? Is there a standard for thought so that we can ensure the greatest chance of preventing such terrible deeds in the future?

The Bible, properly understood and applied, is able to give us a wonderful foundation for life. Its words form the foundation of all that is good in the world. Its teachings will give people a tremendous amount of good ideas to draw from. That tormented soul who mercilessly killed

all those people got his ideas about reality from some place, but not from a proper understanding of the Bible.

It's time we started opening up that Good Book, reading, and understanding it. If we want to help prevent such terrible things in the future, we must call on people to properly understand and apply the Scriptures. In spite of the liberal and atheistic attacks against the Bible, it is the best thing for our country and our world! The more society conforms to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, the more society's members will shun terrible choices.

Let the people push for change, but let that change be to allow the Bible back into the mainstream. Let us rise and teach others the Bible, one person at a time, until all have heard. Many will believe, but we've got to tell them what it says! God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Let's not keep it a secret any longer!

This is how to change things: Change the way the people think. Change the way they think by introducing new ideas into their minds. Those ideas must be God's if we have any hope for improving anything in this world. The world around us is full of ignorance. Everyone owns a Bible. Very few read it. We will have to get out there and read it to them!

What are some ways YOU can teach people about the Bible who do not know much about it?

LORD, PLEASE GIVE ME A MOUTH GUARD!

By Neal Pollard

Greek Triple jumper, Voula Papachristou tweeted herself right out of a spot in the 2012 Olympics in London. What she said was only 15 words long, followed by three exclamation points. But the racial overtones of her statement were enough to get her ousted from the games. At first she sloughed it off, but then she issued a series of apologies. None were enough to save her from being banned.

In the long ago, King David prayed, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3). This should be the daily prayer we all pray. With twitter, Facebook, and other social media proliferating our words, this prayer extends to the words we type as well as speak. We have become too comfortable with unguarded mouths and unwatched lips. The damage of that is immeasurable.

Please give me a mouth guard when teaching or preaching. May I give careful thought to say what is accurate and biblically true (cf. Js. 3:1). May I humbly correct (2 Tim. 2:25), preach with great patience (2 Tim. 4:2), and speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). May I neither add to nor take away from that Holy Word (cf. Rev. 22:18-19).

(Continued on page 4)

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 31

Deuteronomy 28-33 & Luke 17-18

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)



On Potholes And Responsibility

By Mike Riley

The story is told of a young man who chose to take on a problem that plagues many American cities — potholes. This particular pothole was located at an intersection near his home. It had been there for as long as he could remember. Residents in the neighborhood had developed the skill and habit of driving around the pothole, while strangers learned about it the hard way.

One day, the young man decided that enough was enough and decided to fix the pothole. He and his brother stopped in at a local hardware store and purchased some sand and cement. Upon learning what they were going to do, the store owner loaned them a shovel, a concrete mixer, and the volunteer efforts of his son.

Just as soon as they began filling in the pothole, several passing motorists parked their cars and began directing traffic around the three men at work filling in the pothole. Some passing children made “Wet Concrete” signs to put around the pothole once the work was done.

All in all, there were nearly twenty neighbors who participated in the project of filling the pothole. Together, they handled a problem that had bothered all of them for several years. All it took was “one” person who was willing to step forward and take on the responsibility for seeing that the problem was resolved.

Bottom line: It’s one thing to define a problem and forever theorize about solutions to it, and quite another to actually solve the problem!

Like the young man in the above story, let’s be the one person who willingly steps forward, and with God’s help, take on the responsibility of seeing that problems in the Lord’s church are resolved! (note Barnabas in Acts 9:10-31).

We might even be surprised as to who shows up to help us!

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 **28 contacts** were made.

News & Notes

- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** this week will be at **Rising Star** on Tuesday at 7 PM. Next week will be 5th & Grape in Abilene. Also please note the last one will be held here on August 14, I hope you can plan on joining us and be looking for announcements on what you can do to help prepare.
- ◆ This is a 5th Sunday and so time for our “preacher swap” again. Tonight I will be preaching in Ranger at the Mesquite & Rusk congregation and **Drew Hyde**, the preacher there will be here in my place. Many of you know Drew and his family as they have worked in this area for a number of years and been to a number of our meetings and other events. I hope you enjoy getting to know them more and we will look forward to being back with you on Wednesday night.
- ◆ Remember our **1st Sunday lunch** next week!

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.



Celebrate

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

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

August Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Pam & Terry Teague (16), Darlene & Don Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	July 15, 2012	July 22, 2012
Bible Class	54	45
AM Worship	75	62
PM Worship	32	47
Wednesday PM	32	35
Contribution	\$1684	\$1301

	This Week: 7/29/12	Next Week: 8/5/12		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	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	James & Cindy Fuller	Charles & Bennie White		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, John Barnum	James Fuller*, Ken Maninger Allen Griffith, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith <i>1 Peter 2:21-25</i>	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Jim Moore	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 1 Allen Griffith	August 8 Tom Wilcox	August 15 Garrett Banrum	August 22 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)

Studies for the week of July 29, 2012	Sunday Class <i>Philemon</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p>Rejoice In Every Good Thing Which The Lord Thy God Hath Given Thee (Deut. 26:11) <i>In bringing their firstfruit offerings, the Jews were to express thanks to God; this should cause them to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be Thankful—reflect on their blessings (v3-10). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How often do we stop and thank God for what He richly blesses us with—both physical and spiritual? Our offerings today, still should remind us of what we have to be thankful for (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Rom. 12:1-2). We should learn to be a thankful people (Eph. 5:4; Col. 1:12-14; 3:17; 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:18; 1 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:15). Worship God—remembering God had richly blessed them should cause them to praise Him (v10). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As they offered they were to worship God; He is worthy and deserving of such. How can I not but worship God when I consider the good He has done for me? (Ps. 30:11-12; 145; Eph. 5:20; Heb. 13:5; Acts 2:47). Consider How They Treated Others—they should be reminded of how they are to treat others (v11-13). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notice how often our dealings with others are closely linked with being thankful and praising God (Eph. 5:21; Rom. 12:3ff; Col. 3:18-4:1; Heb. 13:6) God's love toward us, should be reflected to others (Matt. 22:36-40; John 15:12; Phil.2:3-5). <i>In doing this, God would bless them (v15-19).</i> 	<p><i>(Continued from page 2)</i></p> <p>Please give me a mouth guard when speaking to the lost. May my speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6). May it be sound speech beyond reproach (Ti. 2:8), exemplary speech (1 Ti. 4:12), bold to share Jesus but gentle, patient, and kind (2 Ti. 2:24-26).</p> <p>Please give me a mouth guard when speaking to other Christians. May my words sustain weary brethren (Isa. 50:4). May my words, filtered through thorough self-examination, gently restore the erring (Gal. 6:1). May it be what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers (Eph. 4:29). May I reprove and rebuke (2 Ti. 4:2), moved by transparent, known love and care (cf. 1 Pe. 2:17).</p> <p>Please give me a mouth guard when speaking to my family. May I not treat them more harshly than I treat strangers, speaking cruel, bitter, or hateful words to them (cf. Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:19). May I not neglect to speak wholesome, encouraging words to them. May I shudder to neglect speaking constantly to them of spiritual things (Dt. 6:1-6).</p> <p>Voula is paying for her reckless speech. My fervent prayer is that I may avoid that fate eternally. Jesus says our every word will be judged (Mt. 12:36-37). Lord, please give me a mouth guard!</p>