

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 30, 2013

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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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.

Whenever and Wherever

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Many people make some kind of commitment to following Jesus, but the reality remains that people have a tendency to place limits on their commitment, though usually unofficially. As the reality of life confronts commitment, sadly, commitment often gives way. Rather than standing strong, people soon invent exceptions to their commitment. Satan works hard to convince people that they can have a commitment to Jesus and still have some of what the great deceiver offers too. However, Paul reminds us, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col. 3:17). Following Jesus includes whatever we do in life. More than that, a Christian follows truth wherever it leads and follows Jesus wherever He leads. Otherwise we would be trying to lead Jesus—not follow Him.

Therefore, a true disciple follows Jesus even when it is difficult. After Jesus fed the five thousand, many followed him. But when He required complete allegiance and obedience, the vast majority of that crowd drew back: "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" (Jn. 6:60 KJV). They enjoyed the blessings and benefits of following Jesus, but they showed less enthusiasm for a commitment to Jesus. As a result, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more" (Jn. 6:66). To think that people would have the opportunity to know Jesus personally and learn from Him directly and yet reject Him would appear anathema to people today. Yet, in actuality, flagging commitment treats Jesus exactly the same way. The difference in those that followed Jesus in the good times and those that follow when life turns difficult lies in the nature of their desire. The former sought bread; the latter sought the bread of life (Jn. 6:35). "Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'" (Jn. 6:67-68).

More than this, true disciples follow even when it feels like a sacrifice. To have a close relationship with Jesus demands ending a close relationship with the world. The two simply do not go together (Jas. 4:14). Therefore, disciples must sacrifice worldly ambitions, worldly desires, and worldly hopes to embrace eternal ambitions, eternal desires, and eternal hopes. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

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*As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.
Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud;
and he shall hear my voice.*

Psalm 55:16-17

Baptism Doesn't Do Any Good

Allen Webster

You have heard it and discussed it—perhaps even argued about it until you ran out of words and patience. However, some people may be on to something. Baptism does not do any good—in some cases.

For centuries, unbelievers and denominationalists have argued against the necessity and efficacy of baptism. Many see it as a useless ritual or a superstitious relic from a dark past. Others divorce it from any saving power.

Of course, baptism is a part of the Great Commission. It is explicitly stated in the accounts of Matthew (Matt. 28:19) and Mark (Mark 16:16), and implicit in Luke's account (Luke 24:46-47; cf. Acts 2:38). One cannot read the Great Commission or the conversion accounts in Acts and come to any other conclusion.

When Peter preached the first gospel sermon in Acts 2, he preached the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:22-35). In response to the preaching of the gospel, the audience asked, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). What was Peter's response? Let us first note what it was not. Peter did not say to them:

- ◆ Accept Jesus as your personal savior.
- ◆ Ask Jesus to come into your heart.
- ◆ Pray the sinner's prayer
- ◆ You cannot do anything because that would be earning salvation.
- ◆ You obviously believe what I have preached, and thus you are now saved, based solely upon faith alone.

On the other hand, some seem to see baptism as a cure-all. To them, baptism is a magic action through which one passes that immunizes them against any danger of future spiritual disease. The truth lies somewhere in between.

Baptism does not do any good if it is not pre-

ceded by correct understanding. "And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8b). Scriptural baptism requires that one hear and understand that Jesus, the Son of God, died for all (John 3:16, 8:24) and that all sinners must obey him in order to be saved (Heb. 5:8-9). It is possible to be immersed without understanding the reasons for it. For instance, many babies are baptized, but do not have a correct understanding, so their baptism does no good.

Baptism does not do any good if it is not preceded by proper faith. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). One must believe that Jesus is Divine before his baptism is scriptural. Further, one must believe that he is lost without baptism for it to be scriptural (cf. 1 Pet. 3:21). If a person does not believe he needs to be baptized and will be lost if he is not baptized, then his faith in God's plan is lacking. In the Bible, only sinners are told to be baptized (Acts 2:36-38; Acts 22:16), and one who is baptized just to please parents, spouses, in-laws, or friends has not been scripturally baptized.

Baptism does not do any good if it is not preceded by true repentance. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). A person who is unwilling to change his lifestyle (repent) might as well not be baptized, because it would not do him any good. If one does not intend to quit drinking, cursing, smoking, committing adultery or lying, why be baptized? It just makes a mockery of a sacred practice.

Baptism does not do any good if not preceded by a biblical confession.

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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 79
Job 33-38

& 2 Corinthians 8-9

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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And as they went on their way, they came to a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. [Acts 8:36-37]

Most religious people in our world do not make this confession at their baptism. Many say something like, “I believe that God for Christ’s sake has forgiven my sins.” Where is this found in the Bible? It is not! God said that He forgives sins at baptism (Acts 22:16), not before. If one does not make a scriptural confession prior to baptism, he has not been scripturally baptized.

