

# 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



March 24, 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.

## Christian Ethics?

By Glenn Colley

Last Monday night we were sitting around a table at Chili's with some other Christians and talking about values, when we realized we all held similar views on all the major moral issues in our country. We also observed that we had all been reared by parents who had a firmness about obeying them and about doing the right thing every time. We agreed there had to be a connection. It reminds me of a parable the Lord taught in Matthew 20:1-16 in which He described a householder hiring day labor throughout the morning. While this isn't the main point of the parable, key in on what he told the potential employees as he offered the position: "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you" (vs. 4). The salary was offered based on the ethics of the householder. The men trusted that he would do what was right and they got right to work.

The Greek word for *ethics* and the Latin term for *morals* or *morality* both come from the same root word, *ethos*, meaning custom or a habitual mode of conduct. The difference is that *ethics* is defined as the general science of right and wrong conduct, and *morals* refers to the conduct itself. In a time when so many Americans are given over to relativism wherein almost nothing is viewed as always right or always wrong, it is a joy to hear of someone doing the right thing even if it costs him.

Author John C. Maxwell was asked one time to write a book on business ethics. He responded, "There's no such thing." he question came back, "What do you mean?" He said, "There's no such thing as business ethics—there's only ethics. People try to use one set of ethics for their professional life, another for their spiritual life, and still another at home with their family. That gets them into trouble. Ethics is ethics. If you desire to be ethical, you live it by one standard across the board."

Ethics come from a man's core value system, and how one determines right is based on his code of ethics. There are two aspects to ethics: first, the ability to discern right from wrong, good from evil, and propriety from impropriety. Second, the commitment to do what is right, good, and proper.

The greatest guideline for ethics is from the lips of our Lord—so broad that it works for men, women and children of all ages; so practical that it works for people handling lots of money and people who have none; so timeless that it may be adopted by any people of any generation, and is found in Matthew's book of the

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For the LORD giveth wisdom:  
out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.  
He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous:  
he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 2:6-7

# *Biblical Bracketology* By Jack Wilkie

It's that time of year again—the time of year when our vocabulary will be altered for a solid month. We will speak of brackets and bracketology, mid-majors and bubble teams, Cinderella stories and powerhouses. We will take in near-lethal levels of Dick Vitale. We'll debate how to spell Krzyzewski. And, of course, millions of us will attempt to predict who will win each game, how each round will shape up, and which team will be left standing in the end. What kind of fan are you?

Perhaps you fall into the “everyone else is doing it” category. Some people fill out a bracket every year just because they don't want to be left out of conversations for the entire month of March. Their friends, family, and co-workers will all take part in it, so they do the same. Many Christians are the same way. Some become Christians because everyone in their family is a Christian. Some find themselves worshipping at a church only because their friends attend there, so it is their nice little social club. If you are following the faith of family or friends, you aren't establishing your own personal faith in God's Word. God calls us to have a relationship with Him through prayer and study of the Bible. You can only come to God for yourself.

Maybe you are the “homer fan.” A friend of mine is the perfect example—he picks Duke to win the championship every single year. He knows everything about them, so he doesn't really care how the rest of the tournament works out so long as he can pick his favorite. With regards to the Bible, we see this in Christians who have a few favorite books or topics that they study until they know everything there is to be known. It's great to know any portion of God's Word well, but we can't confine ourselves to our hobbyhorses or our favorite sections of Scripture. We know 2 Timothy 3:16a says, “**All** Scripture is inspired by God...” (NASB, emp. added). God wants us to learn about Him and His plan for us through every book of the Bible. He wants us to study all of His holy doctrines, not just our favorites. We can't let ourselves become people who only stick to our favorites.

The third type of character in bracketology is the analyst. This guy can sit down and pick out the numbers and the matchups by researching magazines and newspapers and online articles. To him, it's not really about basketball; it's about research. Some people approach the Bible the same way—they see it as a book to be dissected and understood, but they miss out on the whole reason for doing it. The point of knowing the Bible is to gain a relationship with God and to understand His plan for our lives. I've heard of atheists who know more Bible than many advanced Bible scholars. What's the point? If you approach God's Word without trying to understand Him and gain a relationship with Him, your Bible study won't benefit you at all. The point of the Bible isn't to give us something to study like a trigonometry textbook; the point is to give us a book that is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16b-17, NASB). God doesn't take His Word lightly, and neither should we. Make sure you remember the Bible is God's Word, not just a book of facts.

Finally, we have the avid fan. This person loves college basketball. They take in all they can during the season, and they have no problem filling out a bracket because they know just about everything there is to know by default. They do it all out of love for the game. We should strive to be the Christian equivalent to this fan. We want to study the Bible and develop our Christianity because we love God and we love His Word. God calls us to be the man from Psalm 1 who delights in God's Word and meditates on it day and night. It is our job to strive to be the “avid fan” of God's Word.

God has not called us to study the Bible so we fit in with others, because we have a hobbyhorse, or because we enjoy analyzing what He has said. God wants us to study His Word out of a love for Him and a desire to become more like Him. Which personality are you? There's only one that will make you a winner in the end.

<b>Television</b>	<b>God's Plan for Redeeming Man</b>	<b>Bible Study Schedule</b>
<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 style="text-align: center;"><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 style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 65</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2 Chronicles 18-23</b> <b>&amp; Romans 12-13</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 style="text-align: center;"><i>“...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;” (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



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New Testament as he quotes Jesus Christ. I heard it called one day “The gold standard,” and when I was a kid we called it the golden rule. “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them” (Matt. 7:12). Different world faiths all tout a form of this principle with their own influence added. Buddhism says, “Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.” Confucianism says, “What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.” I heard a Nigeria proverb put it this way, “One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.” But observe, all these say “Don’t harm another.” Yet Jesus is proactive. Their philosophy would have you avoid deliberately running over your neighbor’s rose bush. Jesus would have you go and help your neighbor plant his rose bushes. A higher consciousness.

