

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 23, 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.

4 Questions for Spiritual Self-Examination

By Adam Cozort

One of the most important aspects of Christianity is the necessity of being self-aware; of analyzing our own lives to see what we are doing right and what we are not accomplishing as we should. Jesus would speak about the need for this with the lesson of the mote and the beam in Matthew 7:3-5. Paul emphasized the need for this on a number of occasions. To the Corinthians he wrote, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test" (2 Cor. 13:5 ESV); he also wrote to the Galatians: "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another" (Gal. 6:4). Therefore, it is imperative that we consistently take the time to examine our lives and actions to ensure we are living according to the standard intended by God. So take a moment to examine yourself with a few questions of spiritual self-examination.

#1 – When was the last time you read your Bible every day of the week?

Hopefully this is a commonplace activity in your life and you can truthfully answer "last week." Our ability to fulfill God's Will is directly correlated to our knowledge and understanding of it; this cannot be accomplished without regular, diligent time with it. Christians are to be people who are able to give answers pertaining to our hope (1 Pet. 3:15), to meditate upon the words of Scripture for both personal benefit and for the benefit of others (1 Tim. 4:13-16), and to direct our lives toward the singular goal of working for the faith of the Gospel (Phi. 1:27). These things can only be accomplished when we are consistently spending time, not just reading God's Word, but absorbing it into our hearts and imparting it in our actions.

#2 – When was the last time you spoke with someone outside of Christ about the Gospel?

The second greatest responsibility the Christian has is to present the truth of the Gospel to the lost. The Lord intended every Christian to be busy proclaiming the Gospel to a lost and dying world. It is the explicit command of the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20). It is the example clearly presented by the 1st century church through Aquila and Priscila, Philip the Evangelist, and so many others throughout the New Testament. Unfortunately, it is an aspect of Christianity that has been largely ignored today, and in our spiritual self-examination if we have been weak in this area we must make some changes.

(Continued on page 2)



*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:1-2

(Continued from page 1)

#3 – Who do I uphold as most important in my life? For most, the answer would automatically be “God” or “Jesus,” but since this is self-examination let’s delve a little deeper. What books do you talk about the most, the Bible or secular works? What do you quote more frequently in conversations: movie lines or Bible lines? Who do you use as examples for your kids: superheroes and cartoon characters or Biblical examples of godliness and righteousness? When surprised, angry, or hurt, what is more likely to come out of your mouth: God’s name, in full or euphemistic form, or nothing? Which are you more likely to discuss with your friends: your favorite tv show or your favorite Bible verse? You see, in all of these categories, and more that could be listed, we show to others what we uphold most in life; what we consider to be of the greatest value and interest, but also worthy of the greatest reverence and respect.

#4 – If I know something is missing/wrong in my life, will I change? This is the single most important question of the examination; because each of us, no matter our number of years as Christians or our level of commitment to God, has areas that need attention and improvement. Are we willing to make the changes necessary? Jesus was once approached by a rich young ruler about what was necessary to receive eternal life. However, when the young man was told what he needed to do he went away sad because he did not want to change his life (Mat. 19:16-22). Solomon admonished us, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro. 16:18). When examining myself and my life, am I willing to make the changes and adjustments that need to be made to serve God acceptably and to grow as I should? I cannot answer that question for you, just as you cannot answer it for me. Nevertheless, if I have examined myself with the three previous questions, found flaws and shortcomings, and refuse to change my life as needed, I am telling God that I am unwilling to fully measure up to his standards and expectations. Such an attitude will not lead to the conclusion desired when standing before God in judgment.

One of the hardest things for people to do is look honestly at their lives and make changes; but such is a part of being a servant of God. God wants us to be the best we can be, that means not being willing to become content and complacent with where we are, but to ever push forward to be better in the future than we have been in the past. May God grant us the wisdom to know what is right, the courage to do it, and the will to retain it in our lives.

Elvis Presley’s Bible

By Steve Higginbotham

Last week, a Bible that was given to Elvis Presley in 1957 by his aunt and uncle was auctioned off. It is clear that Elvis actually read and used this Bible, for it contained several marginal notes written in his own handwriting. One such note is found in the margin of Luke 9. It says, “For what is a man advantaged if he should gain the whole world and lose himself or be castaway.” Interesting insight from a man who had so much of what this world values.

But to the real point of this article. The Bible sold for \$97,000.00. What I find of particular interest is that the value of this Bible was determined by the person who owned it. Oh, I understand how the whole “celebrity thing” works, but I just thought it was ironic that (from the world’s point of view) the owner of this Bible brought value to the Bible. However, the Bible is “priceless” no matter who owns it, and frankly, the value of a Bible is not increased by its owner, rather the Bible brings value to its owner. Give it some thought.

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 39

Judges 18-Ruth 2 & John 9-10

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)



Thank You

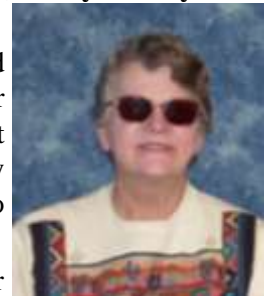
- ◆ Thank you to all who helped make the recent work day and meeting such a success.
- ◆ We want to express our sincere gratitude for all the cards and visits to momma while she was in the hospital...We want to thank the congregation for the prayers, cards, visits, phone messages, text messages, food, and helping with the lunch and her service. No mere words can express how thankful we are that the Lord blessed us with such a loving church family.

