

# 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



January 20, 2013

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
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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 .... 10:00 AM  
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.

## How Do I Love Thee?

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous opening from perhaps her most famous poem asks and answers an important question: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." However, many times we do not stop and consider what it means to love God. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15), and John, the apostle whom Jesus loved, wrote, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 Jn. 5:3). While true, the reason why this is true often escapes us. But we may discover the answer by imitating not only the example to love that Jesus has provided but also the example of how to love. John exhorts us, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 Jn. 4:11). Furthermore, Jesus commanded us, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn. 13:34).

When we truly seek to follow this pattern, we discover that one word occurs over and over again, a word that says much about how we are to love. Consider therefore these few scriptures on the subject of love. "For God so **loved** the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who **loved** me and **gave** Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the church and **gave** Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25). "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has **loved** us and **given** us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work" 2:16-17). When God **loves**, God **gives**.

It is no mere accident that **give** follows **love** in holy scripture. The love God commands us to have, the love Christ has exhibited for our benefit, the love we show through our obedience, from our willingness to give ourselves to God. We have often made the mistake of moving directly from love to obedience, but we should also recognize the step which must necessarily come between the two, that is, we must be willing to sacrificially give ourselves over to service in the kingdom heaven (Rom. 12:1).

When God gave us an example of love, He gave the best He had and showed total commitment to the cause for which He gave by giving His only begotten Son. If we are to follow His example, we must concentrate more on giving than getting and then realize that our time, our money, and service exist for God—not for men and not for ourselves. Therefore, in examining our own lives, does the way we give demonstrate sacrifice or selfishness (2 Cor. 9:7)? For this truly provides the best indication of the depth and extent our love—to our family, to our neighbors, to our brethren, and to God. When we say we **love**, do we then **give**?



*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.  
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;  
that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

2 Timothy 2:3-4

# AN EMPTY HOUSE

By Tom Moore

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will re-turn into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation” (Mt. 12:43-45).

Jesus tells of an evil spirit which was removed from a man. The evil spirit looked everywhere for a place to reside after being cast out, but could not find a suitable place. The evil spirit then returned to his former dwelling place, and finding it vacant, returned with seven spirits more evil than he. Jesus informs us that this man was much worse off than he was originally. Jesus is teaching us a very important lesson concerning the keeping of our heart. When one obeys the gospel by believing in Christ (Heb. 11:6), repenting of his sin (Lk. 13:3), confessing the name of Christ (Rom. 10:10), and being immersed in water for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38), we have, as the man in Matthew 12:43-45, cleansed the house, that is, we have removed the "evil spirit" from our house.

But all too often after we have removed the evil from our lives, we fail to fill our lives with those things that will keep the evil from returning. As the evil spirit returned to the unoccupied house of the man, so will evil return to our lives if we do not fill our house or our lives with righteousness.

It is very sad to see people converted to Christ, and yet, take no precautions to keep the evil from returning to their lives. James said, “Submit yourselves therefore to

God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Jam. 4:7). Paul declared, “neither give place to the devil” and “put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 4:27; 6:11). We are only able to keep the devil out of our house if we guard against his return. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield your selves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (**Rom. 6:16-18**). Beloved, if the devil sees our house vacant of pure and undefiled religion (**Jam. 1:27**), if he observes that we are not thinking on pure, honest, just, true, lovely, good and virtuous things (**Phil. 4:8**), if he finds us no longer standing for the truth (**Tit. 2:1**), he will soon occupy our house once again. Jesus said that the state of this kind of person “is worse than the first” (**Mt. 12:45**). This same thought is set forth by Peter in a different way, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then are once again entangled therein, and overcome, the later end is worse with them than the beginning. For it is better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (**2 Pt. 2:20-21**).

It is an absolute necessity that after removing Satan from our lives, that we fill our lives with truth and godliness which will prevent Satan from returning where he once resided. Don't leave your house empty!!!

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><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p><b>Live faithfully</b> (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p><b>Week 56</b> <b>2 Kings 18-23</b> <b>&amp; Acts 22-23</b></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>



## Proverbs 7:1-3 *By Jeremy Sprouse*

“My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you. Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart” (Proverbs 7:1-3 NASB). The commandments are only life to those who keep them. Listening is not enough; we must keep and treasure these words. Notice three ways we keep and hold on to wise teachings in our lives.

**First, we need to study God’s Word.** Solomon tells us to make these teachings the apple of our eyes. This is an old English expression that refers to your pupil and carries the meaning of what is most dear or precious to you (cf. Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8). Literally, the apple of the eye often refers to the innermost part of the pupil. What you focus on is reflected in this area of your eyes. If you are very close to a person looking at you, you can see a tiny image of yourself in their eyes. What we need to be looking at is God’s Word. We need to make it our ambition to have God’s Word reflected in our eyes and our lives as much as possible.

