

# 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



June 02, 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 ..... On Break  
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

## A Great Church In A Great City

By Charles Box

Antioch in Syria was a great city. If you look at the famous and huge cities in the United States you would see New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. In the Roman Empire you had Alexandria, Rome and then Antioch. Antioch was a prosperous city. It was the capital city of the Roman province of Syria. Antioch was known as a very hedonistic city. When a person is devoted to hedonism they are dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification. Everything is about pleasure; whether it were eating, playing, sex, work—you name it. Their world revolves around feeding their desires and their wish. Oh, but that sounds like the United States today! It is estimated that, at the time Paul was there, Antioch could have been a city of some 500,000 people. When Luke wrote the book of Acts he did not seem to be concerned about the size of the city, nor the scope of its greatness. He was concerned about the Lord's church in that city. The church in Antioch was a great church and it had qualities that the church everywhere should possess. It was a church that challenges the best that there is within us. There are a lot of things we do not know about the church in Antioch. We do not know how many they were in number or if they had their own building, but Luke did tell us what kind of people these Christians were and the kind of influence they had for God.

**The gospel was both preached and accepted in Antioch.** After the death of Stephen the church was scattered. (Acts 8:1-4) As these Christians were scattered they preached the word everywhere. Believers, who were scattered, preached the Good News of gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they went. "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only." (Acts 11:19) Even though Jesus had said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," the Jewish Christians still did not understand that the Gentiles were included in the Gospel. It took the events of Cornelius and Peter to convince them that no one is unclean and that everyone needs the gospel. (Acts 10-11) Prejudice is a difficult thing for people to deal with. As the persecution caused the Christians to move to other cities Luke recorded, "And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus." (Acts 11:20) So now the gospel was beginning to spread among the Gentiles. Antioch was the first city where the gospel was preached willingly and directly to Gentiles. The gospel was not only preached, but it was accepted in Antioch. "And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." (Acts 11:21) Even in this godless city the powerful gospel had its effect.

**God's grace reached all kinds of people.** The Church had its beginning in

(Continued on page 2)



*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved,  
and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

John 10:9

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus. (Isaiah 2:1-3, Acts 2) The apostles were the first members of the church and Jerusalem was the place from which they worked. The church in Jerusalem learned that wonderful things were happening in Antioch so they sent Barnabas to help. "Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch." (Acts 11:22) Barnabas was a good and godly Christian man. "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord." (Acts 11:24) He was a Levite from Cyprus. "And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." (Acts 4:36-37) He was an encourager, a comforter and he was apparently a very kind, wise, and loving man. When Barnabas actually saw what was going on at Antioch through the gospel he knew that God's grace was at work there. God's grace reaches all kinds of people. Just observe the first words of Acts 13, "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul." (Acts 13:1) These men were very different, but the grace of God had reached them and many others also. It would be hard to find a more diverse group but now they are all in one body. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13) So it was the gospel that was preached by the grace of God that brought all these people together in this one body.

**At Antioch the brethren remembered who they were.** The brothers and sisters in the church at Antioch were the first to wear the new name that had been promised by God. The new name was given after the Gentiles

had seen God's righteousness. "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." (Isaiah 62:2) The new name was the name Christian. "Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:25-26) The word "Christian" comes from the word Christ which means the Anointed Savior. Each time these people heard that beautiful name Christian they were reminded of who they were. "The church at Syrian Antioch had a number of firsts. It was the first area where Gentiles were evangelized, it was the first place that followers of Christ were called Christians, and it was the first recorded church to render aid to other churches. It was also the first recorded time that Paul preached to the Gentiles for in Damascus and Jerusalem, he had preached only to Jews and we are not aware of his actions while he was in Tarsus."

