

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 24, 2013

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 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.

Are We Any Better?

by Sam Willcut

Concerning the religion of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus remarked, "That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20). When we look at some of the religious people today, are we any better when we compare the two?

If we do not study our Bibles regularly, then we are no better than the Catholics. They encourage their followers to ingest their spiritual instructions straight from the priest, and do not encourage personal study. In fact, they abuse Second Peter 1:20-21 in stating that it is impossible for an average person to understand the Bible—only one of the clergy can properly interpret and teach its meaning. Therefore, to a Catholic, they discourage Bible study throughout the week and encourage instruction to come from someone else. Nevertheless, if we as Christians do not open our Bibles throughout the week and study it ourselves, but only ingest what the local preacher in the congregation says, then we are no better than they are!

If we do not sing in worship, then we are no better than the Baptists (or any other religions that use choirs). Large congregations with praise bands and choirs simply want the worshipper to sit back and relax while others praise God. To the contrary, Paul commanded, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16). We are to sing and praise God to "one another," something of which we can only do when we all sing together. I am amazed at some brethren who do not sing because they "cannot carry a tune in a bucket." God could care less about the melody from your mouth—he is interested in the song on your heart! Nevertheless, if we as Christians do not open our mouths to sing, we might as well have a chorus or choir sing to us—there is no difference, and we are no better than they are!

If we do not believe in the providence of God in our lives with faith, trust and hope, then we are no better than deists are. Deism is simply the doctrine that God created man and placed us on the earth for his perusal—He does not interact with humanity at all. Well, some Christians have so little faith in the providence of God

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The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof;
the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalms 24:1

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working in their lives and live their lives with fear and doubt rather than with trust and hope, they are no different than deists are.

If we do not live our lives carefully every day, then we are no better than Calvinists are. One of the prominent themes of Calvinism is the perseverance of the saints, also known as “once saved, always saved.” They believe that a child of God cannot sin to lose his soul. Yet, in the way that some Christians are living their lives recklessly, they might as well believe in that horrible false doctrine, since they are living as if they believe it!

Considering the religions around us, are we any better?

Leaving Joppa

by Steve Higginbotham

Earlier this year, I had the privilege to walk the cobble stone streets of the biblical city, Joppa. As I walked on the streets of that city and looked out at the Mediterranean Sea, I couldn't help but remember two significant biblical events that took place in this city. The first one involved the prophet Jonah. It was in Joppa where Jonah decided to flee from God by getting on a ship and disobeying God's call to go preach to the lost of Nineveh (Jonah 1:3). The second noteworthy event that took place in Joppa was when Peter received a vision instructing him to take the gospel to the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-22).

Two men. Two calls. Two responses. From Joppa, one man fled from God while another heeded God's instructions. Every day, we walk the “streets of Joppa,” and are confronted with a decision. Will I heed God's call, or will I turn a deaf ear and flee. As you “leave Joppa,” which direction will you be traveling today? Give it some thought.

If the Shoe Fits...

by Tom Moore

Are we a people who wear **loafers**? Do we want to get by with doing as little as possible? Consider the rebuke to the one-talent man of Matthew 25:26.

Perhaps the **slipper** is our choice of shoe. This fits the person who slips in and out of service. He hopes he can slip by in life and then slip into heaven.

Some people seem to enjoy **flip-flops**. This is a person who is faithful for a time and then falls away. It reminds me of the lukewarm person in Revelation 3:15.

There are those who enjoy wearing **high heels**. This is a person who is haughty, proud and arrogant. The Bible sternly warns us against wearing such shoes as these (Rom. 12:3; Psa. 101:5).

Those who prefer **overshoes** are the ones who only use Christianity and the church in times of distress, then lay them aside when things get better. This is similar to the person who wears only Sunday shoes and is a Christian on Sunday only.

The man who wears **house shoes** wants things nice and comfortable.

Oh, that everyone would find a pair of **work shoes** to wear in service to the King. These are really the only shoes a Christian needs.

So, which shoe fits us?

