

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 21, 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.

The Purpose of Gospel Preaching

By Clay Bond

"O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD" (Jer. 22:29).

These words, spoken so long ago, reflect what God wants more than anything. His desire is for His creation to hear His spoken word which is *"quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Heb. 4:12). In our age, God has designated Gospel preaching to be the means by which His word is proclaimed to all the earth (Titus 1:3).

There are several implied purposes in Gospel preaching, one of which is clearly seen in Acts chapter eighteen. When Paul came into the debauched city of Corinth, he preached the Gospel which entailed the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Paul proclaimed the power of God's word to those who were living in sin and called upon them to submit to its transforming power (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Many of the Corinthians who heard the Gospel on this occasion *"believed, and were baptized"* (Acts 18:8). They were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:11). Therefore, we see that one primary purpose of Gospel preaching is to convert sinners (Psa. 19:7).

God has no desire for anybody to be lost; His desire is that all would come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30). Jesus once warned, *"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"* (Luke 13:3). It is through repentance that we come to the *"acknowledging of the truth"* that sets us free from Satan's captivity (2 Tim. 2:25-26). In Paul's letters to Timothy, knowledge and repentance are linked with salvation (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:25). Both of these elements come through Gospel preaching. Gospel preaching is designed to bring about repentance.

God, who desires for *"all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Tim. 2:4), has designed Gospel preaching to save souls from eternal damnation through knowledge. By hearing the Gospel preached, the lost can come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:14). The truth that can set us free from the bondage of sin is made known through Gospel preaching (John 8:32). Bringing men to the knowledge of truth is, therefore, another purpose of Gospel preaching.

While converting sinners is an important purpose of Gospel preaching, equally important is the edification of the saints. When Paul left Timothy at Ephe-

(Continued on page 4)



Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

THE CHURCH *by Bill Burk*

I already know what you are thinking. You are thinking that the preacher made a typo in the heading. He was not paying enough attention to catch the mistake. You are thinking that the title of the article should be the "Church." Maybe it should, but then again maybe not. I have some good reasons why I am not planning on changing it.

1. First, although it is not quite the same as the original, it is close. You have to admit that "chruch" looks a great deal like "church." The two words possess exactly the same letters both in type and number. If you just give it a quick glance you would probably never tell the difference. Why change it?

2. Second, accuracy in spelling cannot be as important as sincerity of attitude. Anytime I type a heading for an article I sincerely desire to do it in the right way. So what if I miss it on occasion or even every time? What difference does it make anyway? Are you telling me that because the word is misspelled that I am wrong and then I have missed the boat? You have to be kidding me.

3. Third, I do not believe that there is only one way to spell the word. Please, I do not want to see the dictionary and no, I do not care to look at the spell check on my word processor. I know what those will tell me. There are too many people out there spelling it differently. I refuse to believe, no matter what the dictionary says, that all of them are wrong. To think so would be naïve and narrow-minded.

4. Fourth, just give me the meaning, I do not want the spelling. As long as I know what I am talking about I do not need to spell it properly. Stop telling me that I cannot have the definition unless I properly represent the word it is supposed to define. It is not the word that mat-

ters but the meaning behind it. Stop being so legalistic!

5. Fifth, I believe that, in actuality, all the letters of the alphabet are in the word "church." You can spell the word however you want. It does not matter. Who are we to judge what letters are in "church" and which ones are not? If I want to spell "church" "axwtre" then who's to say I am wrong?

Once again, I know what you are thinking. You are thinking that those are the most ridiculous arguments imaginable for spelling the word "church" in any other way that the way it is supposed to be spelled. True, the arguments are ridiculous. Yet, don't people make the same type of arguments regarding their understanding of the Biblical concept of the church? Some argue that the organizations of men (Matthew 15:9, 13) are not too different than the Lord's church. Yet, when compared with Scripture, there is no comparison (Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 2:1-47).

Others claim sincerity is all that matters in order to please God. True, sincerity is a must if God is to be pleased (Romans 6:17; 1 Timothy 1:5, 18-20). Yet, it is not the only thing that matters (Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:13-15). Sincerity must be coupled with truth (John 4:24; 8:32; 17:17).

Some argue that God accepts many religious bodies. Yet, the Bible teaches that there is only one body (Ephesians 4:4) which is the church (Colossians 1:16-18). There is only one way for salvation to be enjoyed (John 14:6) and that is in the one body of Jesus (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Then there are those who say just give me Jesus but not the church. You cannot have the head without the

(Continued on page 4)

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 69

Ezra 6 — Nehemiah 1 & 1 Corinthians 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)



Meeting Events

Our gospel meeting with Jeff Rollo starts today! We have been looking forward to this week for quite a while and now have the opportunity to enjoy it. Continue inviting others to come with you as we study together. 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 this morning's worship time so we can spend more time with one another and in getting to know Jeff and his wife (along with their youngest child). I hope you will stay whether member or guest.
- ◆ **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 **34 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 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.

Summer Camp

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

New Spiritual Sword

New editions of the Spiritual Sword 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!



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 Manning (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

	April 7, 2013	April 14, 2013
Bible Class	50	43
AM Worship	71	68
PM Worship	49	40
Wednesday PM	52	59
Contribution	\$2117	\$1832

	This Week: 4/21/13	Next Week: 4/28/13		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Jim Moore	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	The Maninger Family	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler		
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum James Thomas, Don Smith	Don Smith*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore	James Fuller		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 24 Gospel Meeting	May 1 Don Smith	May 8 Allen Griffith	May 15 Tom Wilcox

(Continued from page 1)

sus to build up the saints in the most holy faith, he exhorted him to *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”* (2 Tim. 4:2). In order to develop Christian character, those who are converted out of darkness need to hear Gospel preaching (2 Pet. 1:5-8). Paul said, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). Gospel preaching feeds our faith and helps us to grow in faith (2 Pet. 3:18; Col. 1:9-11)! Even the most mature of Christians needs to be built up and prepared to overcome temptation (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 1:13-14). Through Gospel preaching the Christian learns to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and *“live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”* (Titus 2:12).

In Mark 16:15 we read Jesus’ marching orders to His church, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* When we preach the preaching that God bids us, we can trust that His Word will not return unto Him void. Gospel preaching will accomplish its intended purposes (Jonah 3:2; Isa. 55:11). It will convert sinners through the knowledge of God; it will bring the erring to repentance; it will edify God’s children.

The word of God has the ability to reach into the innermost depths of our being and transform who and what we are. When the Gospel is preached and when it is properly heeded and applied, it produces abundant life (John 10:10). Truly the Gospel is a treasure that has been given to us (2 Cor. 4:7). Thank God for Gospel preaching and may each and every Christian share in Paul’s sentiment, *“Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”* (1 Cor. 9:16).

(Continued from page 2)

body (Colossians 1:16ff.). They want the Man but not His plan. The Bible doesn’t teach such a notion.

Finally, there are those that think that every person who claims loyalty to Jesus is in the universal church. In other words, all the denominations make up the one church of Christ. However, we must ask where the Bible teaches such a thing. In order for that to be correct, we would have to find all the varying denominations mentioned in the New Testament as making up the New Testament church. Sadly, the idea is just not there.

When writing an article, it does matter how you spell "church." And, when considering one's relationship with God, it does make a difference as to whether he belongs to the "church of Christ" or merely a "church" founded in the minds of men. Are you a member of the Church (Acts 2:38)?