

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 31, 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.

The Joy of Christianity

By Mike Bonner

Heaven holds all to us as the song announces loudly. The scriptures assure of the joy and happiness we should have as God's moral agents in a sin-sick society. Even though this time we live in may be tough, morally, there are so many things in this life to enjoy. We must be positive and thankful its not worse, things like family, friends, accomplishments, pets and the list could go on, as we know. But nothing is greater than Christianity, the joy it brings to God's people and the ones we affect daily. In addition to this, Christians enjoy being a family, a family tied together by the Love of God, fellowship and blood of Christ.

Christianity is such a joy for many reasons, many of which aren't even selfish in nature. First and foremost, Christianity is a joy because of the hope we have of eternal LIFE with God (Titus 2:13). The very reason Jesus came to the earth, to die and give us an abundant life in Him (John 3:16; 10:10). Christians can take great comfort in knowing that our living isn't in vain, therefore, we must strive to live with Heaven as our goal in life. One of those blessings involves seeing the face of God one day (Rev. 22:4).

When Christianity is closely considered, we cannot forget the beauty of Christ living in us. Paul stated, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of god, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" The joy of knowing Jesus always pleased the Father and Him living in us should excite us when we're following in His steps (Gal. 2:20; John 8:29; 1 Peter 2:21). When we find ourselves doing the will of the Lord out of a pure conscience, we can't help but to consider God's mighty-servants in the scriptures who did likewise. Let us walk in their steps as they walked in the steps of our Great God.

Furthermore, Christianity is a joy because we can give our all to a great cause and it's not in vain, for we're confident of the promises of Jehovah and can boldly say, "the Lord is my helper." Paul encouraged the church at Corinth to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). Oh to work hard at making ourselves think like Christ, and developing our love for the brethren or even enemies should encourage us to be thankful and faithful to the cause of Christ. To know how God gave all for us, should catapult us to give ourselves for the brethren, the church, our families and the gospel message. Let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that any good work He begins in us, He will complete it till the Day of Christ (Phil. 2:12; 1:6).

We cannot say enough about Christianity, and we could go on and on about the love of Christ, the fellowship we enjoy as His people even in the midst of troubling

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*Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.
For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.
Psalm 33:20-22*

You Can Always Count On God's Word By David Harris

We can always count on God's Word to do just exactly what He says it is going to do. This principle has never changed since the creation of man. When God says that we will have eternal life with Him in heaven it obedient, we can count on that. When God says that we will be punished with destruction if disobedient, we can also count on that. Jeremiah is a wonderful illustration of the surety of God, and His Word.

After the destruction of Jerusalem, some Jews fled in Egypt to escape what they thought might be the hostility of the Babylonians, after they were specifically told by God not to do so (Jer. 42). Once there in Egypt the Jews fell immediately into idolatry and were even so bold as to tell God they would be their own guide as far as worship was concerned, and told Jeremiah: "As for the word that you have spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto you. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goes forth out of our own mouth..." (Jer. 44:16-17). God responded to this bold irreverence, "Yet a small number that escape of the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know **whose words shall stand, mine, or theirs. And this shall be a sign unto you, saith the Lord, that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil**" (Jer. 44:28-29).

Next Jeremiah is given God's prediction of the upcoming destruction of the might land of Egypt, "The word that the Lord spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come and smite the land of Egypt. Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, stand fast and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee. Why are your valiant men swept away? They stood not, because the Lord did drive them. He

made many to fall, yea one fell upon another: and they said, Arise and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword. They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt is but a noise: he has passed the time appointed. **As I live saith the king, whose name is the Lord of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come**" (Jer. 46:13-18). Jerusalem was destroyed with all its buildings including the temple, (that the Jews thought would protect them from the destruction) just like God said it would be. Egypt was also destroyed with all of its palaces and her army was decimated. When God speaks it will happen.

God instructs us today to be diligent and to obey the gospel (2 Tim. 2:15). We must have faith (Rom. 10:17). We must repent (Lk. 13:3). We must confess the name of Christ (Mt. 10:32-33). We must be baptized by the authority of Christ for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). We must know God through His Word and live faithfully by the same. Yet many today are so bold as to tell God they will be their own guide as far as religion and worship is concerned. In essence they are saying now, what the Jews said in the days of Jeremiah; "As for the word that you have spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto you. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goes forth out of our own mouths..."

Please pay particular attention to the words of our Lord; "Seeing it is a righteous thing to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are trouble rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire **taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:** who

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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 style="text-align: center;">Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p> <p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p> <p>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 66 2 Chronicles 24-29 & Romans 14-15</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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times. When we measure our lives up with what we have in store, there is no comparison at all, therefore we press towards the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us be reminded of our purpose here, to fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all (Phil. 3:12ff; Eccl. 12:13).

