

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



December 30, 2012

Contact Us:

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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.

An Incredible Return Policy!

By Neal Pollard

Now that Christmas day has passed, retailers are beckoning potential customers to come in or log on and get what they "really wanted." For the next few days and weeks, shoppers will stand in customer service lines with gift receipts (or actual receipts) and either ask to exchange or return their merchandise. It seems that most businesses have adopted a more generous return policy through the course of time. But, there is one place whose return policy is unmatched.

Jesus illustrates this "policy" in a beautiful parable in Luke 15:11-32. We have dubbed this story the parable of the "prodigal" son. That term means to spend money and other resources recklessly and wastefully. The son in this story did just that, meaning it was totally his fault. There came a point when he wanted to return, and Jesus shows us much about the generous father's "return policy."

There was no receipt necessary. The father was not keeping record. He did not ask the boy to account for his inheritance. He fully accepted this son on the spot.

There were no questions asked. He did not have caveats or conditions. There was nothing to sign. He was welcomed back with open arms.

There were no time restrictions on when the return could occur. It is true that the father was anxiously awaiting his return, but he did not turn the boy away for waiting too long. Truly, if the boy had never returned it would have been too late. But, the father was not otherwise bound by a calendar or clock. There was an eagerness for the return to occur. The father wanted more than anything for the wasteful son to simply come back home. The son learned that rejection or disallowance was not part of the father's policy.

The most beautiful thing about our Heavenly Father's "return policy" is that it concerns that which never breaks, runs down, fades, or becomes outdated (Mt. 6:19-21; Rev. 7:13-17). What the prodigal son learned, we should learn, too. It is never too late, we have never gone too far, and He will never reject the one who comes to Him on His very fair and just terms. As long as we have life and breath, we have access to this generous return policy. There are never long lines or hassles. Nothing is more valuable than what He gives us when we come home. That's incredible!



*If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*

Psalm 130:3-4

And He Died

by Tom Wacaster

AND HE DIED by Tom Wacaster Genesis chapter five is a veritable gold mine in which are hidden nuggets of truth that the casual reader might overlook. The chapter follows two chapters that are somewhat bleak in their contents. Chapter three contains the fall of man. But in that chapter hope is held out for a coming "seed" who would crush the head of Satan and restore the broken fellowship between man and God. Chapter four dashes the hope of any quick appearance of that Redeemer. When Cain was born, Eve declared "I have gotten a man from the Lord." Some have suggested that perhaps Eve thought Cain was to be the "seed" who would crush Satan's head. If so, her hope soon turned to disappointment when that son murdered his own brother in the flesh. Genesis chapter five provides us with the genealogical line from Adam, through Seth, to the birth of Noah. As with most "genealogical chapters" in the Bible, the student might be tempted to read through the verses quickly, or even skip them altogether. If one succumbs to the temptation to take such chapters lightly, he robs himself of some important truths. Let's notice some of these spiritual nuggets contained in this chapter.

First, the chapter implies that God would keep His promise recorded in Genesis 3:15. If the coming Redeemer was to be of the "seed" of Eve, then it would important to provide the genealogical line that would eventually produce that seed. The Old Testament is filled with references to the blood line of the children of Israel. But it is in the New Testament that we are provided the seed line leading up to the birth of Christ. In Matthew 1:1-17 we are given the details of that "seed line" up to Joseph. Since Joseph was not the actual father of Christ, the only

conclusion we can come to is that Matthew's account provides us with the genealogical line from the "kingly" standpoint. In other words, Jesus was inherently qualified to serve as king because of His genealogical line through Joseph. Luke's account on the other hand (Luke 3:23-38) traces the line through Mary, providing us with the "human" genealogy of our Lord. Thus, Jesus is the "seed" promised to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15.

Second, this chapter teaches us that, with the exception of only two men, all are destined to die. Notice if you will the following verses in chapter five: 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, and 27. Each of those verses ends with the words, "and he died." The author of Hebrews reminds us of this stark truth in Hebrews 9:27, "And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh the judgment." It made no difference the length of their years, each and every man listed in Genesis chapter five, with the exception of Enoch, was said to have "died." Death is a stark reality, something of which all of us are aware. The irony is that too few make proper preparations for that appointment that all shall face. There may be a number of appointments that you have missed in your life time, but this is one appointment that none will miss. The words "and he died" remind us that this life is not permanent.

Third, this chapter teaches us there is a difference between those of the world and those who follow God. My old KJV of the Bible has hundreds, if not thousands, of notes that I have scribbled in the margin. Scores of verses have been underlined with variously colored pens and markers. In this chapter I have underlined the words "and

(Continued on page 3)

Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Study Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>Week 53 1 Kings 22—2 Kings 5 & Acts 16-17</p> <p>Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.</p> <p>Also anyone interested can join us at 5 PM each Sunday in the fellowship hall to discuss the questions and answers.</p> <p><i>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



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 **29 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The **Ladies class** will be on break until January 9th.
- ◆ **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party** at the building. Starting at 6 PM till whenever. Bring games, food, etc. and come enjoy a good time together as we welcome the new year.
- ◆ **Jan. 27: The next Bible Bowl** will be held at Bangs.