Here at Antioch were people who heard and obeyed the gospel; they understood that they were saved by the grace of God. They had great respect for the word of God and were ready to proclaim the word of God to others. They shared a common love with each other and they had a wonderful influence in their world! Every congregation of the Lord's people ought to want to be just like the church in Antioch. A strong church like this can do much to glorify God and to bring salvation to others. Will you accept God's wonderful good news that Jesus died for your sins? Will you be baptized into Christ to put on Christ so that your sins can be forgiven by His blood? (Galatians 3:26-27) The grace of God and His great gift to us demands our cheerful and loving surrender to Him. Are you faithful in God's service? "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

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><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><b>Week 75</b> <b>Job 9-14</b> <b>&amp; 1 Corinthians 16—2 Corinthians 1</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><i>"...desire the sincere milk of the work, that ye may grow thereby;" (1 Pet. 2:2)</i></p>



### 1st Sunday Potluck

We have our monthly potluck lunch following our morning worship this morning in the fellowship hall. We hope you can join us especially if you are visiting.

## A Proverb for the Day (21:3)

By Jeremy Sprouse

“To do righteousness and justice is desired by the Lord more than sacrifice” (Proverbs 21:3 NASB). Men often think they can make up for a lack of obedience by giving a little back to the Lord. To those under the Old Covenant, sacrifices were not just a mere ceremonial observance, they were a way of worshipping God, a way of fellowshiping with God and drawing near to Him, a way of showing thanksgiving to God, and a way of seeking forgiveness (Leviticus 1-5). To the Israelites, they were an essential part of having a relationship with God. They were important and they were commanded, but they were not accepted unless the worshipper met certain requirements. God wants worshippers who are first obedient to His voice (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22-23). This includes a moral obedience to be righteous and just. God does not care about their sacrifices until they are striving to be obedient, righteous, and just (cf. Isaiah 1:11-17).

Now, let’s consider this principle under the New Covenant. Service to God in one (or more) areas of our lives does not make up for disobedience in another. God still expects a certain lifestyle from those who would worship Him. Putting a little extra in the plate on Sunday does not make up for sin; the purpose of offering is to show thankfulness, not to seek forgiveness (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7, 12-13). God does not care how much we study His word if we do not follow it (cf. James 1:22-25). God does not care about a person’s religion if they haven’t bridled their tongues (i.e., restraining them from lying, gossip, and slander, cf. James 1:26, 3:8-12). A moral lifestyle does not make up for forsaking the assemblies of the saints (cf. Hebrews 10:25) and attending worship does not make up for an immoral lifestyle (cf. John 4:24). God does not care how much we do for Him, if we are serving another master (cf. Matthew 6:24). We must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

### Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **27 contacts** were made.

#### Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ June 2-6: VBS at Bangs
- ◆ June 3-7: VBS at San Angelo; 6:30-8 PM nightly
- ◆ June 10-13: VBS at Dublin
- ◆ June 11: **Summer Youth Series** starts at Bangs. Every Tuesday night through the summer begins at 7 PM. There is a schedule on the bulletin board. The Theme this year is: “Significant Lessons from ‘Insignificant’ People”.
- ◆ June 22: VBS at 5th & Grape in Abilene
- ◆ June 24-28: VBS at Ranger
- ◆ June 30– July 4: Jr. Camp at Brady

## Celebrate

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

**June Birthdays:** Hannah Smithey (03), Mike Bannister (04), Caleb Dennis (06), Loutrell Dobbins (08), Shannon Dennis (13), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

**June Anniversaries:** Lasha & Joe Dennis (05), Laverne & James Thomas (05), Mileen & Wayne Kahlich (19), Lisa & David Greer (28).



