

# 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



July 14, 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.

## The Joy of Christianity

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Most people spend their lives searching for happiness. Few find it. In fact, people in general do not display signs of happiness at all despite their selfish efforts to find joy in a bottle. Little things irritate them greatly. Fewer people smile as they go about their daily routines today than in years past. I wonder if all these people realize that they have greater healthcare, longer life expectancy, more affluence and greater prospects for peace than just about any other people in history? Probably not. In fact, if you were to ask most people what would make them happy, the answers would likely be just as frustrating as how they perceive their problems, and this is the real issue.

Most people pursue happiness and catch misery. They are trying to capture a moment and end up facing the consequences. This happens because, despite believing they want to be happy, they do not really understand what happiness is, or to be more precise, they do not realize they should seek joy rather than happiness. The very concept of happiness is rooted in "happenstance," when circumstances appear favorable in life. This leaves people chasing after the perfect set of circumstances in life and only finding disappointment because they do not exist. However, it gets worse than that. People often attempt to manipulate circumstances to get what they want—what they think will make them happy—only to realize too late just how wrong they were in just about every way. The Jewish leaders sought happiness in control and dominance; therefore, they were glad that Judas was willing to betray Jesus to them (Mark 14:11). Judas, on the other hand, was happy to receive money from them to do exactly that (Luke 22:5). However, this did not provide either with happiness but only led to greater desperation and depression.

If we are to find joy in life, we must change where we are seeking happiness. Some early Christians sought happiness in cutthroat competition for control within the church, associating with the world and seeking personal pleasure (Jas. 4:4). James told them, "*Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness*" (Jas. 4:9). If they were happy, which seems unlikely from the text, it was for all the wrong reasons.

As Paul began to close his first epistle to the Thessalonians, he included this brief exhortation: "*Rejoice evermore*" (1 Thess. 5:16). Paul commanded us to rejoice, and he told us to do so all the time! Therefore, joy does not depend on our

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*  
Matthew 22:37-39

# Joshua: A “Man’s Man”

By Carl B. Garner

Yes, Joshua was a real man. Why? Because he took a tough job and did it the way it had to be done. He led the first all-out assault upon Jericho, the great city of the Canaanites, and began Israel’s conquest of Canaan. This writing, however, is not about Jericho, but about Joshua. If there is such a thing as an “unsung hero” in the Bible, it has to be Joshua. While his name is found in the Bible almost 200 times, he often falls in the shadows of Moses, Abraham, David and Elijah in the Old Testament narrative. Although this is true, the legacy of Joshua stands tall among all men—those in the Bible as well as any man alive today. The first mention of him is in Exodus 17:9-10 as Moses’ servant. The words describe him well: “Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek.” As do many great men, he began as a “minister,” a servant of another, but his life is also characterized by other words and events. His legacy served Israel well for decades, and we honor him by recalling his life.

## Challenges Faced By Joshua

As is true for all, including you and me, Joshua faced some powerful and difficult challenges—and he survived and prospered. That is often the quality that really “makes” a man. One who has faced tough challenges will be confident that he can face others and be successful. A person can hide behind the door every time tough decisions and tough actions are faced. But avoiding all challenges merely allows one to hitch a ride on someone else’s vessel.

## The Challenge of Humility

In his early life he was a slave to the Egyptians as were all of the descendants of Abraham. Hard labor, degradation, futility and hopelessness described the life of a slave. Such a challenge usually results in either a broken

man or a strong man. In Joshua’s case, he was made stronger rather than weaker. That experience could have broken him, but it did not.

His life as a servant did not end when Israel’s freedom began. He then served as Moses’ “minister” for forty years. Through it all, he survived to be Israel’s leader, leaving a legacy of courage, strength and wisdom.

## The Challenge of Peer Pressure

Many today would agree that the most severe challenge facing us is that of peer pressure. Follow the crowd; don’t be different; “go along to get along”;—those thoughts can be a challenge to anyone. Joshua had a big dose of that when his fellow spies agreed that they could **not** take the city of Jericho. The people were “giants,” the walls were tall and strong, and some of the spies felt like “grasshoppers” standing next to giants (Num. 13:33). When the “chips were down,” Joshua did not cave in to pressure; but along with Caleb said, “...we are well able to overcome” (Num. 13:30). We could use a few men like Joshua today!

