

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



April 14, 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.

For Our Good

Tyler Young

One of the principal reasons people refuse to submit to God is they believe doing so would restrict them in their pursuit of pleasure. We cherish our autonomy and our freedom—our right to do what we want to do—and resent being told what we may or may not do. God's commands are seen as an unwelcome infringement upon our desires, as unwarranted restriction upon our freedom.

It is unfortunate that people fail to see it is in their own best interest to submit to God. Though young children may at times feel Mom and Dad are arbitrarily or unfairly preventing them from doing something they want to do, in reality loving parents restrict their children—"Don't touch the stove"; "Don't run out into the street"; "Don't go anywhere with a stranger"; "Don't hang out with friends who are doing drugs"—not because they don't love them, but because they do. When children break those rules, they usually end up learning the hard way that their parents were only trying to keep them from getting hurt.

So it is with God's rules. The law of God is not intended to oppress us or make us miserable. His commandments are designed to protect and preserve us from the harm that comes when we yield to our own sinful desires. Moses told Israel that God "*commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear Jehovah our God, for our good always, to preserve us*" (Deut. 6:24). John tells us, "*For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome*" (1 John 5:3). God's commands are not a burden, but a blessing. Submitting to them keeps us from bringing the hardship and misery into our lives that comes from foolishly spurning God's will. Scripture warns us, "*The law of the wise is a fountain of life. To turn one away from the snares of death...But the way of the unfaithful is hard*" (Prov. 13:14-15). When we refuse to obey God, we're only hurting ourselves. How many have brought untold suffering to themselves and others because they thought their way was better than God's? Our loving Father knows what's best for us. His way is the only right way, and it is the best and blessed way.

*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,
and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

Hebrews 12:6

*And he said to them all, If any man will come after me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it:
but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

Luke 9:23-24



The Blind Side By Wade Webster

Michael Oher, an offensive lineman from the University of Mississippi, was selected in the first round of the 2009 NFL draft by the Baltimore Ravens. Michael Oher's touching story from impoverished youth to football superstar was captured in the highly successful sports drama, *The Blind Side*.

In football, the blind side is the side of the line that the quarterback cannot see when he drops back to pass. Since most quarterbacks are right handed, it is usually the left side. The best tackle is generally placed on the left side of the line to protect the quarterback's blind side. When someone is rushing the right side, the quarterback can see them and avoid the rush. However, the quarterback cannot see the rush coming from the left side. He must trust the left tackle to protect his blind side.

Spiritually speaking, we all have a blind side. As human beings there are so many things that we cannot see and that we do not know. No doubt, this is the reason why the wise man Solomon wrote, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5-6). As men, our sight and our understanding are limited. We have a blind side. Therefore, we must place our trust in the Lord and not lean upon our own understanding.

Although Solomon was given more wisdom than anyone else in the Old Testament, he understood that even he had a huge blindside. He wrote, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Please note that the way seems right to man. Man thinks that he is going the right way.

He feels safe. However, to use the analogy that we started with in this lesson, he is about to be crushed from behind by a huge defensive end.

Solomon was not the only one to write about man's blind side. Other inspired writers also spoke of it. For example, the weeping prophet Jeremiah declared, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man is incapable of directing his own steps. Without help from above, he is sure to go the wrong way. In fact, as you know, the majority of people are going the wrong way. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Mt. 7:13-14). No doubt, the people who enter the wide gate and walk in the broad way think they are going the right way. They feel safe. However, they are going to look up one day and find that the blitz from their blind side was not picked up.

Thankfully, as Christians, we have Someone who protects our blind side. Of course, that Someone is the Lord. He is all-seeing, all-powerful, and all-loving. He sees every threat to our souls, has the power to protect us from everyone and everything, and He loves us too much to let anything happen to us. We can put our complete trust in Him. We do not have to fear what men may try to do to us. He has promised to protect us and He will never let us down. When Paul faced opposition in Corinth, God reassured him by telling him: "For I am with you, and no

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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 style="text-align: center;">Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 68</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Chronicles 36 — Ezra 5 & 1 Corinthians 2-3</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>



Meeting Events

Our gospel meeting with Jeff Rollo starts next week. Flyers are out at the back of auditorium that you can use to invite others and to serve as a reminder for yourself. I hope you can join us every time. There are also a number of special things going on with the meeting I hope you will want to be a part of too.

