

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 16, 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 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

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

He That Gets Wisdom Loves His Own Soul

Joshua Rodriguez

The pursuit of happiness—most people give their entire lives to this endeavor. God created the world for our enjoyment, but warned us of seeking happiness in the temporary things of this life. *"He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it"* (1 Pet. 3:10-11).

A lifestyle of foolishness and disobedience deprives us from a true feeling of satisfaction and joy. We cannot expect to find joy in selfishness, violence, drug abuse, and sexual immorality. These actions inherently cause pain, and trouble will follow those who pursue them. When we depart from the will of God, our lives will be filled with constant failure. The end result will be mental discomfort and unhappiness. The voice of reason cries out, *"Listen to me...Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it...For whoever finds me finds life...But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul"* (Prov. 8:32-36).

We often cause ourselves distress when decisions are made without good sense or judgment. Because of our shortcomings we develop a feeling of regret and guilt. Constant stress turns into depression, and depression causes us to live carelessly. Without giving sufficient thought to our actions, we end up hurting ourselves and destroying our relationships. We keep ourselves from happiness by perpetuating this cycle in every choice that we make, and begin to resent life along with God because our lives never seem to go right.

"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good" (Prov. 19:8). If we love our family and friends, and would see good days during our brief existence, then wisdom must be our daily pursuit. The word of God declares, *"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding"* (Prov. 3:13). The happiness of wisdom does not occur by chance. The blessedness of wisdom is guaranteed! She gives the possessor foresight to sidestep unnecessary trouble and maintain contentment and satisfaction in every decision of life.

Life can only be lived to its greatest potential by practicing the wisdom of God. We must devote ourselves to adopting her mental and moral qualities. In marriage, family, society, work, leisure, and salvation the instructions of wisdom must be studied and applied. The solemn and factual declarations of God's word are

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Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:17-18

The purpose of discipline in its purest and truest sense lies not in forcing others to do as you wish but training them to make their own decisions so that they will do as they ought. Discipline exists to teach self-discipline. Therefore, a father's responsibility to train his children does not focus on his power to force his will on his offspring while they remain at home, but on his ability to teach them how to make good decisions after they leave home. Our heavenly Father does not force us to obey Him, but He does everything He can to persuade us to do so. He shows us how we benefit and what consequences follow when we choose otherwise. He sent Jesus both to help us learn spiritual discipline not only through His instruction but also through the example of His own self-discipline. As such, Paul both accepted this model and continued it when he told the Corinthians, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ"* (1 Cor. 11:1). Therefore, since Jesus Christ's own life exemplified self-discipline, if we are to be His disciples, then our own lives must be defined by self-discipline spiritually.

The idea of "following" applied quite literally to the twelve apostles, but it applies just as powerfully as a metaphor for us today. The apostle Peter told early Christians, *"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: 'Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in his mouth'"* (1 Pet. 2:21-22). The Old Testament quotation Peter chose referred not simply to the life of Jesus in general but to His behavior even while on the cross. A disciple of Jesus Christ must develop self-discipline to do God's will even under the harshest conditions imaginable, even facing torture and humiliation. The control necessary not to respond in kind or to lash out in anger requires a commitment unlike any other expected in life.

A disciple must apply principles learned from his teacher to everyday life and new situations. James told the early Christians, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* (James 1:22). Disciples do

Learning Self-Discipline

Kevin W. Rhodes

not simply agree with Jesus or appreciate what He has done. Disciples live for Jesus and do what He wants done. Therefore, discipleship includes action as much as acceptance, for until discipleship has changed our behavior, it has not affected our will; and until it affects our will, we are not yet disciples.

A disciple of Jesus accepts his discipleship, not just as a call to salvation, but also as a call to service. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45). If we only seek Christianity for its benefits, but not for its responsibilities, we are following an illusion. The two go hand in hand. If we do not follow Jesus to the cross, we cannot follow Jesus to heaven.

Jesus' disciples will accept that sacrifice is the nature of a disciple's life. It surrounded Him at every turn in life because He gave of Himself at every opportunity. When He told Paul, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35), He spoke from a lifetime of experience as well as from divine wisdom. Therefore, a disciple should expect to make sacrifices and accept making sacrifice; he should not complain about making sacrifices. This extends even to sacrificing other relationships to obtain and maintain a relationship with our Savior: *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple"* (Luke 14:26).

