

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



August 12, 2012

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
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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.

“How Wonderful To Be ...”

by Rick Brumback

How wonderful to be... **a member of a caring and nurturing congregation of Christians.** In many parts of this country and the larger world, many brethren feel a sense of isolation. This stems from the small number of brethren in their immediate vicinity and the difference in identity that they recognize between themselves the majority around them. While it is true that this disparity and seeming isolation should not discourage, as Elijah knew (1 Kings 19:1-18), it can. We certainly want to extend prayers for and encouragement to brethren worldwide, but let us not take for granted the joy of being near likeminded brethren!

How wonderful to be... **a part of the family of the Most High God** (2 Cor. 6:17-18). My Creator, Who has given life not only to me, but also to the entire universe, cares what happens to – me! If He knows what happens to the birds (Matt. 10:29-31), surely He is aware of the highs and lows that others and I experience. No matter how good or bad our earthly families may be, we have a Father Who loves us completely and is always concerned with our estates. Hopefully we cherish Him and express our gratitude for His love!

How wonderful to be... **given a chance to repent when I have done something wrong.** Many long for the opportunity to make things right after doing wrong, and God hopes that we will! Of all the blessings that humanity can enjoy, the opportunity to repent and be at peace with the Lord is surely among the greatest. And this is predicated upon the demonstrated love of Heaven in the form of Jesus' sacrifice. Without His blood shed, we would have no chance at a fresh start (2 Cor. 5:17-21). I am thankful for that second chance, and the third, and the fourth....

How wonderful to be... **knowledgeable about the human journey and meaning of life.** While we may still struggle at times with the business of living, Jehovah has given us an understanding of our purpose for existence (Ecc. 12:13-14), and the counsel necessary to live successfully in His sight (Psa. 19:7-14). As Paul said, we can look heavenward and know that our lives have been hidden with Christ. We not only have a better life now, but also have prospects of glory in heaven (Col. 3:1-4).

How wonderful to be... **given the time to work and accomplish the good that God knows I can do.** My only hope is that I will seize this time – carpe diem – and fill the moments that I have with good deeds and influence. I want to look back over my life and know that I have spent my days wisely and effectively. None should be able to say that they have not had some avenue to express their

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*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart:
for consider how great things he hath done for you.*

1 Samuel 12:24

Is the Church Important?

By Tim Tooley

Over the years there have been a variety of statements (or mottos) expressing an ideology espoused by those who want Jesus “but not the church.” The newest of these is that one can love Jesus but hate religion.

In my experience those who profess such views are in reality just looking for an easy way out of what they see as an oppressive way of life. They want the grace of God that has been extended unto all men (Titus 2:11) but don’t want to be told what to do, by God or anyone else.

Now, if by religion or “church” one means a denomination or man-made organization or institution I am in full agreement. The problem is two-fold created by those who have perverted the gospel and religion and those who are tired of the hypocrisy, ignorant of the truth, or just simply rebellious and self-serving (Romans 16:18).

So the question is, “Is the church important?” “Can we hope to go to heaven without the church or religion?” Well let’s not suppose we know what God would say, let’s listen to His Word.

Jesus didn’t come to destroy religion but to build His church and establish a one true religion for all mankind. Read and study Ephesians 2:11-22. In order to accomplish his mission to reconcile all men to himself he promised, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Is the church important? It was important enough for Jesus to die on the cross and purchase it with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

In giving His life for us, and establishing the church, the Father gave Jesus all authority (Matthew 28:18), placing “all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:22). “He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent” (Colossians 1:18). For us it means that we

must do what He says. In fact He said that if we truly love Him we would do what He says (John 14:15). Is the church important? If we want the head of the church to be the head of our lives it will be.

Jesus is not only the head of the church he is “the Savior of the body” (Ephesians 5:23). The church and the body are the same thing. The body is where the blood is and where we are cleansed (1 John 1:7). It was the church to which the Lord added the saved (Acts 2:47). And when one is saved he is translated out of darkness and into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Is the church important? If we want to be saved it is!

You cannot go to heaven if your name isn’t written there and if you are not in the kingdom. It is the names of those who are in the church that are written in heaven (Hebrews 12:23). And when Jesus comes again it is those who are in the kingdom that will go to be with Him in His home (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:24).

Is the church important? The more pertinent question is, “Is the church important to you?” It will be if we want to be reconciled to God, if we are willing for Jesus to be the head of our lives and truly love Him, and if we want to be saved and go to heaven. If it is important to us we will not forsake the services of the church (Hebrews 10:25). We will put the church first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). We will let our light shine (Matthew 5:14-16). We will practice pure and undefiled religion (James 1:27). If the church is important to us we will be obedient and faithful!

Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

Ephesians 5:25

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 33
Joshua 6-11
& Luke 21-22

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)



GOD'S INTENT FOR THE CHURCH

A summary from the lessons to the seven churches:

- ◆ **Ephesus — the church should maintain its first love.** They were praised for many good qualities; nevertheless, they needed to repent and return to their first love. The congregation at one time had a great zeal but it seems to have waned. They need to remember to serve God out of love and devotion instead of ritualism.
- ◆ **Smyrna — the church should be faithful in persecution.** There was no condemnation for the church at Smyrna—only exhortation. Materially this congregation was poor, but spiritually they were rich. They are reminded that if they will remain faithful, even through persecution and death, they will gain an eternal crown of life.
- ◆ **Pergamos — the church should maintain its doctrinal purity.** While they are both praised and rebuked, it seems their praise was for past actions. Notice at one time they even had a martyr from among them and they had not denied the faith. But now they were allowing the work false teachers among them. It did not matter what the history of this church was if they would not remain doctrinally pure. We, too, can be proud of our past but also have to look at where we are right now and make sure that we are still following Christ.
- ◆ **Thyatira — the church should maintain moral purity.** They are known for their works, but a grave problem that exists. They are supporting either a false teacher or a group of false teachers which seem to teach that one could compromise his morals and still remain faithful unto God. Christians are reminded that we have to keep ourselves morally pure and set apart from the ways of the world.
- ◆ **Sardis — the church should finish its works.** This congregation was dead! Sure, it had a name, a reputation, but God knew it as it really was—spiritually dead. They had started good works but now their works were not perfect—they were started but had not completed. We must remember not to grow weary in doing the Lord's work. The only praise that can be found in this letter is that a few had continued faithfully.

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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

- ◆ This Tuesday we will be hosting the final **Summer Youth Series** for this year. There is a signup sheet at the back of the auditorium for those things that we need if you can help provide them. We will begin at 7 PM...hope you can join us.
- ◆ Our next **game night** will be this Friday night, August 17th beginning at 6 PM. This month we will meet at the building.
- ◆ In just over a month we will be resuming the area **Bible Search** program that will continue through the fall and into next spring. This year the material will be a New Testament Survey; let Ryan know if you have questions or want to participate.

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“ministry,” or as many complain, they have been limited or excluded from ministry in the church. How about helping the next-door neighbor? How about talking about the joy found in Christ with a good friend? How about going around doing good behind the scenes? There is so much that can be done in the name of Christ when we have a mind to work and take opportunities -“redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5).

How wonderful to be...**a Christian!**

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Michael Fuller (10), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Betty Bailey (28), Roy Dodson (29).

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	July 29, 2012	August 5, 2012
Bible Class	45	46
AM Worship	63	63
PM Worship	45	50
Wednesday PM	35	35
Contribution	\$1733	\$1519

	This Week: 8/12/12	Next Week: 8/19/12	August 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister	Clean Building: Smithey Family	
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, John Barnum	Jim Moore*, Allen Griffith John Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Hank Wheeler	September 2012	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Matthew Churchwell	Billy Chism	Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore	
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>Colossians 4:2-6</i>	Garrett Barnum	Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Communion	James Fuller	Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Hank Wheeler		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 15 Garrett Banrum	August 22 Jim Moore	August 29 Don Smith	September 5 James Fuller

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 August 12, 2012		Sunday Class <i>Colossians (Introduction)</i>	Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p>Sunday AM—Joshua: Formula For Success</p> <p>1. Learn The Law—"[it] shall not depart out of thy mouth"</p> <p>a. This law was to be laid up in his heart that it could guide him (Deut. 11:18-21; Ps. 119:11, 105).</p> <p>b. Seeking God's Word would lead to knowledge and wisdom (Prov. 2:1-5; 22; 3:1-4).</p> <p>c. Learning God's law is essential under the New Testament too (Matt. 28:19; 2 Tim. 4:2; Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim, 2:15).</p> <p>2. Meditate On The Law—"meditate therein night and day"</p> <p>a. Simple knowledge of God's word was not enough, he needed to spend time thinking about and applying its lessons.</p> <p>b. Such an attitude is seen in the Psalmist as the way to prosper in God's sight (Ps. 1:1-3; 119:15; 97-99).</p> <p>c. Again this attitude is still needed today (1 Tim. 4:15; James 1:25; 2 Tim. 2:15).</p> <p>3. Do All The Law—"observe to do according to all that is written therein"</p> <p>a. Even yet he was not done until he actually put God's Word into action in his life; this was the conditional promise of Leviticus 26 — blessings when you DO God's will (v3).</p> <p>b. Caleb stands as a great example of one who lived this time of life and was richly blessed by God (Josh. 14:8).</p> <p>c. The extent to which it was to be done (v7) - turn neither to the left or the right.</p> <p>d. Still today this will be a sign of wisdom and blessing (Matt. 7:21-27; James 1:22; Rev. 22:14).</p> <p>Sunday PM—Great Commission & Great Opportunities</p>		<p>(Continued from page 3)</p> <p>♦ Philadelphia — the church should use its opportunities. They had an open door set before them, an opportunity, of which they needed to take advantage. They had proven themselves in the past by their faithfulness—they had kept the word and not denied Christ. Therefore even though they had little strength, they would be equal to the task.</p> <p>♦ Laodicea — the church should be zealous. They were lukewarm and thus nauseating. Since they claimed to be Christians they should have been zealous for good works but were not. They had become self-reliant instead of trusting in God. So while they thought of themselves as rich, they were really wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. They are warned to repent and be zealous or else Jesus would spew them out.</p> <p>While these letters were written to the seven churches of Asia, they are a warning and exhortation unto all who read. We would do well to heed the messages contained therein. Which are we most like? From which we do we need to learn? How would we likely be addressed today? Sobering questions that deserve an honest evaluation, and as necessary, correction.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ryan Smithey</i></p>	