

# 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 30, 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

## Hearing, But Not Doing

By Chad Dollahite

“Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the lord. 31And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. 32And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. 33And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (Eze. 33:30-33).

In this text, God’s people were hearing, but they were not doing. God said He was going to lay the land desolate (vv. 28-29), and many would die of pestilence (v. 27). Because of these punishments, the children of Israel would know that Jehovah was God (v. 29), and they would know that a true prophet of Jehovah had been among them (v. 33).

The people’s disobedience to God was not from a lack of knowledge and/or hearing of the will of God. Ezekiel had faithfully prophesied the word of the Lord to them. As God said to Ezekiel, “They hear thy words, but they will not do them” (Eze. 33:31). They heard and knew God’s will, but they simply refused to obey it. God goes on to say, “With their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness” (33:31). These people professed love to God with their mouths, but their hearts were certainly not right in the sight of God. God even tells Ezekiel that he (Ezekiel) is like mere entertainment to them, pleasing to their ears, for they hear him and go their way, ignoring the message from God. What a terrible situation in which to find the very people who are supposed to be God’s faithful! They were the ones who were supposed to represent God to the world, and they were ignoring the teachings and warnings from the very One whom they supposedly served. But, God left this warning at the end of chapter 33: “And when this [the pestilence and desolation, ccd] cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (v. 33).

Today, we often see the same problem among those professing to be God’s people (and often among those who are God’s people). The text in Ezekiel 33:31

(Continued on page 3)



For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD,  
and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

Ezra 7:10

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

# Believing

By Jason Sparks

There is a difference between believing God exists and believing in God. Obviously to believe in God we must believe that He exists. But there is more involved. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that the one who pleases God not only believes He exists, he also believes God will reward those who seek His ways.

A friend of mine likes to use the illustration of medicine. One person may believe medicine exists. Another person may believe medicine exists and then he uses it knowing there will be a good result. We must not just believe God exists but believe IN God! We must not only have the intellectual knowledge that God is alive but also trust Him enough to follow Him.

James tells us that faith without works is a dead faith (James 2:20-26). The kind of faith that does nothing is worthless and it is not what God wants from us. The kind of faith that is helpful to us is one that is alive and active. So what does that mean?

The word “faith” comes from the word that means “to believe”. In the New Testament, when the noun is used it is almost always translated “faith”. When the verb is used it is always translated “to believe”. They both have the same root meaning! These are action words. Even the noun form (faith) implies action even though it is not a verb. That simply means that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). This little lesson in grammar is powerful. We must understand that if we want a healthy and vibrant faith, it must be an active faith!

Faith implies trust. When we see the promises of God and act upon them, we do so because we trust God to keep His promises! So in order to build faith, we must learn to build trust in God.

Faith also implies knowledge. We must know what God wants before we step out in faith to do it. Romans 10:17 teaches that “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” The context is about the need for preachers so that people can be saved. Paul wrote, “How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

People cannot be saved unless they call on the name of the Lord to save them. (See Acts 22:16 for an explanation of that phrase.) People cannot call on the name of the Lord to save them if they have never BELIEVED. And they can never believe in something they have never HEARD.

We know that there are people in the world who are teaching all kinds of things as “facts” from the Bible which are not facts at all. This is nothing new. It has happened since Satan first tempted Eve in the Garden. The New Testament is full of warnings about false teachers. But let’s remember that people cannot be taught error and expect to have faith in God. They might place their faith in error and in the false teacher, but if their (our) faith is not in GOD’S WORD then it is not faith in GOD.

Believing is vital to the Christian. Let us study the word to ensure that we are believing TRUTH and that we are acting upon it. As we do this we will be blessed by God! Keep your faith in God and in no other. Do not let yourself be deceived by anything that is contrary to the teaching of God. Believing is important, but believing the RIGHT thing is the only way to be saved!

Television	God’s Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
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	<b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17). <b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24) <b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33) <b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5) Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16) <b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)	<b>Week 40</b> <b>Ruth 3—1 Samuel 4</b> <b>&amp; John 11-12</b> 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. <i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</i>
<b>Radio</b> Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3		



(Continued from page 1)

reminds this writer of Jesus' words in Matthew 15:8: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." Notice Jesus' statement immediately following: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (15:9). Hearing God's Word is not enough if we do not put what we hear into practice. How many people will be lost on the Day of Judgment, not from ignorance of God's Word, but from failure to put what they heard into action? Let us ever be mindful of the words of James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." May we also remember the inspired words penned by the apostle Paul, "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Rom. 2:13). Friends and brethren, I doubt that anyone reading this article is having a shortage of hearing the Word of God. But, is the Word being obeyed? Read Matthew 7:24-27. Both of these men heard the word of the Lord; the difference was only that one heard and obeyed. Are you going to be wise or foolish? The choice is yours.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:24-27).