The greatest key to learning self-discipline from Jesus lies in accepting that you will never graduate from this relationship; you must necessarily be a disciple for life. *"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for one is your teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren"* (Matt. 23:8). No disciple of Jesus will surpass the life, the wisdom, the self-control, the love, the sacrifice, the patience or the mercy of our Lord. However, all that we do should work toward reaching whatever heights we can in all of these ways, because that is how Jesus lived.

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>Radio</p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p>Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p>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>Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)</p>	<p>Week 77 Job 21-26 & 2 Corinthians 4-5</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;"</i> (1 Pet. 2:2)</p>



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able to make the naïve intelligent and strong in judgment (Psa. 19:7). The word of God will transform our soul, cause our heart to rejoice, and teach us the purpose of obedience. The Lord is not oppressive and controlling, but untainted by corruption and deserving of respect. His verdicts of life are accurate and they uphold morality (cf. Psa. 19:7-9). When we identify with these truths, we will discover even as the psalmist declared, *“By them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward”* (Psa. 19:11).

Getting wisdom requires great diligence (Prov. 2:1-9). Her instructions must be memorized and kept in attention (v. 1). They must be meditated upon (v. 2). In gathering knowledge and understanding as a precursor to wisdom we must desperately seek to obtain it (v. 3). We ought to approach wisdom as if we were seeking real physical treasure (v. 4). Knowing the great benefits that shall be received (prosperity, protection, and preservation), let us pursue wisdom and the Lord shall grant it unto us (vs. 5-9). When wisdom is our only guide, she shall deliver us from the schemes of evil men and the seduction of evil women (Prov. 2:10-19). Solomon declared, *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor, when you embrace her”* (Prov. 4:7-8). The returns of wisdom are greater than the investments of silver and gold (Prov. 3:14). To the possessor, a life of unnecessary stress and tranquility awaits, by which our health shall be extended (Prov. 3:15-18). If we allow wisdom to dwell richly in our souls, she shall keep us from falling victim to foolish actions, and will maintain stability in our endeavors (Prov. 3:21-23). Each night we lie down our hearts will not be worried, and fear will not cripple us because our confidence is in the wisdom of the Almighty (Prov. 3:24-26).

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Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **29 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ June 18: **Summer Youth Series at Gordon**. If you need a ride, please contact Ryan in advance and we can make plans for transportation; we will be leaving the Brownwood area about 5.
- ◆ June 21: **Game Night** at the Building. Sorry for the late notice but hope you can join us starting at 6 PM Friday for fellowship, food, and games. Bring yourselves and whatever food and games you want to share.
- ◆ June 22: VBS at 5th & Grape in Abilene
- ◆ June 24-28: VBS at Ranger

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

	June 2, 2013	June 9, 2013
Bible Class	54	40
AM Worship	79	58
PM Worship	61	51
Wednesday PM	46	40
Contribution	\$1910	\$1481

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 6/16/13	Next Week: 6/23/13		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller	June 2013 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox July 2013 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: The Smithey Family Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	Billy & Peggy Chism	The Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Garrett Barnum		
Communion	Hank Wheeler*, Garrett Barnum Ken Maninger, Don Smith	Gene Bannister*, Tom Wilcox Ken Maninger, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum <i>1 Peter 5:6-11</i>	Jim Moore		
Communion	Hank Wheeler	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 19 Don Smith	June 26 Allen Griffith	July 3 Tom Wilcox	July 10 Jim Moore

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 June 16, 2013	Sunday Class Tom Wilcox Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
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"The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools" (Prov. 3:35).

A life without biblical wisdom is disoriented and full of trouble. We may be able to get by with a little common sense, but ultimately it is not in us to direct our own steps (Jer. 10:23). God teaches us through His word the ability to make prudent decisions for our lives, *"Acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths"* (Prov. 3:6).

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:
and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
(Proverbs 9:10)*

*Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.
Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.
Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
(Proverbs 4:5-7)*