

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



May 12, 2013

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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.

How Do We Face Our Challenges?

By Rob Whitacre

Brethren, our culture is rapidly changing. Norms are being re-written. What once was safe moral territory is no longer moral or safe. It appears we are only months away from the United States Supreme Court ruling on "Gay Marriage." With one strike of the pen, every state law defining marriage as one man and one woman could be wiped away. Furthermore, consider that Planned Parenthood performed 334,000 abortions in 2011. This means a baby died every 94 seconds! Thomas Jefferson once said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever." As we wait for the certain justice of God, what should the Christian attitude be towards these challenges? Should we become angry and bitter? Should we hide in fear for our future?

A Christian is a reflection of Christ. Our attitude, regardless of the circumstances or situation, must be based upon our Redeemer. Even in the most difficult times, Jesus found peace in His relationship with God by keeping the right attitude. Perhaps there is no better summary of these principles than Philippians four.

Paul said,

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Phil. 4:6-9)

These passages are found in the middle of Paul's treaty on how to rejoice in the Lord. Brethren, there are no shortcuts to a Christ-like attitude as we face our challenges. We must read, understand, and follow the Philippian pattern.

First, we must pray right (vs.6-7). Prayer is a discipline of the mind and spirit. When prayer is routinely (not rarely) found in a Christian's life it provides, "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (vs.7). Once, while Jesus was praying, the disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Why did they ask

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And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray” by Kevin Cauley

“And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples (Luke 11:1).

“How is your prayer life?” is a question that many would just rather not answer. I am a praying man, but I don’t pray enough. I do not believe that I am out of the ordinary in that regard. Jesus, our model for Christian living, prayed hours on end at times. Sometimes, it seems as if I barely have time to utter a brief “thank you” for the day’s blessings. I am grateful that we have those public periods of worship when we may collectively stop and offer prayer. It causes me to reflect upon my own prayer life and the need I have to engage the Father in prayer more often. Public prayer feeds private prayer, and vice versa. All of it tends to the glory of God. “*Lord, teach us to pray.*”

Men ought always to pray. It is encouraging to know that God wants me to pray. Jesus gave the parable of the unjust judge to teach us that “*Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*” The parable tells of a widow who continued to plead her case so unceasingly that the judge, though he was unrighteous, finally granted her request simply because of her persistence. I, like Jacob, need to wrestle with the “Angel” until I receive a blessing (Gen. 32:24-32). Unlike the unrighteous judge, God is righteous, longs to hear the prayers of his children, and is ready to give liberally (James 1:5). He simply wants us to take the time and ask (Matt. 7:11). “*Lord, teach us to pray.*”

Prayer is something that may be taught. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The disciples then passed

along his teaching to others concerning prayer. We also must realize that the next generation will pray as we have taught them to pray. We need to be serious about prayer. There are prayers in the Bible that are available for our study and contemplation. We must examine these prayers, analyze them, and seek to improve both our private and public prayers. Jacob’s prayer in Genesis 32:9-12 is a great prayer of humility and serves as a wonderful example for a private prayer of supplication on behalf of one’s family. Daniel’s prayer in Daniel 10:4-19 is a wonderfully composed prayer of intercession on behalf of God’s people, the children of Israel. It was a prayer intended for public display. Unlike the mantras of eastern philosophies, biblical prayer is verbal, expresses a personal relationship to the Divine, and must be taken seriously as an avenue of communication and worship with God, Almighty. “*Lord, teach us to pray.*”

Prayer is an act that moves us out of the physical and into the spiritual. As an act of worship, Christian prayer focuses upon God the Father. Jesus taught us to say, “*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name.*” Prayer time ought to be a time of reverence, somber reflection, and holy gratitude. It should be taken as seriously as bringing a formal request before a magistrate, judge, or elected official. In the moment of prayer, we ought to exorcise all things common and profane that we might honor the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Psa. 29:2). There are many common concerns that plague our thoughts on a more or less constant basis. Removing our minds from such temporal concerns brings us to a higher plane where we leave behind the temporal, carnal, and feeble to engage the eternal, spiritual, and powerful. In the final equation, prayer is an act of faith. “*Lord, teach us to pray.*”

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 72
Esther 1-6
& 1 Corinthians 10-11
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)



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this question? Did the disciples know how to pray? The answer is found in how Jesus prayed, and the fact is: they lacked some of the ingredients! Perhaps every Christians needs to take some time and really study and learn about prayer from our Lord. If prayer is not working for you, then you are missing some ingredient.

