

# 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 10, 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.

## Stepping Stones For Contentment

By Marvin L. Weir

The Bible is the divine recipe for human beings to be happy and content. If followed, the Holy Scriptures guarantee a more pleasant journey through this world.

The 37th Psalm provides one with certain "stepping stones" that will make life easier when attempting to wade through the obstacles and difficulties of the day. They are these:

**Fret Not!** "*Fret not thyself because of evil-doers ...*" (Psa. 37:1). Such is good advice but very difficult to practice. It is far too common for the godly person to become envious of the evil-doer. Asaph admitted he had almost slipped and fallen because he "*was envious at the arrogant, when [he] saw the prosperity of the wicked*" (Psa. 73:2-3). It seems that the blessing of contentment has always been difficult for man to achieve.

The apostle Paul addresses contentment in saying, "*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content*" (Phil. 4:11). Paul later warns of the danger riches can pose by admonishing: "*Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have*" (Heb. 13:5). The lesson to be learned is that all people and especially Christians are not to fret over the many mundane things in this life!

**Trust!** "*Trust in Jehovah, and do good...*" (Psa. 37:3). One may claim contentment without trusting in God but such is simply madness. "*Without faith it is impossible*" to please God (Heb. 11:6), and without pleasing God there can be no legitimate hope to anchor one's soul (Heb. 6:19). Surely one concerned with his soul will not want to be "*sluggish [slothful, KJV], but imitators of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises*" (Heb. 6:12). The writer refers to the great patriarchs of the Old Testament who are praised for their faithfulness in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. One will profit who learns that faith and trust in God is evidenced **only** by doing exactly what God said to do!

**Delight!** "*Delight thyself also in Jehovah; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart*" (Psa. 37:4). So many claim to delight in God but find themselves far from yielding to His will. If one is not keeping **all** of the Lord's commandments, he should question his love for Him (John 14:15). Trusting in the Father and the Son will cause one to delight in doing their will.

(Continued on page 2)



*I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand,  
I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad,  
and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.*

Psalm 16:8-9

(Continued from page 1)

This delight in Jehovah will lead to Him giving one the desires of his heart. Perhaps a better way to think of this is to say that delighting in God and His ways will grant one answers to his prayers that are in accordance with God’s will. The Bible teaches that “if we know that he heareth us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him” (1 John 5:15). Such is conditional, how-ever, as one must ask “according to his will” to be heard (1 John 5:14).

**Commit!** “Commit thy way unto Jehovah; trust also in him, and he will bring it to pass” (Psa. 37:5). Partial commitment to God and His ways will not suffice. One scripture demonstrates such in stating, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37).

The above scripture leaves no wiggle room! It is either all or none and the Lord affirmed this truth in saying, “He that is not with me is against me...” (Matt. 12:30). The principle taught in the Bible is clear: “So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). The life that is totally committed to God will strive to be free from the anxieties and cares of the world that serve to sidetrack one’s loyalty. (Matt. 6:25). Let the faithful learn to cast their cares upon Him who cares for them (1 Pet. 5:7).

**Rest!** “Rest in Jehovah...” (Psa. 37:7). This will be the end result of the stepping stones already mentioned. The rest comes only by faith, trust, and total commitment to God’s plan for man. God is one’s refuge and strength (Psa. 46:1), and the victory belongs to Him. The only meaningful rest is in Him!

**Cease!** “Cease from anger, and forsake

wrath...” (Psa. 37:8). “Strife” and “wrath” are works of the flesh and those “who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:20-21). The wise man warned, “He whose spirit is without restraint is like a city that is broken down and without walls” (Prov. 25:28). One who loves Jehovah and His way will learn to deny self and men. Jesus knew about the battle man would fight with himself and said, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). The attitude of the apostle Paul will serve one well in journeying through this life. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20).

**Wait!** “For evil-doers shall be cut off; but those that wait for Jehovah, they shall inherit the land” (Psa. 37:9). In verse 7 something most needed is emphasized — “**wait patiently for him.**” Even after faithful commitment, worship, and service there is still the danger of one growing weary in well-doing (Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13). Thus the Hebrews writer pleads, “For ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise” (Heb. 10:36).

As Christians may we ever be mindful of these stepping stones to contentment, and that in “due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).



...for I have learned,  
in whatsoever state I am,  
therewith to be content.

Philippians 4:11

**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 and on Roku  
TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on  
Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376

**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 59**

**1 Chronicles 11-16  
& Acts 28—Romans 1**

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)



# The Perfect Dive -vs- The Perfect Life

By Steve Higginbotham

Surely we have all seen how Olympic divers barely make a splash as they dive into the pool. On a good dive, one enters the water, there is a sucking sound, the water closes in on the spot where the diver entered the water, and within seconds, there is no sign that the water was even disturbed.

This makes a great dive, but it stands in contrast to a great life. In life, one wants to make a splash. One wants to make a wake that will be seen and felt long after one has departed from this world.