### 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.

### News & Notes

(flyers on back bulletin board)

#### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Today: 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.
- ◆ Oct. 14-17: Meeting at DeLeon with Jerry Jackson.
- ◆ Oct. 20-21: "Back To The Bible" Lectureship at Hamilton.
- ◆ Oct. 21-24: Meeting/Lectureship at Rising Star.

**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.



### Something to think about...

*I do not believe there is a problem in this country or the world today which could not be settled if approached through the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount.*

~Harry S. Truman

Of course that encompasses many teachings in our dealings with others but includes this precious jewel: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

## Celebrate

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

**October Birthdays:** Jim Moore (03), Lisa Greer (05), Matthew Churchwell (07), Jo Maninger (12), Seth Smithy (13), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Peggy Dudley (25).

**October Anniversaries:** Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25), Patti & Mike Bannister (27).

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



Records	Sept. 16, 2012	Sept. 23, 2012
Bible Class	51	53
AM Worship	65	72
PM Worship	54	44
Monday PM	49	NA
Tuesday PM	72	NA
Wednesday AM	30	NA
Wednesday PM	47	44
Contribution	\$1489	\$1733

	<b>This Week: 9/30/12</b>	<b>Next Week: 10/7/12</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	<b>October 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Jim Moore <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jim Moore  <b>November 2012</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey	
<b>Greeters</b>	The Maninger Family	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Hank Wheeler*, Tom Wilcox James Thomas, Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Matthew Ochoa		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler <i>2 Thessalonians 2:13-17</i>	Garrett Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	October 3 Garrett Barnum	October 10 Jim Moore	October 17 Don Smith	October 24 Allen Griffith

## 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 30, 2012</b>	Sunday Class ..... <i>Colossians (Chap. 2)</i> Wednesday Class ..... <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p><b>Acceptable Prayer (John 9:31)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the statement carry any weight?                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We must recognize that it is not an inspired comment but was recorded by inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16-17; not all statements made in the Bible are inspired or factual — just consider Satan’s comments in Gen. 3 &amp; Matt. 4).</li> <li>But his comment still speaks the truth (Ps. 34:15-16; Prov. 15:29) and shows the inconsistencies of the Pharisees toward Jesus and His Works.</li> <li>As such he was simply applying Bible knowledge, the same we are to do (James 1:22; 2 Tim. 2:2; Neh. 8:8).</li> </ol> </li> <li>What can we learn about prayer from such a statement? Answer: not all prayers are acceptable to God.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acceptable prayers come from those seeking God’s Will.                                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ultimately prayer is a spiritual blessing for those in Christ (Eph. 1:3; Heb. 4:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:12).</li> <li>The only exception found are those who are in the process of seeking God (1 Kings 8:33-34ff; Isa. 59:1-2 &amp; 1:18; Acts 10:30-33; Acts 9:8-11; 22:16).</li> </ol> </li> <li>Acceptable prayers are according to His will (1 Jn 5:14; Matt. 6:10; Lk. 22:42; 1 Cor. 4:19, 16:7; James 4:13-15).</li> <li>Acceptable prayers are offered in faith (James 1:6-7; see also Acts 12:12-17—do we expect what we ask for?).</li> <li>Acceptable prayers have a right goal (James 4:2-3); why should we expect from God that which is contrary to His nature or will? <i>Let us have confidence God will hear such a prayer!</i></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Sunday PM: Tom Moore, Guest Speaker</b></p> <p>Tom is from Park Heights in Hamilton and he will be here preaching while I am there preaching as part of our area 5th Sunday Preacher Swap. We will look forward to being back with you Wednesday.</p> <p><b><i>A Proverb For The Day...</i></b> <i>By Jeremy Sprouse</i></p> <p><b>“Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent” (Proverbs 17:28).</b></p> <p>Shutting our mouths helps keep us from looking foolish. Ironically, many people try to show how smart and wise they are through by always having a quick response to a perceived slight and something to say even on topics they know little to nothing about. In doing so, they reveal their arrogance and how little they know. The more we speak, the more we offend others and say stupid things (cf. Proverbs 10:19). Sometimes the wisest action we can take is to be silent. A variation on this proverb often attributed to Abraham Lincoln says: “I’d rather be silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.”</p>