In closing, the joy of Christianity should saturate our hearts into eternity. For we know that if this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. We're sure of the fact that the appearance of our new body is know known, but WE KNOW we'll be like He is and everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as He is pure (2 Cor. 5:1; 1 John 3:1-30). Paul shared the same sentiments as Jesus when he said "to be at home in the body is to be absent from the Lord, but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:6-8). The joy of knowing that God will keep His promises to those who are faithful to Him, we're reminded of the words of John the revelator, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." We can have great solace in knowing that our works follow us (Rev. 14:13). Christianity will forever be our joy here on earth; let's allow the Lord to always be in our hearts and He will forever be praised for His matchless mercy, His great grace and His sacred salvation.

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 **41 contacts** were made.

Thank You

Just want to say a big "Thank You" to everyone at 4th & Stewart for all the prayers, cards, calls, and visits (some I don't remember) while I have been sick. It meant so much to me. May God bless all of you.
In Christian Love, Joyce Hill

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Remember the Ladies class each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom.
- ◆ 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 13: Open House at the Heart of Texas Bible Camp in Brady from 2-4 PM. This is the location we have started having our summer camps at and a lot of improvements have been made in the last few years. It's a great opportunity for you to see what you help our kids be able to do.
- ◆ April 21-14: Our gospel meeting with Jeff Rollo.
- ◆ April 28: Last Bible Bowl at Rising Star at 2 PM.
- ◆ April 28-May 1: Gospel Meeting at Bangs with David Baker.
- ◆ May 11: Blood Drive for David Harris here at the building.
- ◆ Heads up Summer Youth Series starts June 11 at Bangs!

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shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (2 Thess. 1:6-10). Just as in the day of Jeremiah, He destroyed nations of the disobedient, (that you may know that my words shall surely stand) and saved the remnant of the obedient; He will also allow the obedient today to "Rest with His saints," or be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord." The choice has always been ours.

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Julie Baker (01), Lasha Dennis (06), Ginger King (08), Kristi Maninger (09), Darlene Smith (10), Earlene Burge (17), Birdie Reynolds (17), Caroline Dennis (30).

April Anniversaries: Tina & John Barnum (08).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	March 17, 2013	March 24, 2013
Bible Class	54	50
AM Worship	70	68
PM Worship	52	54
Wednesday PM	50	46
Contribution	\$1718	\$1713

	This Week: 3/31/13	Next Week: 4/7/13		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	April 2013 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey May 2013 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, Garrett Barnum	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller John Barnum, Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Garrett Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox <i>Revelation 22:12-17</i>	John Barnum		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Hank Wheeler		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 3 Garrett Barnum	April 10 Joe Dennis	April 17 James Fuller	April 24 Gospel Meeting

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 March 31, 2013		Sunday Class <i>Philippians (Chapter 4) / Titus (Intro)</i>	Wednesday Class..... <i>Redemption Through The Bible</i>
The Resurrection <i>As many think about and celebrate the resurrection of Christ, what does it mean to us?</i>		Respect of Persons (James 2:1-13) <i>James continues his letter about putting faith in action by condemning judging according to appearances.</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hope—A Risen Savior; A Savior that loved us enough to give His life for us (John 15:13; Rom. 5:8-10; Matt. 26:28); a Savior that rose again (Luke 24:5-7; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4); a Savior that is commemorated weekly, not once or twice a year (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Acts 20:7). Anticipation—He's Coming Again For His People; In Him, I have hope of eternal life (1 Pet 1:3ff) because He is coming again (1 Cor. 11:26; Acts 24:15). His resurrection assures us of our own (1 Cor. 15:20, 57), but we must remember this anticipation is only for the faithful (John 5:28-29; Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Heb. 5:9). Change—A Transformed Life; His resurrection ought to remind me my life is to be altered (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:2-3; Phil. 2:5; Romans 6). Indeed, I am to live a transformed life in the service of God (Rom. 12:1-2), a life of humble service (Rom. 12:3-8), a life that follows His ways (Rom. 12:9-21), a life of submission (Rom. 13:1-7), a life of love toward others (Rom. 13:8-10), a life that walks in His ways (Rom. 13:11-14). How sad that many make elaborate preparations for "Easter" but forget to examine their spiritual lives! 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is good to have certain types of respect (discernment of honor and/or character). We can respect or honor elders (1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7), rulers (Rom. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17), parents (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 5:16), masters/employers (Eph. 6:5-8), spouses (Eph. 5:22-25), good examples (Phil. 3:17). Likewise there are some to discriminate against (1 Cor. 15:33; 5:3-7; Rom. 16:17). But we cannot show other types of respect (discernment/discrimination of external qualities). James particularly addresses the issue of partiality based on wealth but such can be applied to race, title, social class, education, appearance, etc. As imitators of God we cannot be respecters of persons (Eph 5:1; Acts 10:34-35). True religion is a leveling ground (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Gal. 3:26-8; Lk 10:27-37). A wrong respect of persons makes us judges of evil thoughts. Such are not righteous judgments (John 7:24) for, in themselves, they have no basis in God's Word and matter not in God's eye (1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Cor. 4:4-5; Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). Our judgments are to be based on a comparison with God's Word (Matt. 7:20). 	