A Proverb for the Day (18:15) by Jeremy Sprouse

“The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge” (Proverbs 18:15 NASB). The wise are eager to learn and acquire knowledge and wisdom. They are always listening, observing, and seeking. They look to God and study His Word as the ultimate source of wisdom (cf. Proverbs 9:10, James 1:5-8). Like James instructed us to receive God’s Word, they are quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (James 1:19). The wisdom to live life well is available but we must humble ourselves to continually search for it and receive it.

he died" with red ink. The names of each man has been highlighted in yellow. Thus, when I scan the chapter, I see yellow, then red, then yellow, then red, and so on - until I get to Enoch. And instead of seeing yellow, then red, I see the name of Enoch highlighted in yellow (verse 21 & 22), followed by Methuselah highlighted in yellow (verse 22). "And he died" is never said of Enoch, for this man "walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (verse 24). What a contrast! Each of those men previous to Enoch might very well stand for the masses of humanity who do NOT walk with God. The Bible does not tell us whether any of those men were godly, or ungodly, except for Enoch; nor are we suggesting that none of those who lived prior to Enoch were faithful to their Creator. But one thing this chapter DOES tell us is this: there is a difference between those who walk with God and those who do not choose to follow their Creator. "And he died" is set forth in contrast to "and he walked." Each phrase contains exactly three words - and with only three words, the author describes the difference between those who serve God, and those who do not.

Finally, this chapter sets forth hope in the face of despair. "And he died" suggests an end, a terminating point. Were that all there is to life, then as one brother is fond of saying, "Life is hard, and then you die." But in contrast to the pessimism of death is the hope of walking with God, and eventually being taken by God to that heavenly home prepared for the righteous of every age. Someone once said, "The saddest thing from birth to sod, Is a dying man who has no god."

If you walk with God in this life, then your epitaph will read, "and God took him." But if you are living for self, with the world and all its allurements as your primary focus in life, then when you die, all that may be said of your life, for all practical purposes is, "and he died."

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: James Womack (04), Freda Cox (05), Estelle Guthrie (07), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Priscilla Smithey (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24).

December Anniversaries: Linda & Allen Griffith (20), Ginger & Howard King (24), Jo & Ken Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Dec. 16, 2012	Dec. 23, 2012
Bible Class	52	58
AM Worship	70	71
PM Worship	54	52
Wednesday PM	36	36
Contribution	\$1822	\$1617

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 12/30/12	Next Week: 1/6/13	December 2012	
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum	
Greeters	The Joe Dennis Family	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith	
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Joe Dennis	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum	Tom Wilcox*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Garrett Barnum	January 2013	
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Sunday PM:			Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Ken Maninger	Clean Building: The Smithey Family	
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis <i>2 Timothy 4:1-5</i>	Allen Griffith	Keep Grounds: Charles White	
Communion	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 2 Joe Dennis	January 9 James Fuller	January 16 Jim Moore	January 23 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 December 30, 2012	Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Chap. 1)</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p>Keep Preaching (Acts 14) <i>Why did Paul keep preaching, even at his own peril (15:26; 2 Cor. 11:24-28)? This chapter gives us some insight as well as encouragement for us to continue proclaiming the gospel.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Because Error Abounds—false teachers and false religion abounded, showing the need to preach truth. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Both Jews (14:1-4, 15:1ff) and Gentiles (14:11-18) posed a problem with false religion and opposition—but they kept proclaiming the truth of the gospel (14:3, 15). There continues to be error and opposition in the world today and it still needs to be confronted (Acts 17:16; 2 Pet. 2:1-2; 3:3; 1 John 4:1; Titus 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:1-5, 16; 4:1-4; 2 Thess. 2:1-4, 8; Gal. 1:6-9). Because More Are Lost—no matter how much they preached, more still needed to hear the gospel. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When rejected in one place, he kept going because he could preach in another that needed the gospel. No matter how much we preach, there are still going to be others that need the gospel. (2 Cor. 5:10-11, 14-15; Rom. 1:15, 15:23-24; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15). Because Brethren Need Strengthening—even those who had already heard and obeyed the gospel needed to be built up in their knowledge and zeal. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It was not enough to preach and go on, further teaching would be necessary for maturity and steadfastness. Certainly such is still needed today (Eph. 4:13-16; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:10-12). 	<p>Is There Not A Cause? (Part 3) <i>David stood before his brethren, as God and His army was being mocked, and asked this searching question (1 Samuel 17:29). David was ready to stand up and defend the honor of his God and God's people, even against Goliath. Because of David's courage, Goliath was conquered, and the armies of God triumphed...never underestimate the power of one voice!</i></p> <p><i>This is a question we should ask today when God, His truth, His church, and His people are attacked. Is there not a cause:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When our world is shaken by tragedy? Many rally behind "their cause," is ours God? Shall we not point people to Him that has the answers and is the answer? When God and His nature is attacked? Are we to defend His honor and point people to the truth? Do we sit idly by and allow Him to be defied and mocked? When sin runs rampant in our society? Shall we not speak out concerning God's standard and by that standard condemn the sin? Shall we not warn lost souls? When the Bible and Bible Authority are rejected? Will we speak out concerning His Word? Will we hold to it and defend it as the inspired, inerrant, immutable word of God? Will we proclaim it to others? When the church and the religious world is splintered by denominationalism and false doctrine? Will we proclaim the distinctiveness of the Lord's church? Will we contend for the faith and point people back New Testament church that rightly belongs to Christ?