## Records

	May 19, 2013	May 26, 2013
Bible Class	51	58
AM Worship	73	78
PM Worship	50	62
Wednesday PM	51	50
Contribution	\$1682	\$1593

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 6/2/13		Next Week: 6/9/13		<b>June 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Jim Moore <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Don & Darlene Smith <b>Clean Building:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox  <b>July 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Joe Dennis			Song Leader: Ken Maninger	
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		James Thomas			
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Garrett Barnum John Barnum, Tom Wilcox		Don Smith*, James Fuller Gene Bannister, Jim Moore			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger		Hank Wheeler			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>						
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Billy Chism		Garrett Barnum			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum <i>1 John 2:15-17</i>		Allen Griffith			
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith		Don Smith			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith		John Barnum			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	June 5 James Fuller	June 12 Jim Moore	June 19 Don Smith	June 26 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)

<b>Studies for the week of May 26, 2013</b>		Sunday Class ..... Titus (Chap. 1) Wednesday Class ..... Redemption Through The Bible
<p><b>The Assurance of the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15)</b></p> <p><b>1. Assurance of the Faithfulness of God</b></p> <p>a. The preaching of the gospel (15:1-4), the promises of the OT prophecies (15:3-4; Gen. 3:15; Ps. 2:1-6, 16:10-11; Acts 2:24-27; Isa. 53:10-12), and the proclamation of the witnesses (15:5-8; Acts 1:3) all testified to the faithfulness of God—which they believed (15:11).</p> <p>b. The resurrection points not just to the power of God but also to the faithfulness of God (2 Cor. 1:20; 1 Pet. 1:3-11; Titus 1:2, 1 Tim. 4:8-11; Rev. 22:6).</p> <p><b>2. Assurance of the Christian's Resolve</b></p> <p>a. Since Christ did rise (15:20), we can be assured Christ is dependable (15:13; Matt. 16:21), apostles teaching is reliable (15:14), faith is credible (15:14-15; Heb. 11:1), salvation is available (15:17; Rom. 4:25), reunion is possible (15:18; 1 Thess. 4:13-14), eternal life is attainable (15:19; 9:25; Phil. 3:8-11).</p> <p>b. The Christian life, even when difficult, is worth living because of the resurrection (15:30-34; 2 Cor. 4:17).</p> <p><b>3. Assurance of the Faithful's Reward</b></p> <p>a. Paul assures the faithful (those in Christ) of resurrection and eternal life (15:20-23); of a new, spiritual body (15:38, 42-44, 51-53); and of victory (55-57).</p> <p>b. Indeed, their labor would not be in vain (15:58; Rev. 14:13, 22:14).</p> <p><i>With these assurances, the Christian should be able to continue on faithfully, trusting in our reward from our faithful God!</i></p>		<p><b>Turn Away</b></p> <p><i>ἐκκλινω</i> or <i>ekklineo</i>, means to deviate, shun, avoid, or go out of the way (Strong's); it is used three times within the New Testament giving us instruction on how we should live our lives.</p> <p><b>1. In sin, we have turned away from God (Rom. 3:11-12)</b></p> <p>a. First it is used in a negative sense; here Paul uses the words of the psalms (Ps. 14:1-3; 53:1-3) to enforce the universal problem of sin, need of a savior, and justification through faith in Christ (Rom. 3:9, 23, 26).</p> <p>b. Since the days of Adam and Eve, every accountable person had sinned by <b>turning away</b> from God and His will (Isa. 59:1-2; 1 John 3:4—missing the mark; lawlessness) but forgiveness is found in Christ; we are now to turn our lives back to God (Rom. 6:13, 16-18, 22-23).</p> <p><b>2. But we must now turn away from sin (1 Pet. 3:10-11)</b></p> <p>a. Peter now is addressing Christians who are to live as obedient children (1:3-16) and as such there are things to avoid or <b>turn away</b> from (3:9-11) because God's face is set against such actions (3:12).</p> <p>b. Instead we should <b>turn away</b> from sin and follow God's ways (4:2) with confidence that God watches over us and is attentive to our prayers when we do (3:12).</p> <p><b>3. And we must turn away from any who would again turn us from God (Rom. 16:17)</b></p> <p>a. Just as Peter was urging Christians to be faithful in spite of opposition, Paul will urge us to <b>turn away</b> from any who would lead us away from God back to sin.</p> <p>b. Such ones only deceive and destroy (16:18-19; 2 Pet. 2:1, 18ff).</p>