Over the past few months, I've been entertaining the thought of how our lives should be lived in such a way as to leave a lasting mark on as many others as possible. I've concluded that a great life is not one that is lived in obscurity, isolated from the world, but rather one that engages and challenges the world, and makes a lasting impact after one is dead and gone.

Let us seek to "outlive our lives." No better illustration can be found than that of Abel. He was the first man on Earth to die, yet the writer of the book of Hebrews said, ".He being dead, yet speaks" (Hebrews 11:4). Talk about outliving your life!

Friends, with what time we have left, let us engage our culture, challenge our friends and family to holiness, situate ourselves so that we stand in the "Son" and reflect His light to a world living in darkness, and when we are dead and gone, may we go out, not like an Olympic diver, but like a back yard cannonballer!

## 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 **33 contacts** were made.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 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**.
- ◆ Mark Your Calendars for May 11 we will be hosting another blood drive here.

There is a new update from **Rohan Jones** on the bulletin board.

## New Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword were received this week. They are available on the back table and at the exits. Make sure you pick one up and study it with an open Bible. Then keep it for reference or pass it along for someone else to study!

The theme is **"Ye Shall Know The Truth."**



## 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), Jack Turner (22), Jonathan Fuller (28).

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



## Records

	Jan. 27, 2013	Feb. 3, 2013
Bible Class	48	56
AM Worship	68	75
PM Worship	47	46
Wednesday PM	43	48
Contribution	\$1762	\$1835

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/10/13	Next Week: 2/17/13	February 2013	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Lead Singing: Tom Wilcox	Lead Singing: Gene Bannister	<b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	Billy & Peggy Chism	The Maninger Family	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Garrett Barnum	John Barnum	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz	
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Hank Wheeler Gene Bannister, Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger*, Don Smith Jim Moore, Tom Wilcox	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Allen Griffith	<b>March 2013</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>			<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum <i>James 3:13-18</i>	Allen Griffith	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	February 13 Garrett Barnum	February 20 Joe Dennis	February 27 James Fuller	March 6 Jim Moore

# 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 February 10, 2013</b>	Sunday Class ..... <i>Philippians (Chap. 3)</i> Wednesday Class ..... <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p><b>Lessons On The Road To Rome (Acts 26-28)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Opportunities Abound (26:1; 26:17-18, 22-23; 28:23, 31)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul was going to Rome, but not as he had planned, but even in this situation, he still used opportunities to preach. His charge/mission was always the same.</li> <li>Use opportunities (Acts 8:4; Eph. 5:15-16).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>All Need The Gospel (26:29)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His desire was in line with God's (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; John 3:16; Luke 19:10).</li> <li>Do we desire this? Would it be good for them to be as we are? (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15-16; 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Faithfulness of God (23:12; 27:20-26, 34, 44, 28:16)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul trusted in the promises of God even when things seemed bleak and those promises were fulfilled.</li> <li>One can say like Joseph that God was with him (Acts 7:9); the same the promises to be with us (Heb. 13:5).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>There Is A Place of Safety (27: 31, 44)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To hope seemed lost, but there was a place of safety if they would stay there, and such is what happened.</li> <li>Wonderful parallels can be drawn to safety in Christ (Eph. 2:1; Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 3:14, 4:1).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Don't Forget To Be Thankful (27:35)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imagine: in the midst of anxiety, tired, worn out, hungry, and yet he remembered to thank God for what they had.</li> <li>How often are we as quick to thank God (Col. 4:2; Luke 17:17-19)?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>From The Closet To The Market Place (Colossians 4:2-6)</b> <i>From the most private part of our lives to the most public aspect, Paul reminds us to live as we ought as children of God.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Constant Prayer (4:2-4)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prayer is something that should be constant, regular, and blended with thanksgiving (Eph. 6:18; Rom. 12:12; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17-18; 1 Tim. 2:1; Luke 18:1). We are to be watchful therein (1 Thess. 5:6; 1 Pet. 5:8).</li> <li>It is also something that is private (at least in our personal prayer, Matt. 6:5-6), not to be seen of men.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Open Christian Walk (4:5)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our walk is our manner of life (Eph. 4:1; 5:1, 15), that which people see (Phil. 1:27).</li> <li>The caution here is our appearance to those without that it may be done with wisdom, as a good example. (2 Cor. 3:1-3; 1 Pet. 3:1-2; Phil. 2:15-16). Also use wisdom in considering the use and preciousness of time (Ps. 90:12; James 4:14).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Gracious Speech</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is which people hear; use speech that bestows or creates favor (Lk. 4:22); watch consistently for our words will betray us, either for good or bad (Matt. 26:73; 12:34-37; Acts 4:13; James 3:5).</li> <li>Our words should be that which people need to hear, that which saves, presented in love, even when difficult to hear (Eph. 4:15, 29; 5:4; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Are all aspects of our lives (private &amp; public) pleasing to God?</i></p>