- ◆ **Sunday, April 21st** we will have a **potluck lunch** following the morning worship time so we can spend more time with one another and in getting to know Jeff (and I hope his wife and one of his children that may come with him). Hope you can be there and consider bringing a little extra food for any guests that may stay.
- ◆ **Monday and Tuesday night** we will have sandwiches, finger-foods, etc. to provide additional time to visit with guests. Again this is “pot luck” so bring what you want and enjoy a little extra time together.
- ◆ **Wednesday morning** we will open our ladies class up to anyone who wants to attend and move it to 11:00 AM with a lunch following. Jeff will be speaking at this time too and is always another enjoyable time together. We will do our traditional baked potato and salad lunch for which there is a sign-up sheet at the back for those things needed.

It is sure to be a busy, fun week but most importantly a great opportunity for us to sound out the gospel in this area and for us to be encouraged as we learn more about **“The Glorious Church of Christ!”**

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 **39 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Remember the Ladies class each Wednesday at 10 AM in the high school classroom.
- ◆ April 7-10: Gospel Meeting at Hamilton with John Moore.
- ◆ April 21-14: Our gospel meeting with Jeff Rollo.
- ◆ April 27: Ladies Day at Hamilton.
- ◆ 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!

Summer Camp

Applications for campers and staff are available at the back of the auditorium; interest is up so get yours in early!

Cherokee Day

The Annual Cherokee Day in support of Cherokee Home For Children will be held on Saturday, May 4. In years past we have collected various goods that they needed and delivered them on that day. This year we will be collecting money instead with which the home can then buy the things they need. If you would like to donate money for that cause you can do so over the course of the next few weeks. It will be easiest if you will give a separate check for this purpose or make sure any cash donation is noted for that purpose (either with the contribution or given to Jim Moore). Any contributions need to be given by Sunday, April 28. Thank you in advance for supporting these children.

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 31, 2013	April 7, 2013
Bible Class	50	50
AM Worship	70	71
PM Worship	43	49
Wednesday PM	53	52
Contribution	\$1781	\$2117

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/14/13	Next Week: 4/21/13		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Gene Bannister	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	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	Billy & Peggy Chism	The Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, John Barnum James Fuller, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum James Thomas, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Hank Wheeler		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 17 James Fuller	April 24 Gospel Meeting	May 1 Don Smith	May 8 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 April 14, 2013	Sunday ClassJohnny McCaghren Wednesday ClassRedemption Through The Bible
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I appreciate your patience again as I will be out this week and two others following our meeting. This week we are in Austin at the Southwest Lectures hosted by the Southwest congregation and the Southwest School of Biblical Studies. Their theme this year is "Why Do We...? Answers to the Fundamental Questions that Define Us." We look forward to being back with you Wednesday night and then for our gospel meeting next week.

In my place today Johnny McCaghren will be teaching and preaching.

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one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:10). God wanted Paul to know that He had his blind side. He wanted Paul to preach without fear. He wants us to do the same thing today.

In the book of Hebrews, we read, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Heb. 13:5-6). Please note that the Lord is our helper. He has our blind side. He protects us from that which we cannot see. We simply need to put our total trust in Him and not lean upon our own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6).

As you know, offensive linemen seldom get the credit that they deserve. The credit usually goes to the quarterback that makes the touchdown pass. However, without the protection of the line, the quarterback would never have the time to make the winning throw. In like manner, men often praise us for the good things that we do. However, the praise should go to the One who protects our blind side. Without Him, we could do nothing (John 15:5). With Him, all things are possible (Mt. 19:26).

Is the Lord protecting your blind side? If He is, then you can confidently go about the work that you have to do. You can rest assured that He will protect you. Nothing will ever get past Him.