~Cindy & Jonathan Proud, Mike Bailey, and the entire family of Betty Bailey

Memorials

I am reminded how Paul told the Christians at Philippi to “mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example” (Phil. 3:17); an encouragement to note those who set a positive example that can be followed by others. Recently we have had to say goodbye to two members of this congregation that provided such examples, **Betty Bailey** and **Freda Womack**.

Freda died on August 26 and while health problems had kept her away from the assembly for the past few years, she is remembered by many as a servant that was willing to do what she could to help others.



Freda Womack
1942-2012

Betty, who died on September 14th, was also a servant to others. She is particularly remembered as a Bible class teacher for over 50 years. Even as her health declined in the past few years, she showed a love toward children and a desire to want to help them learn about God.

Both of these ladies are remembered by their family and friends as strong Christian examples who lived our their faith in their lives. They have now passed to their reward and again are examples and reminders to us that this life is

brief and we don't know what tomorrow holds. So let us learn from their examples and set our affections on things that are above (Col. 3:2) and with joy and anticipation look forward to the time when we can rest from our labors (Rev. 14:13).



Betty Bailey
1929-2012

Records	Sept. 9, 2012	Sept. 16, 2012
Bible Class	56	51
AM Worship	67	65
PM Worship	58	54
Monday PM	NA	49
Tuesday PM	NA	72
Wednesday AM	NA	30
Wednesday PM	45	47
Contribution	\$1774	\$1489

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.

Address Updates

- ◆ Make sure you have picked up the new **directory sheets** 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 _____.

News & Notes

(flyers on back bulletin board)

- ◆ There is a new report from **Rohan Jones** on the bulletin board.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 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...



	This Week: 9/23/12	Next Week: 9/30/12	September 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Jack & Joyce Hill	The Maninger Family	Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith	Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Tom Wilcox	October 2012	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: Jim Moore	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism	
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Ken Maninger	Clean Building: Jessica Stultz	
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>John 5:39-47</i>	Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 26 Tom Wilcox	October 3 Garrett Barnum	October 10 Jim Moore	October 17 Don Smith

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 September 23, 2012		Sunday Class <i>Colossians (Chap. 1 & 2)</i>
		Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
Questions Asked About Jesus (John 7-8) - Sunday AM: Parts 1, 3, & 4; Sunday PM: Part 2		
<i>These chapters contain almost 20 questions concerning Christ that give us insight into the thoughts of the people and teach valuable lessons:</i>		
<p>1. Where Is He?</p> <p>a. Sadly many only sought Him as entertainment or out of curiosity, or mockingly. (Jn 7:3-4, 11; 6:26-27; Lk 23:8)</p> <p>b. Even His own brothers mocked Him; but He did not His works privately (Acts 2:22, 26:26)...problem is that many who witnessed His works did not believe in them.</p> <p>c. Will we seek Him honestly? (John 1:45-46, 49; 4:29-30)</p> <p>d. People struggle have this question today...some seriously, others mockingly (2 Pet. 3:4; John 20:29).</p> <p>2. Who Is He? (8:25) They wondered as to His identity...some sought curiously, some tempting, and some seriously.</p> <p>a. Is He a good man? (7:12) Some were wrestling with this question and some dismissed Him without questioning (7:12). But notice they had the honesty to recognize Jesus was either good or a deceiver, He could not be both (3:2, 9:33, 10:19-21)</p> <p>b. Is He the Christ?</p> <p>i. Is not this he whom they seek to kill? (7:25) (yes, even if the people would not recognize it (7:20) - they were not honest about themselves and their intentions (5:16, 18)</p> <p>ii. Do the rulers know this is the Christ? (7:26)</p> <p>iii. Can we know from whence cometh the Christ? (7:27), Shall Christ come out of Galilee (7:41) - showed their ignorance of Scripture and Jesus.</p> <p>iv. Say we not well, thou hast a devil? (8:48)</p> <p>v. Dost our law judge any man before it hears him? (7:51) - the leaders wanted to condemn Him without honest investigation...will we do the same?</p>	<p>c. Why have ye not brought him? (7:45) - see also v46; they recognized there was something special about this man.</p> <p>d. Would the Christ do more miracles? (7:31) - what would it take for them to believe? What about us? More miracles would not convince them (16:31).</p> <p>e. Have any of the rulers believed on Him? (7:48) - some had (Jn 12:42); but why should the opinions of men matter?</p> <p>f. Art thou greater than our father Abraham? Who maketh thou thyself? (8:53) He was not making Himself out to be anything...He showed them exactly who He was...would they act on what they witnessed as had Abraham? Will we act on what we know?</p> <p>g. Who Art thou? (8:25) He was the one on whom they must believe (v24), the one with the words of eternal life (6:68-69)</p> <p>3. What Does He Have To Say?</p> <p>a. How knoweth this man letters? (7:15) They were impressed with His speaking but did not listen to its content. Should care less about one's "education" and focus more on his words and deeds (cf. Acts 4:13; 1 Jn 4:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Matt. 7:20).</p> <p>b. What sayest thou? (8:5) - rather than tempting Him, they should have sought him out as the one that had the answers of eternal life (6:68-69).</p> <p>c. How sayest thou, ye shall be made free? (8:33) He could make them spiritually and eternally free (8:31-32).</p> <p>4. Where will He go? (7:35) He was going where they could not now go...but could one day if they would follow Him (14:1-3)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What will we do with the answers to these questions?</i></p>	