

# 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



September 16, 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.

## A Distracted Society, We are

By Bryan R Braswell

I can relate. I'm not an alien to our modern era or the distractions of the day. Fast cars, computers, and cell phones are the norm, and if you work you can have them. If you don't, the government has deemed them necessities for the "poor." We are a distracted society.

Priorities are these today: Fun, food, and fantasy. If we work, it's for this purpose. Even in the church, kids are used to seeing the church as an entertainment hall for social fun. If it's not colorful and exciting, they're lost. The phone rings here at the church's office: "Hello." "Yeah, we're looking for a church home." "Great!, how can we help you?" "What do you offer? Do you have a youth program? Do you have a mother's day out program? Do you have a youth minister? What about your seniors? Do you have a middle age group that get's together once a month for fun and games."

That's typical of today's desires when it comes to the church. We are like all the other nations about us. It's not a matter of desiring to be like them. We've become them. The Devil has distracted us deeply, and I say deeply because it's a matter deep within our hearts. It's like a bad drug. It's an addiction. Our bodies, like cigarettes and dip to the tobacco users, are screaming for more and more dope. We are consumed by pleasure, and it is our passion. It is why we live. Parents are losing this battle. They, themselves, are pleasure patterned. Their parents were brought up during a time of pleasure and selfishness. Sin is painted and portrayed as righteousness. Justification of such is practical. Politics and Politicians are distracted by their own greed and grizzly appetites for comfort. Distracted by fairness doctrines and moral equivalency, challenged by attention seeking sinners who love to be coddled and cuddled, but will bite like a snake or dog when you turn your back on them. Vicious, they are, and mean spirited, but sweet to the look and taste if you bite down on their rewards. But, it's only temporary. No moral fiber absolute exists within this group. Homosexual and hungry for more sin, apathetic they are not. Many a Christian have tucked tail and left their Christian armor on site. We are running scared because we may lose our luxury if we oppose that which is wrong. We are distracted too.

Cancer is bad, and the cure is near, so they say. However it spreads like a cancer, it's like leaven in dough, permeating and presenting itself with ooze and abscess. We fight it. We don't like it. It's physical affect is having it's toll. It's destroying our pleasure, our time to have fun. It robs us of our abilities to fly, find, and free ourselves of stress in this world. It's a distraction and one we do not like. It's absorbing our time. Time we could be spending at the beach, time with fun, family, and friends. Cancer is only physical, and sin is forgotten, which is the real cancer.

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*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

# Light-Switch Christianity

by Josh Romo

In the world of sports, there are players in any sport who are said to have a “light-switch” of sorts. These players are the ones that never seem to put 100% effort into their game until they feel the need to do so or when it is most convenient for themselves. These players are different from the ones that seem to kick it into high gear when the pressure is on. These “lightswitch” players just seem to “turn it on” when they can “show out” or when they might think they can better their own standing with a coach or for other selfish reasons.

Are we, as Christians, like that athlete that has a “light-switch” and only “turn it on” when we feel it will benefit us most? Or do we only live the Christian life when we come to services on Sundays? Or do we only make a show of being a Christian when other Christians can see how righteous we are? Or when we come upon adversity, do we clam up and keep our silence? If you answered YES to any of these questions, I ask you to take a closer look at your relationship with God. I ask you to “re-wire” yourself and get rid of the “light-switch” and be turned on to Christ at all times.

During the course of this discussion, we will address three questions. 1.) Do you turn your “light-switches” on and off depending upon the situation? 2.) Does your Christianity depend upon your convenience? 3.) How are you wired? Do you have a switch or will your “wires” have to be cut to shut you down?

First of all, do you turn your “light-switch” on and off depending upon the situation? The “light-switch” Christians say, “I only have to be a ‘Christian’ while I am ‘at church’”. When I walk through those doors I can be my own person and do whatever I want and as long as I’m at services next Sunday, I will be fine.” The next day he finds himself at work or at school and his peers are acting and talking in such a way that would not be befitting of a Christian. Because acting like a Christian would cause him to feel awkward and uncomfortable, he decides to participate in the behavior and conversation. As a result,

his peers cannot tell the difference between themselves and the one who is supposed to be a Christian. It could be that he attends services faithfully but he regularly goes to bars, attends parties, curses, etc... “But I’m still a Christian. I attend services every time the doors are open.”

The apostle Paul writes, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;...”* (Romans 1:16). The person that acts like the one mentioned above is ashamed of the gospel of Christ. He wants to be a Christian in name but he wants to be so on his own terms. Jesus calls this kind of person a hypocrite. *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”* (Matthew 23:27-33). The person that behaves in such a manner puts on an outward show of being a Christian when, in fact, he has not repented of his sins and so is living in sin as a wayward member of Christ’s body.

The next question is, does your Christianity depend upon your convenience? There are those that are only Christians when it is most convenient for them. This person says, “I will pick and choose the times in which I will represent Christ. When my family comes into town for the holidays, I will stay home and visit with them rather than going to services. If my child happens to have a ball

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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 38**  
**Judges 12-17**  
**& John 7-8**

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)*



### A Moral Church In An Immoral World

Of course, our gospel meeting begins today with Josh Romo of San Angelo. We hope that you can make as many of the meetings as possible. Flyers are still available at the back for your reminder and to use in inviting others.

