

# 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 28, 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.

## “Eleutherion” Freedom By Mike Bonner

Can you imagine the children of Israel in the days of the judges when they were in and out of captivity? Because of sin, one generation would go into captivity and the next would cry out and God would send a judge to deliver them, thus freeing them from bondage. God’s people were free from the subjugation of Canaanite forces and the evil influence they set before them. However, Israel consistently found themselves in want because of idolatry and lawlessness. Even though God had liberated them, they chose to go back into sin.

This period of time brings to mind the Greek term, *eleutherion*, which means to be free in your mind from bondage, or be set at liberty from the dominion of sin or captivity. Jesus said, “*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). The shackles of sin, the tight noose of transgressions, and the pain and turmoil it causes incarcerate man by the “*cords of his sin*” (Prov. 5:22). Jesus was sent to free the one who is locked in the prison of iniquity through His blessed sacrifice, and after freeing this one, the proverbial keys were thrown away (John 3:6; Rom. 5:8-10).

The New Testament gives us an abundance of exhortations concerning Jesus and His liberating power. Because we have been made free from sin, we are now servants of righteousness (Rom. 6:18). We have assurance by knowing the benefits of living righteously; fruit will be produced and displayed before God and all, pointing to everlasting life (Rom. 6:22). This freedom cannot be offered by man, nor can it be earned; but the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and death. When God’s word is saturating the heart of the Christian, and he takes heed to the lessons therein, it will cause him to be free from the power of the evil one (Rom. 8:2; Psa. 119:11).

Unfortunately, many are living contrary to the will of God. This behavior causes one to be enslaved to ungodliness and worldly lust, which war against the souls of men (Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:11). In light of many spiritual campaigns to win the minds of men, the vast majority of individuals will spend their time in self-deception and blindness. These behaviors cause many to believe that Christianity is a thing of the past and unnecessary. Sin has the ability to lull one to spiritual sleep, and the only means of awakening is the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Sadly the god of this world has blinded many through false doctrine and

(Continued on page 4)



*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:  
I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more  
abundantly. I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

John 10:10-11

## *Joshua and Solomon: What's the Difference?* By Don Prather

Two leaders were given similar charges. One succeeded, the other failed. What was the difference? Understanding the success of Joshua and the failure of Solomon is important because their charge is like our charge.

### **Similar Charges**

Among the great leaders of the Old Testament, Joshua and Solomon stand among the greatest. Taking over from Moses, Joshua led the children of Israel all the way into the promised land. Following his father David, Solomon completed the temple in Jerusalem and led Israel to its greatest heights.

As they began, both received the same solemn urgings. Joshua was told,

Be strong and very courageous, to observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest have good success whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous. (Josh. 1:7-8)

Solomon heard much the same from his father David,

Be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man; and keep the charge of Jehovah thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his ordinances, and his testimonies, according to that

which is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself. (1 Kings 2:2-3)

In calling on the newly minted leaders to show strength and manly courage, their mentors and fathers were previewing the New Testament teaching of 1 Corinthians 16:13, *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”* With awareness of the dangers that surrounded them, with a soldier’s eye toward preparedness, with resolve to keep ranks with the faith, and with full-grown determination to see the battle through, we have also been set to our spiritual tasks.

### **Success and Failure**

With the momentum of the fear of the Lord, Joshua led Israel across the Jordan, through battles at Jericho and Ai, and in victories over *“kings, thirty and one”* (Josh. 12:24). There were religious duties to be reinstated (Josh. 5:3), sins to be addressed (Josh. 7:26), and administrative responsibilities to be fulfilled as the people took possession of the land. Toward the end his message remained the same: *“Therefore be ye very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left”* (Josh. 23:6). As the result, *“Israel served Jehovah all the days of Joshua”* (Josh. 24:31).