*...walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work,
and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

Colossians 1:10



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 61
1 Chronicles 23-28
& Romans 4-5

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)



Personal Inquiry

By Kevin W. Rhodes

The apostle John recorded how the Samaritan woman spoke with Jesus about her life, worship, and the Messiah (Jn. 4). It had a tremendous effect on her personally. In fact, she went away from the experience telling others what He had said. But they wanted to hear more. After seeking out Jesus for themselves, they returned to where the woman was, "Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world" (Jn. 4:42). John does not doubt or count as weak the faith these people developed. To the contrary, He noted it as being true, honest, and sincere faith that pleased God. They had not simply trusted the woman's testimony; they wanted to examine the evidence themselves. People need this attitude desperately in the religious world today.

While many want to learn more about spiritual matters and God's will, they often seek out priests, pastors, ministers, or friends for the answers, when they should seek Jesus. It is not wrong to seek help, but all of us are responsible as individuals for what we believe. "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Each of us is responsible for where he spends eternity. Therefore, listen to what God says instead of giving someone else the power to determine your destiny. Your soul depends on it!



*Examine yourselves,
whether ye be in the faith;
prove your own selves...*

2 Corinthians 13:5

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.
- ◆ **Feb. 24: Bible Bowl** at Hillcrest in Stephenville at 2 PM.

Thank You

Peggy Chism expresses her appreciate to everyone for all of the birthday cards that she received.

Directory Update

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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

	Feb. 10, 2013	Feb. 17, 2013
Bible Class	49	51
AM Worship	59	69
PM Worship	45	49
Wednesday PM	55	45
Contribution	\$1608	\$1584

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 2/24/13	Next Week: 2/3/13		
Sunday AM:	Lead Singing: Joe Dennis	Lead Singing: Ken Maninger	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	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Don Smith*, James Fuller Gene Bannister, Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>James 3:13-18</i>	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 27 James Fuller	March 6 Jim Moore	March 13 Don Smith	March 20 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)

Studies for the week of February 24, 2013	Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Chapter 3)</i> Wednesday Class <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p><i>The Impartiality of God and The Equality of Man (Rom. 2:11; 3:9, 23)</i></p> <p><i>The Jew readily condemned the Gentile for sinful behavior (Rom. 1:18-32) but Paul now condemns the Jew for their own hypocritical judgment (2:1-3), rejecting the goodness of God (2:4-6), and not practicing what they preached (2:17-24). Here he shows the impartiality of God and the equality of man in that there is a common:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Problem: Sin—His conclusion is that all men suffered the same problem and need for all have sinned (3:9, 23). ◆ Savior: Jesus—As all are guilty of sin, all are in need of a savior, provided in God's Son (6:23; 3:24-26; John 3:16; Heb. 2:9). ◆ Invitation—The invitation of the Savior is open to all (Matt. 11:28-30; 28:19-20; Rev. 22:17; Heb. 5:6). ◆ Condition of Pardon—God's plan for salvation is the same for all (Rom. 1:16; 2:7-11; 10:11-12; 11:26). ◆ Standard of Conduct—God did not set different standards for different people (2:3; 21; Acts 10:34-35). ◆ Place of Salvation: The Church—God established One Body that is accessible to all (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:6; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20; Gal. 3:28). ◆ Judgment—One revealed standard (2:6,16; 14:12; John 12:48; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12). 	<p><i>Who Is A Wise Man? (James 3:13)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One Grounded in Knowledge <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Starts by hearing truth and then acting on it. Jesus sets Himself as the judge and definer of wisdom (Matt. 7:24); He shows that anyone who would listen to Him and follow Him can be counted wise. b) Wisdom goes beyond knowing; this is one that is skilled in knowledge by reason of use (James 1:22; Hebrews 5:14). These two attributes go hand in hand (Prov. 1:7, 9:10). 2) One That Exhibits Godly Attributes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are our lives characterized by earthly or heavenly wisdom? Those around us certainly notice the difference (Phil. 2:15-16; Matt. 7:16-20; Mark 7:20-23; James 1:26-27). b) One is not wise who has knowledge of what God would have him to be but fails to do so (Matt. 7:24-27; Rom. 1:21-22; 2:1, 3). 3) One That Is Humble <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) One that possesses his talents with humility; not with arrogance and condescension (Prov. 16:18; Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:25; 1 Pet. 3:15; James 5:6). b) As servants, we should seek glory of God, not our own (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:1; Gal. 5:22-23).