Remember that audio recordings will be made of all the lessons and you can request a free CD recording of them by indicating such on an attendance card. Additionally they will be posted in MP3 format on our website—this is a great resource for sharing with others.

Additional events associated with this meeting:

- ◆ **Potluck Lunch** after this morning's worship, we would love for everyone that can to stay.
- ◆ We are also planning on having **finger foods and sandwiches** after the meeting on Monday and Tuesday night so we can visit with one another and guests...hope you can plan on joining us, and if you're a member here, bring your favorite items.
- ◆ **Wednesday morning class and lunch** beginning at 11 AM. There is still a sign-up sheet at the back for the lunch which will follow the class.

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Socially we are secure because the government provides. They don't provide enough is the language of the day. We need more. More health protection, more freedom to live and sin uninhibited. We desire more freedom to sin. Yet, we say get out of our way, leave us alone, sugar daddy Big Government, but protect us so we can be free. Give me, give me, give me, like a baby screaming for more affection and milk. A class of spiritually immature babes distracted by lies, and hopelessness is the end result if we do not open our eyes and ears.

We are a distracted society. TV, video game consoles, apps, iPhones, Droids, pc's, direct TV, high speed internet, wireless technology, fiber optics, liquid crystal displays, plasma screens, high definition, faster, faster, and faster, but I wonder how much more we can take before this bubble busts!?

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14). Let's be distracted by God's goodness alone!

### 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 **39 contacts** were made.

### Address Updates

- ◆ Make sure and pickup **directory packets** at the back of the auditorium that contain new birthday/anniversary lists as well as new pages for the Barnum and Dennis families.
- ◆ Please mark your directories that **Roy Dodson** has moved in with his daughter at \_\_\_\_\_.

### News & Notes *(flyers on back bulletin board)*

- ◆ Sept. 21-23 **Lectureship at 5th & Grape** in Abilene.
- ◆ Sept. 23-26 **Gospel Meeting at Bangs** with Otho Rogers.
- ◆ Sept. 29 **Ladies Day at Ranger** with Karla Sparks; 9:30 AM.
- ◆ Sept. 30 **First Bible Bowl at Hamilton** at 2 PM
- ◆ Oct. 6 **Ladies Day at Patrick Street** in Dublin beginning at 9:00 AM with Sandy Smith.

## Celebrate

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

**September Birthdays:** James Fuller (06), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Billie Ford (17), Clarence Ford (17), Marie White (18), Matthew Ochoa (20), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28), Jimmy Seale (29).

**September Anniversaries:** Joyce & Jack Hill (10).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*



## Records

	Sept. 2, 2012	Sept. 9, 2012
Bible Class	50	56
AM Worship	75	67
PM Worship	51	58
Wednesday PM	51	45
Contribution	\$1659	\$1774

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 9/16/12	Next Week: 9/23/12	September 2012	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger	
<b>Greeters</b>	Billy & Peggy Chism	Jack & Joyce Hill	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Garrett Barnum	Hank Wheeler	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas*, Tom Wilcox John Barnum, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Charles White	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore	<b>October 2012</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Jim Moore	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>			<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jim Moore	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas	Allen Griffith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	September 19 Gospel Meeting	September 26 Tom Wilcox	October 3 Garrett Barnum	October 10 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)

<b>Studies for the week of September 16, 2012</b>	Sunday Class .....Gospel Meeting Wednesday Class.....Meeting
<p>(Continued from page 2)</p> <p>game on a Sunday or Wednesday, it will not hurt us to miss one service; God will understand. When a doctrinal subject comes up at work or at school and I do not know much about it, although I know what they are saying is wrong, I will act disinterested or will make up an answer so that I do not feel too awkward." He will then defend himself by saying, "Well, I don't drink or do those things that so and so does. I'm a good person." This person is much the same as the first mentioned, the difference being that this person is not as blatant in his behavior as the first. He simply tries to blend in with everyone. He wants to serve God but only on his own schedule. Well, what does the Bible say about such behavior? <b><i>"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;..."</i></b> (Heb. 10:25). <b><i>"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:"</i></b> (1 Peter 3:15). These two passages address the problem of forsaking the assembling of the saints and being prepared to answer those that ask us questions of our doctrine and faith. If one should come upon a question that he cannot answer, there is nothing wrong with admitting that he does not</p>	<p>know and would like the opportunity to study the subject and get back to the person that asked the question. The worst thing one could do is to make up an answer when he really does not know; he could be teaching false doctrine and not even know it.</p> <p>Finally, how are you wired? Do you have a switch or will your wires have to be cut to shut you down? A few years ago, I was afforded the opportunity to work with an electrical company. I now know that there is a way to wire something that the only way to shut it off is to cut the wire. So I ask, do you have a switch or are you permanently fixed or wired in the "on" position? If you have a switch, lose it. Re-wire yourself so that the only way you will no longer be in service to the Lord is to have your wires cut in death. <b><i>"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."</i></b> (Revelation 2:10). Christ tells us that if we are faithful throughout our lives, even to the point of losing our lives, He will give us a crown of life. Do you turn your faith on and off or is it constant? If you have had that so-call "switch", make it to where it is turned "on" once and for all.</p>