Solomon did not do as well. Even as he *“made an end of building his own house, and the house of Jehovah, and the wall of Jerusalem round about”* (1 Kings 3:1) and

*(Continued on page 3)*

<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 70</b> <b>Nehemiah 2-7</b> <b>&amp; 1 Corinthians 6-7</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>



(Continued from page 2)

sought “understanding to discern justice” more than “long life...riches for himself, nor...the life of...enemies” (1 Kings 3:11), Solomon’s dedication was eroding. He made affinity with “Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh’s daughter, and brought her into the city of David” (1 Kings 3:1). Later, “when Solomon was old... his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God” (1 Kings 11:4). “The mouth of strange women” became his “deep pit” (Prov. 22:14) just as our own personal desires draw us away and “bring forth death” (James 1:14).

### What’s the Difference?

Assuming psychological or sociological explanations, the modern mind rushes to excuse failure or belittle success as accidents of nurture or nature. Was Joshua unusually blessed with emotional stamina? Was Solomon unusually limited by the circumstances of his birth? That we live lives of fewer or greater talents is not disputed. But just as Joshua and Solomon began at roughly the same place, all men will end at the same place “before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done” (2 Cor. 5:10).

No unusual explanations are required to understand the difference between Joshua and Solomon: Joshua obeyed God and Solomon did not. By taking “strange women” first inside his life and later inside his heart, Solomon was responsible for his own erosion of character. There were no ephemeral forces. What he did made the difference. What we do makes the difference, “whether it be good or bad.”

### 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 **26 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ 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. If you plan on coming to donate, please contact Ryan to schedule an appointment or do so online to help us know how many are coming.

### 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. This year we will be collecting money with which the home can then buy the things they need. **If you would like to donate money for this cause, please do so today.** If you have any questions please see the elders or Jim Moore.

## 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	April 14, 2013	April 21, 2013
Bible Class	43	55
AM Worship	68	77
PM Worship	40	61
Mon. PM	NA	79
Tues. PM	NA	78
Wed. Class	NA	23
Wednesday PM	59	67
Contribution	\$1832	\$2047

	This Week: 4/28/13	Next Week: 5/5/13		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Jim Moore	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	<b>April 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Joe Dennis <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey  <b>May 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Clean Building:</b> Cindy Fuller <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jim Moore	
<b>Greeters</b>	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, Gene Bannister John Barnum, Tom Wilcox		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas	James Fuller		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 1 Don Smith	May 8 Allen Griffith	May 15 Tom Wilcox	May 22 Garrett Barnum

(Continued from page 1)

living. Many are trumpeting immoral lifestyles and labeling them as being approved by the Holy One (Isa. 5:20).

Sin has a way of deceiving us. It is the number one destroyer of souls, and when individuals give themselves over to it, it has the power to corrupt the conscience and cause many long-term consequences of a negative influence. Consider the works of the flesh in Galatians chapter five. Notice,

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21)*

Many are enslaved to these things in life as they walk aimlessly in the world. But the blood of Christ and obedience to the gospel will terminate the bondage of sin.

In conclusion, all men should desire to be free—not just free from a physical perspective—but a spiritual, emotional, and mental one. Because of the bondage of sin, many are experiencing evil, pain and suffering. Unfortunately most people do not realize that they are in bondage, and Christians must take the liberating message to them and show them what real freedom is. Let God be true.

I believe we had a great meeting last week and I appreciate all the hard work everyone put into it. The CDs have been made that were requested but its not too late, if you want a set, please indicate such on your attendance card.

The next few weeks are busy one's for us. This weekend we are in Lovelady recording their lectureship and will return just long enough to turn around before heading to Portland for a lectureship this coming week and coming back through San Marcos for a preacher's workshop. These events will keep us out this week and next but we look forward to being with you again on May 12th. I again am thankful for the ability to go and do this work that I believe is of great benefit in preserving these lessons for use now and in years to come. In may absence **Jason Nicholas** will be teaching and preaching this morning and **Joe Dennis** will be preaching tonight. I hope you all have a great week. ~Ryan