Baptism does not do any good if it is not an immersion. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death (Rom. 6:4). Many advocate that one can be baptized by sprinkling, pouring or immersion. The Bible does not give such options, but calls baptism a burial (Col. 2:12) and shows that it requires going down into the water (Acts 8:38). The word “baptism” literally means to dip, plunge or submerge. If one was not immersed, then his baptism did not do any good.

Baptism does not do any good if it is not followed by faithful Christian living. *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:41-42). Occasionally, a person is baptized and never darkens the building’s door again. Some come for a time but then fall away. Others may continue to attend services, but their lives mirror the world instead of the image of Christ (cf. Rom. 12:1-2). In each of these cases, baptism did not really do any good because ultimately (without repentance) they will be lost.

There is a record of some who were baptized incorrectly in God’s book (Acts 19:1-6). They were told to be baptized again—correctly. Why not do so if necessary? Eternity awaits your decision. Baptism will do you good!

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **31 contacts** were made.

News & Notes: Check the bulletin boards for recent updates including a thank you letter from the McClung family, the final Hati relief effort report, and an update from Rohan Jones and family on the work in South Africa.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendars in advance:

- ◆ June 30– July 4: Jr. Camp at Brady
- ◆ July 9: Summer Youth Series at Hico. Contact Ryan if you need a ride, we will be leaving the Brownwood area about 5:15 PM.
- ◆ July 14-19: Sr. Camp at Brady
- ◆ August 14: We will be hosting the final Summer Youth Series here at 4th & Stewart.
- ◆ October 20-23: Our Spring Meeting with Rick Popejoy

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 16, 2013	June 23, 2013
Bible Class	49	54
AM Worship	65	75
PM Worship	52	58
Wednesday PM	46	47
Contribution	\$1667	\$2051

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 6/30/13	Next Week: 7/7/13		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Gene Bannister	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	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Joe Dennis Don Smith, Garrett Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
Attendance Cards	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
Sunday PM:				
Opening Prayer	Jim Moore	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller <i>Luke 6:46-49</i>	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 3 Tom Wilcox	July 10 Garrett Barnum	July 17 Don Smith	July 24 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 30, 2013	Sunday Class Titus 1-2 Wednesday Class DVD: Bible Authority
<p>Come Out From Among Them (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) Paul urges the Christians at Corinth to continue in the grace of God and not give offence in anything that that ministry of reconciliation be not blamed (6:1-3), even as was his example (v4-10). He then urges them in love to show the same love back to him (6:11-13), and ultimately live in fellowship with God.</p> <p>1. Be Not Unequally Yoked With Unbelievers (v14-16) 2. They could not have a relationship that would deter them in their relationship to God. (Deut. 22:10; 1 Cor. 15:33). 3. Such was not fitting for the temple of God which they were (Ex. 29:45; Lev. 26:12; Eze. 37:27; Jer. 31:1).</p> <p>4. But Live As Those Called Out and Separate (v17) 5. While God wanted to be among them, there are conditions to be met as God expects His people to be distinct (Isa. 52:11; Ex. 19:5; 1 Jn 2:15-17). 6. This difference He expects of His people is for their good (Deut. 6:24; Heb. 12:9-10).</p> <p>7. Then Enjoy The Benefits Of Being God's Children (v18) 8. When they lived as God instructed, they would enjoy the promises of God as His children. 9. This is as wonderful a thought for us as was for Israel; that God wants to be among His people (Ex. 29:45; Lev. 26:3, 12; Eze. 37:27; Jer. 31:1), He wants to be our Father (Hosea 1:10; Isa. 43:6; 1 Pet 2:10; 2 Pet. 3:9). 10. The end result is to restrict His people, but bless them; these wonderful promises should spur us on to a life of holiness (7:1; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; Lev. 20:7-8).</p>	<p>(Continued from page 1)</p> <p>but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 Jn. 2:15-17).</p> <p>To follow Jesus a disciple must retrain his conscience. Even the apostle Paul recognized that a clear conscience alone did not guarantee righteousness (1 Cor. 4:4). Rather, as John pointed out, following Christ requires training the conscience in accordance with God's will. "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things" (1 Jn. 3:20). The LORD warned Israel about following the dictates of your heart (Dt. 29:19), yet Jeremiah records how they did just that (Jer. 7:24). They chose to judge their salvation before God based on how they felt rather than on what God said, and they suffered greatly as a result.</p> <p>Jesus does not call people to follow Him at their convenience. He does not call people to obey Him when they agree with Him. He calls people to follow Him whenever and wherever, doing whatever the Father's will requires. In doing so, He simply calls on all people to do what He Himself already did (Mt. 26:39)—for us (Phil. 2:5-8).</p>