

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



February 3, 2013

Contact Us:

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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 Far Gone Is the Night?

By David Deffenbaugh

We have all had those kinds of nights—nights when sleep was elusive or fitful at best. The clock was not kind but only revealed the truth that little time had passed since our last inquiring glance. Maybe it was a time of illness or stress—or even distress. Morning seems as though a far distant hope. Oh, those long, long nights!

In the days before clocks, night watchmen announced the passing hours, as well as watching for safety's sake. So Isaiah the prophet asks, "*Watchman, how far gone is the night? Watchman, how far gone is the night?*" (Isa. 21:11, NASB). It was not that Isaiah was having one of "those" nights and wanted to know what time it was. Instead, it was a question of just how far gone, spiritually and morally, a people had descended (in this case, the Edomites). Just how far gone are they, or, to ask it another way, "How much time is left before God brings His judgment against them?"

That is not an unusual question. It is often asked of our own nation. Regretful assessments are commonly made of the moral and spiritual descent of America. Just how far gone is America? How far will God allow it to go? Sometimes the same is asked of individuals also.

"*The watchman says, Morning comes but also night. If you would inquire, inquire; Come back again*" (Isa. 21:12). We would have to agree with Edward Young, who says, "The answer is crisp and direct and yet is shrouded with a certain veil of obscurity" (*The Book of Isaiah*, 2:77). But it appears that the answer is twofold. First, morning is on the way—morning as in another opportunity, light instead of darkness, hope instead of despair. Just like the psalmist used it: "*Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning*" (Ps. 30:5). There is still a chance; all hope is not lost!

Second, the night is coming also. The opportunity is not endless. For those who would persist in their neglect of God and His will, be sure that the night is on the way—the night of God's judgment, the darkness apart from God's light. Remember, eternal punishment is often spoken of as "*outer darkness*" (Matt. 8:12, 22:13, 25:30).

Thus, how far gone is the night? Instead of a reply that gives a specific time, and thereby revealing exactly how much time is left, the answer is that it is not too late, yet. That is the only answer we need or that we will receive, because as soon as we learn it is too far gone, it is too late.

*Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions
which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*
2 Thessalonians 2:15



“I Don’t Buy That!”

By Gary Colley

A friend recently explained how she heard the Bible preached on a point of truth years ago and rejected it at the time, finding out later by experience that it was correct. How sad it is that skepticism and unbelief so often stop the acceptance of God’s word! Many do not heed the exhortation: “Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart, And lean not upon thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he will direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil” (Prov. 3:5-6).

It is true that many more are now studying to show themselves approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15). But many who do study and learn fail to follow the Lord, and they reject the teaching! They fail to “**buy the truth and sell it not**” (Prov. 23:23). These rather say, “**I don’t buy that!**” when the truth is offered in the marketplace. A few evident instances follow:

1. The Bible says: “Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4). But some say, “**I don’t buy that!**”
2. The Bible says: “Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable...that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (II Tim, 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:3). But one says, “I think the Holy Spirit guides me in addition to the word, so **I don’t buy that!**”
3. The Bible says: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16). But many exclaim, “**I don’t buy that!**”
4. The Bible says: “Now the works of the flesh are manifest...revellings (or dancing)...they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21). “But,” says one, “**I don’t buy that!**”
5. The Bible says: “And he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22). “But,” say some, “the Pope is head of the church,” or, “If the elders say it is all right for women to pray in public assemblies, it doesn’t matter what the Bible says,..**I don’t buy that!**”
6. The Bible says: “In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel” (I Tim. 2:9). But several say, “I will dress like I please, and **I don’t buy that!**”
7. The Bible says: “I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them...shall take away from the words...God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city” (Rev, 22:18-19). But when it is pointed out that the “New Translations” are grossly guilty of false teaching and fatal doctrinal error and should be opposed, one retorts, “**I don’t buy that!**”
8. The Bible says: “Enter ye in by the narrow gate For narrow is the gate, and strait the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). When the Way is shown to be Christ (Jn. 14:6) or the church of Christ (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:41, 47), some object, “I think if a man is honest, any way he chooses should be fellowshipped, so **I don’t buy that!**”
9. The Bible says: “Now I beseech you brethren, mark

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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 and on Roku TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376	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)	Week 58 1 Chronicles 5-10 & Acts 26-27 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)



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 **44 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Join Us** today for our **First Sunday Potluck Lunch** following the morning worship.
- ◆ Remember the **Ladies class** each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom.
- ◆ **Feb. 24: Bible Bowl** at Hillcrest in Stephenville at 2 PM.
- ◆ Mark Your Calendars for **April 21-24** this will be our Spring Meeting with Jeff Rollo.