**Second, we need to review God’s Word.** The idea of binding them on your fingers is so these teachings will always be in sight. People used to tie a string around their fingers so they would be reminded of a task they needed to do or an appointment they needed to keep. Likewise, we need to be continually reminding ourselves of God’s instructions and wisdom for our lives.

**Third, we need to live God’s Word.** We need to write His Word on the tablet of our hearts. God’s Word doesn’t do any good sitting on some bookshelf or left in the pew at the church building. The value of God’s word is truly seen when someone carries them with them continually in their hearts. Don’t mistake merely carrying around God’s Word with carrying God’s Word in your heart. The key is hearing and obeying the word of God (cf. Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:22-25).

There is tremendous value in God’s Word if we will study it, review it, and live it. It will steer us away from many of the pitfalls and regrets of life and lead us to a better life (cf. Proverbs 7:5-27).

### 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 **28 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Remember the **Ladies class** each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom. Hope you can join them as they talk about Ladies of the Bible.
- ◆ **Jan. 27:** The next **Bible Bowl** will be held at Bangs.

## Celebrate

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

**January Birthdays:** Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Judie Turner (29), Charles White (30).

**January Anniversaries:** Peg & Jim Moore (22).

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



## Records

	Jan. 6, 2013	Jan. 13, 2013
Bible Class	51	46
AM Worship	74	65
PM Worship	53	37
Wednesday PM	40	34
Contribution	\$1518	\$1627

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/20/13	Next Week: 1/27/13		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Joe Dennis	Lead Singing: Jim Moore	<b>January 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Charles White  <b>February 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Greeters</b>	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Ken Maninger	Don Smith*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas	James Fuller		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler <i>2 Timothy 2:1-7</i>	Garrett Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Jim Moore	Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Joe Dennis		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 23 Don Smith	January 30 Allen Griffith	February 6 Tom Wilcox	February 13 Garrett Barnum

# 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 January 20, 2013</b>		Sunday Class .....Philippians (Chap. 2)	Wednesday Class.....Redemption Through The Bible
<p align="center"><b>Paul's Example (Acts 20)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Priority of Preaching</b> (v18, 20-21, 25, 27, 33, 34)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preaching was essential, people needed to hear the whole counsel of God's word.</li> <li>He is truly a man on a mission (Matt. 28:19-20, 2 Cor. 5:20).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Steadfastness of a Soldier</b> (v19, 22-24, 21:13)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul was pressing on, even if it meant death.</li> <li>He was dedicated to the labor given to him (2 Cor. 12:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:12-13).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Confidence In The Message</b> (v32)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul had confidence in the message he proclaimed to others—it was indeed the word of God and was what they needed to hear (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Thess. 2:13).</li> <li>He also knew it was what they needed to be grounded in (Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Impact That Can Be Had</b> (v29-31)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One could do great good or harm; Paul had done a great good but such could not be said for all.</li> <li>We have to remember the impact we can have on others (Matt. 5:16; 2 Cor. 3:2; 1 Tim. 4:12-16).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Endurance Beyond The Individual</b> (v25, 28)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work was not to cease because Paul would not be there (Phil. 1:27; 2 Tim. 2:2). Their faith should not be in him, but God (1 Cor. 2:2, 5).</li> <li>Are we like Paul looking toward the future of the church and building it up, not just a name for ourselves?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		<p align="center"><b>Strive Lawfully (2 Tim. 2:5)</b></p> <p><i>Paul uses the image of an athlete competing in games when considering the work of Christian and an evangelist. These ideas are brought back to mind with the current news concerning Lance Armstrong losing his medals and honor because he did not strive lawfully. Are we lawfully running the race?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lawfully Enter The Race</b>—As with every race there is a procedure to enter; we start this race by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). Entrance can only come by being in Christ (Acts 4:12; John 14:6, 10:1, 9; Matt. 28:18). Sadly there are those running who did not first enter and have no claim to the prize (Matt. 7:22-23).</li> <li><b>Lawfully Run The Race</b>—But entering the race is just the beginning, it then must be run (1 Cor. 9:24-26). There are no lawful shortcuts cheats that can be taken. A path has been set for our run (1 John 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 7:13-14) and others have successfully completed it (Heb. 12:1-3).</li> <li><b>Lawfully Complete The Race</b>—We cannot stop short, but rather we must finish the race. Again there will be those that gave great effort but gave up before the end (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Heb. 4:1, 9-11). Let us stand fast to the end and reap our reward (1 Cor. 15:58).</li> </ol> <p>Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	