This illustrates again the value of Christianity in this old world. Don't allow this country's declining respect for the followers of Jesus to convince you that unbelievers are right. The Bible is a book containing absolutes. They are absolutes whether or not people object to them, and whether or not they believe them. It is wrong to lie (Rev. 21:8). It is right to help the fatherless and widows (Ja. 1:27). It is wrong to steal from another (Eph. 4:28). It is right to do good to all men, even our enemies (Eph. 5:32, Rom. 12:20-21). It is wrong to commit fornication or adultery (Gal. 5:19-21). It is wrong to hate your brother (I Jn. 3:15).

“There’s no such thing as business ethics—there’s only ethics.” And ethics, like faith, come from hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). No one has ever improved upon the pure and right value system that Jesus taught. No wonder they call Him the Master Teacher. If you will let Him, He’ll teach you how to live a simple and ethical life. And that's a life in which a man can sleep at night (Psa. 127:2).

### 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 **27 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Remember the Ladies class each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom.
- ◆ March 24: Bible Bowl at DeLeon at 2 PM.
- ◆ March 30: 90th Birthday Party for Ethel Adams here in the fellowship hall from 2-4.
- ◆ March 31-April 3: Gospel Meeting at DeLeon with Dan Fredman; “Do You Know My Jesus?”
- ◆ April 7-10: Gospel Meeting at Hamilton with John Moore.
- ◆ April 28-May 1: Gospel Meeting at Bangs with David Baker.
- ◆ Continue to remember our meeting on April 21-14 with Jeff Rollo and the blood drive held here on May 11.

### New Publication...

There are new editions of *Seek Ye First* available at the back of the auditorium; theme: “Moral Issues Facing The Church.”

## Celebrate

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

**March Birthdays:** Ken Maninger (04), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29).

**March:** Cindy & James Fuller (02), Carol & Tom Wilcox (23).

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



## Records

	March 10, 2013	March 17, 2013
Bible Class	49	54
AM Worship	71	70
PM Worship	45	52
Wednesday PM	46	50
Contribution	\$1880	\$1718

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/24/13		Next Week: 3/31/13		March 2013	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Gene Bannister		Song Leader: Joe Dennis	
<b>Greeters</b>	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum		<b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		<b>April 2013</b>	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				<b>Make Announcements:</b> Joe Dennis	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Billy Chism		<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Garrett Barnum <i>Psalm 26</i>	Tom Wilcox		<b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	James Thomas			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	March 27 Tom Wilcox	April 3 Garrett Barnum	April 10 Joe Dennis	April 17 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)

<b>Studies for the week of March 24, 2013</b>		Sunday Class ..... <i>Philippians (Chapter 4)</i>	Wednesday Class ..... <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
<p><b>The Goodness and Severity of God (Romans 11:22)</b> Paul uses the illustration of a grafter to show God's blessings and judgment upon others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The severity of God was shown in those cut off.</b> The Jews had been cutoff because of unbelief (11:20); Paul lamented this fact (9:1-3), but knew that it was because they did not seek God in faith (9:31-33). They were zealous but attempted to establish their own righteousness (10:1-4) and rejected God (10:21). So God had done in the past (Heb. 3:19, 4:2) and will do in the last day (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev. 20:15).</li> <li><b>The goodness of God was shown in those grafted in.</b> Paul notes that while the natural branches (Jews) had been cutoff, the unnatural (Gentiles) had been grafted in. (11:17). God's blessings would be on those who followed Him in faith according to His word (9:8, 24-25; 10:6-13; 14-17). Indeed God has shown great blessings on those "grafted" in His Son (John 15:1, 4, 8-11; Mark 16:16; Eph. 1:3; Rom. 8:18; John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:3-4).</li> <li><b>What will we know—goodness or severity?</b> Paul's point was to show that <u>all</u> could know the blessings of being "grafted" in Christ; the Gentile could be cut off and the Jew could be grafted in (11:20-21, 22-24) each had a choice (10:11-13)! But there was only the one plan (Eph. 2:14; 3:3-7, 10-11); if the Jew was to be saved, it would be just as the Gentile obtained it, obedient faith (11:26-27). <i>With such a thought, Paul praises and marvels at the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God (11:33-36)!</i></li> </ol>		<p><b>Vain vs Pure Religion (James 1:26-27)</b> Surely no one would want the things they do in life to be worthless; yet James reminds us that our religion can be in vain. How do we tell if our religion is vain or pure?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>It is vain if not in Christ</b> (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 10:1-3; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).</li> <li><b>It is vain if we don't believe or practice it</b> (James 1:22; 2:20; Matt. 23:1-3; 7:21-24; Heb. 11:6; Matt. 7:20).</li> <li><b>It is vain if based on the empty ideas of man</b> (James 1:21; Matt. 15:8-9; Col. 3:17; 2:6-8; Gal. 1:6-10).</li> <li><b>It is vain if it does not alter us</b> (James 1:23-26; Matt. 7:24-28; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:20-5:1).</li> <li><b>It is pure if it prompts us to service</b> (James 1:27; 2:15-16; John 13:15-17, 34; Matt. 25:34-40).</li> <li><b>It is pure if it follows the ways of God, rather than the ways of the world</b> (James 1:27; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; 1 John 1:7; Phil. 1:9-11, 27; 4:8; 1 Thess. 5:19-22; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 John 2:15-17).</li> </ol> <p><i>May we honestly examine ourselves with the word of God and see if our religion is vain or pure.</i></p> <p>Notes: _____          _____          _____          _____</p>	