

# 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 19, 2012

## Contact Us:

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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

## Toleration—The Devil's Device

By Marvin L. Weir

Satan and God have absolutely nothing of value in common. The Devil would love nothing more than to effectively destroy all that God represents. Our Creator has always been opposed to evil and ungodliness. Habakkuk states a principle that is eternal: "*Thou that art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and that canst not look on perverseness, wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously...*" (1:13). Matthew Henry comments on this verse as follows:

*Though the wickedness of the wicked may prosper for a while, yet God is a holy God, and does not approve of that wickedness.... The prophet, observing how very vicious and impious the Chaldeans were, and yet what great success they had against God's Israel, found a temptation arising from it to say that it was vain to serve God, and that it was indifferent to him what men were. But he soon suppresses the thought, by having recourse to his first principles, That God is not, that he cannot be, the author or patron of sin; as he cannot do iniquity himself, so he is of purer eyes than to behold it with any allowance or approbation; no, it is that abominable thing which the Lord hates. He sees all the sin that is committed in the world, and it is an offence to him, it is odious in his eyes, and those that commit it are thereby made obnoxious to his justice. There is in the nature of God an antipathy to those dispositions and practices that are contrary to his holy law; and, though an expedient is happily found out for his being reconciled to sinners, yet he never will, nor can, be reconciled to sin. And this principle we must resolve to abide by, though the dispensations of his providence may for a time, and in some instances, seem to be inconsistent with it.*

Other verses also clearly show God's opposition to all unrighteousness. Brethren at Rome were warned, "*The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness...*" (Rom. 1:18). Paul made it clear to Titus that "*the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world*" (2:12). Jude wrote that the Lord's purpose would be to "*execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of their works of ungodliness which they have ungodly wrought, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him*" (v. 15). There are several lessons we can learn if we believe and will heed the Holy Scriptures:

**First, sin is an abominable thing God hates!** Sin separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2) and refusal to repent of sin dooms one's soul to eternal death and tor-

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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

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

# Courage

By Clay Bond

The Bible is a book that is filled with accounts of courageous men and women, people who faced down danger and death with lion-like boldness (Proverbs 28:1). Turning to our Old Testament we can read the story of Gideon, who had the courage to turn away from the false religion of his father. He threw down the altar of Baal and built an altar to the true and living God (Judges 6). We might also read of Esther, who had the courage to thwart custom by going before her king unbidden to plead for the lives of her people (Esther 4:16). Her courageous act saved the lives of countless people.

Going further into our Old Testament we read the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These young men knew that if they refused to worship the king's idol they would be thrown into the burning fiery furnace, yet they courageously refused. It took a tremendous level of mental and emotional strength to do what was right even in the face of death (Daniel 3). Listen to what these three young men said to a king, "be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:18).

These examples teach us so much about the wonderful virtue of courage that the world seems to miss. Many see one who is courageous almost as a bullhead, reckless fool who rushes into danger and, against all odds, survives the impossible. But the scriptures show us quite a different picture. The Word of God paints courage as the virtue that can help us stand for what is right even when we know it will bring abuse on us. It takes tremendous courage to speak the truth on controversial issues. Just ask John the Baptist. He was beheaded because he spoke about morality to someone who was determined to live an immoral life (Matthew 14:4-10).

As followers of Jesus Christ we cannot allow the

world to dictate what we can and cannot believe. Nor can we allow fear to stop us from declaring God's truth on moral issues. Whether it is a "hot topic" in the news, like homosexuality, or one of the more commonly accepted evils like rampant divorce, Christians must stay true to our Lord and share His message of freedom from sin with the world around us (Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Some may frown at religious people for speaking out against immorality. Some may go beyond a frown and declare it to be wrong, intolerant or unconstitutional to speak against sin. But the truth is it really doesn't matter what the majority feels, believes and declares. When God condemns a practice, His people must stand with Him. God's ways are much higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). God's Word condemns sexual immorality in all its forms, including fornication, adultery, and yes, even homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9; Leviticus 18:22; Ephesians 5:11). It is not easy to be God's watchmen, but He fully expects His people to warn others of the dangers of sin (Ezekiel 33).

Some may say religion is for the weak, but being a follower of Christ is not for the faint of heart. To walk in the steps of Jesus we must be ready to confront sin even if it makes us social outcasts. Even if it costs us our business, our friends, our good standing or even our head, we must be valiant for the truth that sets men free from the bondage of sin (Romans 1:16; Philippians 1:17; 1 Timothy 3:15; John 8:32). It takes far more courage to speak truth when it is unpopular and unwelcome than it does to follow the crowd (Exodus 23:2). Those wonderful Old Testament examples remind each one of us that courage is an attainable virtue. It can be a reality for all who put their trust in God (Psalm 27:14). May we all have the courage and strength of heart to say and do what is right no matter the cost. Do you have the courage to declare "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27)?

## 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 34

**Joshua 12-17  
& Luke 23-24**

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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ment (Rom. 6:23). How can a faithful child of God not hate that which God hates? One is either on God's side or the devil's side! It is not unusual for people to have strong convictions regarding those things in this world they detest or despise. If we are truly followers of God, we will always identify sin for what it is and hate it as God hates it.

**Second, sin incurs the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18)!** Some members of the Lord's church are upset with some sins, but not all sins. Other brethren never seem to be ill at ease with sin. Strong's Greek Dictionary says of wrath: "excitement of the mind, by analogy, violent passion [ire] or [justifiable] abhorrence; by implication punishment." The Greek word for wrath has also been translated as "anger, indignation, and vengeance." Whatever incurs God's wrath should never, without resistance, be allowed to continue!