*I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people:
and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.
For thy mercy is great above the heavens:
and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.
Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens:
and thy glory above all the earth;
Psalm 108:3-5*

them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them...Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us” (Rom. 16:17; II Thess. 3:6). But alas, some fail to make a distinction between a weak brother and a false one and say, **“I don’t buy that!”**

10. The Bible says: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (II Tim. 4:1-5). “But,” say some modern preachers, “you can’t stay very long and do that; I had rather entertain with fables...**I don’t buy that!”**
11. The Bible says: “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery and whoso marieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Matt. 19:9). “Oh,” say some, “I know what it says, but **I don’t buy that!”**

The sad part of all these things is that simply because we don’t “buy the truth,” it does not make our souls above meeting the Author of the Word in judgment (II Cor. 5:10-11). Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48).

The urgent appeal to **“buy the truth, and sell it not”** needs to be accepted by all while time and opportunity continue. It is our prayer that the readers of this investigation will decide in the affirmative for the Lord to be first in their lives in order that they may enjoy the blessing of Heaven (Matt. 6:33). Jesus tenderly asks, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?” (Lk. 6:46).

Celebrate

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

February Birthdays: Peggy Chism (03), Carol Wilcox (05), Lunday Maninger (08), Conner Vara (13), Patti Bannister (14), Jonathan Fuller (28).

February Anniversaries: Mariah & Steven Martinez (04), Peggy & Billy Chism (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Jan. 20, 2013	Jan. 27, 2013
Bible Class	49	48
AM Worship	70	68
PM Worship	49	47
Wednesday PM	43	43
Contribution	\$1678	\$1762

	This Week: 2/3/13	Next Week: 2/10/13		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: James Fuller	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	February 2013 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox March 2013 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Bily & Peggy Chism		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, Jim Moore	Joe Dennis*, Hank Wheeler James Fuller, Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Tom Willcox	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 6 Tom Wilcox	February 13 Garrett Barnum	February 20 Joe Dennis	February 27 James Fuller

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 February 3, 2013		Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Chap. 2-3)</i>	Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p>Two Very Different Responses (Acts 24)</p> <p><i>This chapter records Paul's opportunity to speak to Felix concerning the faith in Christ (v24) but his response and Paul's own response are far different.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul trembled and obeyed. On the road to Damascus Paul had trembled (Acts 9:6) but then he obeyed God's instructions (26:19) and so had a conscience void of offense (23:1, 24:16). He had ignorantly persecuted Christians but now enjoyed salvation in Christ (1 Tim. 1:12-16). Felix trembled and delayed. He too heard what he needed to do and trembled (24:25) but he put Paul off and though he heard Paul more, there is no indication he ever obeyed the gospel. It seems possible he allowed his conscience to be seared in continuing to reject the gospel. (1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:8, 15; 4:7). Sometime, the delay will be too long (Matt. 24:44; 2 Pet. 3:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:10). What will we do? Do we live in good conscience? If so is it because of ignorance, hardness, or the knowledge we have obeyed God? If not, why not make the changes we know we need to make? True peace can only be found in Christ! (Rom. 6:23; Matt. 11:28-30; Phil. 4:9) <p>Notes: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>An Amazing Faith (Luke 7:9)</p> <p><i>Jesus marveled at the faith of a certain centurion that not only showed good character but exhibited great confidence in Jesus. His faith was amazing because it:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Crossed Barriers—He was a Gentile, but had faith in God. God is not limited in His appeal, but rather invites all men to Him (Acts 10; Matt. 28:19-20; 11:28-30; Eph. 2:14-18). Was Active—He put his faith into action. He did not just believe in what Jesus could do, he sought Jesus out (John 3:14-16; Matt. 7:21, 23-24; James 1:22; Acts 2:40; etc.) Worked For the Good Of Others—He was concerned for his servant and was well spoken of by the elders, having shown his character and good will in building a synagogue. All wonderful examples of love and service that Jesus would instruct His disciples in (John 13:34; Luke 10:29-37; Phil. 2:4; 1 Pet. 1:22). Was Humble—He felt unworthy before Jesus; even as a leader, he was willing to humble himself. Again humility should characterize His disciples as well (Matt. 5:3; John 13:14; James 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:5-6). Acknowledged Nothing Was Too Hard For God—Had faith that Jesus could do what he himself was unable to do. Perhaps this amazed Jesus the most, that he had no doubt that Jesus could do this thing. What about ourselves, do we really believe God and take Him at His Word? (Heb. 11:6; Acts 27:25; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Jn 5:13; 2 Tim. 1:12). 		