Second, we must think right (vs. 8). Our thoughts are a reflection of who we are. *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee”* (Prov. 23:7). Lies, deceit, and false doctrine are enemies to overcoming challenges. Notice Paul said, *“Finally my brethren, whatsoever things are true”*—truth is an essential weapon to help the Christian remain faithful during difficult times. Compromising on our principles will not bring victory. Moreover Paul added, *“Love, purity, and good reports.”* Develop the love of God, maintain a pure heart, and mediate upon good news, and you will be on the way towards overcoming your challenges!

Third, we must live right before God and then, *“the God of peace shall be with you”* (vs. 9). Paul’s life is an excellent example of how to rejoice in our struggles. *“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”* (Phil. 4:12). Paul knew all about hunger, thirst, beating, stoning, wrecks, and the pressures of congregational work (2 Cor. 11:23-30). He lived and died under an oppressive Roman government. Yet he could still pen, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13).

Surely our attitude towards our challenges will be the ultimate determination of our attitude. Christians must not give up or run from their challenges. General George S. Patton once said, *“Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.”* Surely Heaven will be an exhilarating victory for those who face and overcome the challenges of life.

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 **31 contacts** were made.

Events & Updates

- ◆ Thank you all for any help that you had with the blood drive yesterday; another 26 units of blood were collected which can help 78 people and will credit David with 6 units should he need it.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** starts June 11 at Bangs; the schedule is posted on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **Summer Camp** is just over a month and a half away. Make sure you have completed and returned your applications.

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (05), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd (14), Kami Hardy (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peg Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Ryan Smithey (23), Gracen Hardy (30).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	April 28, 2013	May 5, 2013
Bible Class	52	41
AM Worship	73	62
PM Worship	44	48
Wednesday PM	36	46
Contribution	\$1712	\$1572

This Week: 5/12/13		Next Week: 5/19/13		May 2013 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Jim Moore June 2013 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum*, Garrett Barnum Don Smith, Jim Moore	Joe Dennis*, Hank Wheeler James Fuller, Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 15 Tom Wilcox	May 22 Garrett Barnum	May 29 Joe Dennis	June 5 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)

Studies for the week of May 12, 2013		Sunday Class Titus (Introduction/Chap. 1) Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p style="text-align: center;">Godly Mothers</p> <p><i>Certainly we are thankful for the great work of mothers, especially those striving to live as godly examples in their homes.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She Puts God First <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Must prepare ourselves first by faithful service. b. Strive to be like Ezra (Ezra 7:10), Mary (Luke 1:28-31, 38), Eunice & Lois (2 Timothy 1:5), and others—they had prepared themselves for their service by being who they needed to be. c. We must remember time needed to nurture our relationship with God in order to impact the lives of others (1 Timothy 4:12-16). 2. She Serves As An Example <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As one who puts God first, she then can be an example to others in the way in which she lives. b. We should seek to live an example that others can imitate (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; Matt. 5:16; Titus 2:3-5; Prov. 31:10-31). 3. She Teaches Others <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. She should strive to impart her wisdom to others in teaching them as she has learned. b. This is true both of her family and of others. (Prov. 6:20-22, 31:26; Eph. 6:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:14-15; Titus 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:2). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Growth (Nehemiah 8)</p> <p><i>The book of Nehemiah is a great study of what is required for growth in both the life of the Christian and for the church. Learning and implementing lessons from this book will help us all to grow...consider the people's desire for spiritual growth in Nehemiah 8:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respect for God's Word <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The people showed interest (8:1, 2), attention (8:3), and reverence (8:5, 6; 9:13) to the Word of God. b. Will we also give such respect to the word of God (Ps. 119:103-105; Matt. 5:6; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 1:11; 1 Cor. 2:7, 10, 12)? 2. Understanding God's Word <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Further the people desired to understand the Word of God, this was not just "lip service" (8:7-9, 12, 13). b. Our desire must go beyond simply respecting God's Word, we must have a desire to know it (Rom. 10:14-17; Acts 8:30-31; John 8:31-32; Eph. 3:1-7; 1 John 1:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:12-16; 2 Tim. 2:15; Matt. 13:11ff). 3. Doing God's Word <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the people understood what God would have them to do, we see also a willingness and an eagerness to act on it (8:10, 12, 14-18; 9:38). b. When one has a proper respect of God's Word and comes to understand it; it should naturally follow that he will desire to act on it (Matt. 7:24; Acts 8:36; Phil. 4:9; James 2:22; Rev. 1:3, 22:14). 	