**Third, the Lord's judgment will convict the ungodly of their works of ungodliness (Jude 13)!** Those who commit sin and do not repent will be found guilty of ungodliness. The Lord will say to those who have refused to abide by His will: "*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matt. 7:21, 23).

**Fourth, God has never authorized or encouraged the faithful to be tolerant of sin!** Toleration of sin has nothing to do with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17), but is a tool Satan uses to deceive people and destroy souls. Paul taught the Corinthian brethren that their "*glorying*" was not good and that "*a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" (1 Cor. 5:6). Immorality had been committed in their midst and they were glorying in their ability to be **tolerant** of the sinful situation. Sin is contagious and, unchecked, will spread through a congregation like a prairie wildfire!

Preachers have an obligation to sound forth God's warning about sin (cf. Ezek. 33:1-9; 2 Tim. 4:2-5). Elders are commanded to "*watch in behalf of [brethren's souls], as they that shall give account...*" (Heb. 13:17). The Lord's church is not to have "*spot or wrinkle or any such thing; [but is to be] holy and without blemish*" (Eph. 5:27). Willful toleration of sin will destroy the souls of those guilty of such and the soul of the one who is in sin!

### 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 **35 contacts** were made.

### News & Notes

- ◆ Thank you...for the cards of love and encouragement sent to Fran and me in our heartaches and concerns this year...Thanks to all who have so thoughtfully and lovingly remembered us! We are most grateful! (the full text of this thank you note is on the bulletin board) ~In Christian Love, Maxie & Fran Boren
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped make the Summer Youth Series a success. We counted at least 168 that were here (maybe more). I have heard many great compliments on how well it went and you all are to be commended for your great work.
- ◆ 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. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin board.

## 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

	August 5, 2012	August 12, 2012
Bible Class	46	46
AM Worship	63	40
PM Worship	50	44
Wednesday PM	35	44
Contribution	\$1519	\$1477

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 8/19/12	Next Week: 8/26/12	August 2012	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Garrett Barnum	<b>Clean Building:</b> Smithey Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore*, Allen Griffith John Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Don Smith, John Barnum	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Hank Wheeler	<b>September 2012</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>			<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Allen Griffith	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Garrett Barnum <i>Mark 9:33-37</i>	Tom Wilcox	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Charles White	
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	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)*

<b>Studies for the week of August 19, 2012</b>		Sunday Class ..... <i>Colossians (Chap. 1)</i>	Wednesday Class ..... <i>DVD: Why So Many Churches?</i>
<p><b>An Audience That Was Ideal (Acts 10:33)</b></p> <p><b>1. Unity of Purpose</b> — "We are all here"</p> <p>a. Many gathered together for one purpose (10:1, 24).</p> <p>b. Such unity is to be commended and set forth as an example (Acts 2:46, 4:32; Heb. 10:24-25); when such did not exist it was condemned (1 Cor. 11:17-18, 20-21).</p> <p><b>2. Reverence To God</b> — "Present before God"</p> <p>a. They recognized their actions were witnessed by God and to His glory (Hab. 2:20; Ps. 111:9).</p> <p>b. Let us remember our worship and actions are before God as well (Heb. 4:13; 12:28; 1 Pet. 2:5; John 4:23-24).</p> <p><b>3. Noble Purpose</b> — "to hear"</p> <p>a. They were ready to listen as active participants (John 6:45; Rom. 10:13-17; Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18, 11).</p> <p>b. They were prepared people (Acts 17:11).</p> <p><b>4. Determination</b> — "all things commanded"</p> <p>a. They wanted to hear all God commanded; our attitude ought to be the same (Acts 20:20, 26-27; 2 Tim. 4:2-4).</p> <p>b. Where else can one hear the words of life (Jn. 6:66-69; 14:6)?</p> <p><b>5. Reception</b> — v48—baptized and asked to stay</p> <p>a. It was received as the word of God (1 Thess. 2:13; Acts 15:7).</p> <p>b. Then they responded with an active, obedient faith (James 1:22, 2:21-24).</p> <p><i>When we come to worship God and study God's Word, may we be such an ideal audience as well.</i></p>		<p><b>Lessons On Service (Luke 21-22)</b></p> <p><i>Jesus taught His disciples about serving others by way of:</i></p> <p><b>1. Highlighting Others</b> (Lk 21:1-4)</p> <p>a. He pointed out the deeds of others by way of example (Lk. 18:15-17; 9:46-48; 10:30-37; 7:36-50).</p> <p>b. We need to do the same...noting to ourselves or to others the work that other people do which set a good example for us (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 8:1-6; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thess. 1:6-10; etc.).</p> <p><b>2. Teaching</b> (Both by Word and Deed) (Lk 22:24-27)</p> <p>a. Jesus actively taught His disciples to be servants.</p> <p>b. He did this both verbally (Luke 19:12-26; 18:9-14; 17:10; 14:11; 6:27-36) and by pointing to His actions (Lk. 4:43; John 13:1-17, 4:34; Matt. 20:26-28).</p> <p>c. Likewise will we be examples to others in word and deed? (1 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1; Lk 9:23; Phil. 2:15-16)</p> <p><b>3. Living Example</b> (Lk 22:41-42, 63ff)</p> <p>a. More than something possibly seen as an object lesson, His whole life was an example of service.</p> <p>b. He lived a life of service (Lk 9:56; 19:10; John 4:34), and died as a living example of service as well (Isa. 53:6-12; 1 Pet. 2:21-24).</p> <p>c. Will we follow the same example and be servants, even when it is not easy? (Matt. 5:16; Lk 6:27-36; 9:23-25; 1 Pet. 2:19-21)</p> <p><i>Let us learn from Jesus teaching and example to be a servant, and in so doing provide an example for others.</i></p>	