## The Challenge of Responsibility

How shocking it must have been to hear the words, “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them” (Josh. 1:3). Suddenly Joshua, a servant for forty years, is now their leader. He had watched Moses deal with the people’s problems, judged their charges. Now, all that responsibility was on Joshua. He had been prepared well. The apprenticeship he served gave him the experience he needed, but still, it would be a daunting task. Handling the responsibility well, he led

(Continued on page 3)

### 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 81**  
**Psalm 3-8**  
**& 2 Corinthians 12-13**  
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)



(Continued from page 2)

them through the process of conquering the enemy and dividing the land.

### The Challenge of Controversy

Joshua had hardly begun his work when it was discovered there was sin in the camp. One man had taken loot, spoils from Jericho, and he was from a very prominent tribe and family. His name was Achan, and Israel would not prosper until the “sin in the camp” was settled in harmony with God’s word. Joshua had **that** to do. It would have been easy to put it off, to give the task to someone else, to ignore the serious nature of the sin. Not surprisingly, the challenge was met head-on and settled. Now, Israel could take the land God had promised to Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:7).

### His Legacy

We know Joshua was a human being with all the frailties that go with humanity. He was not perfect, but his leadership over God’s people was exactly what they needed. They had faced the huge task of conquering a land; they had divided the land among themselves fairly, and they had selected leaders among the tribes that were also just, willing to follow God’s instructions.

Note the words of Joshua 24:31: “*Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel.*” The words of Joshua should ring in our ears as we look at life today: “*Choose you this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*” (Josh. 24:15).

Joshua—he ought to be one of **your** role models!

### Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **30 contacts** were made.

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

- ◆ July 14-19: Sr. Camp at Brady
- ◆ July 24: Summer Youth Series at DeLeon. Contact Ryan if you need a ride, we will be leaving the Brownwood area about 5:30 PM.
- ◆ 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)*

**July Birthdays:** Jason Warman (06), Mariah Martinez (08), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Steven Martinez (13), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

**July Anniversaries:** Priscilla & Ryan Smithey (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

	June 30, 2013	July 7, 2013
Bible Class	49	45
AM Worship	67	72
PM Worship	36	60
Wednesday PM	33	42
Contribution	\$1828	\$1656

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 7/14/13	Next Week: 7/21/13	July 2013	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	<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>August 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Garrett Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Jim Moore*, Kevin Wilcox John Barnum, Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Seth Smithey/Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>				
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas	James Fuller		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller <i>James 1:22-25</i>	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	July 17 Don Smith	July 24 Jim Moore	July 31 Joe Dennis	August 7 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 July 14, 2013</b>	Sunday Class ..... Titus 2-3 Wednesday Class ..... Joe Dennis teaching
<p><b>Paul's Authority (2 Corinthians 10)</b></p> <p><b>1. Source of His Authority</b></p> <p>a. Not of himself; Paul showed meekness toward them (10:1, 10; 1 Cor. 2:1-5), even willing to be in work for his own needs (11:6ff) and suffer (11:16ff).</p> <p>b. Rather it was of God (v8) by which he fought a spiritual warfare (10:2-6) and would be as bold as necessary (10:11; 13:2-3, 10).</p> <p><b>2. Purpose of His Authority</b></p> <p>a. Paul's ultimate purpose is to build up, even if that meant at times he had to express chastisement (Heb. 12:10; cf. Jer. 1:10; James 1:21; 1 Peter 2:1-2).</p> <p>b. By contrast, it was the false teachers working to destroy (11:2-4; 13-15; 2 Pet. 2:1-2, 19); Paul sought only to destroy that which exalted itself against Christ (10:4-6).</p> <p><b>3. Claim of His Authority</b></p> <p>a. Paul was not ashamed of his authority, he was meek, but also as bold as necessary (10:9-11)...he was not bluffing. They recognized the weight of his letters and tried to discredit him, but his authority could not be rejected.</p> <p>b. He cared not about pleasing men, but God (v12). As such, he acted on his authority from God, which included preaching the gospel to them and beyond which he had done (v13-16; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 9:12; 15:1ff).</p> <p>c. His boasting was only in doing God's work and pleasing Him (10:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:10, 4:1; Gal. 1:10); man's opinion (even our own) ultimately does not matter.</p>	<p>(Continued from page 1)</p> <p>circumstances in this world; it depends upon having joy in spiritual things, and therefore, the right attitude toward life. Moreover, as a command, joy is completely within our control. We are fully capable of willing ourselves to become joyful, because doing what God says is entirely dependent upon our own choices. The beauty of it is, though, that doing what God says leads us to real joy in life, even when we are not expecting it. Therefore, we must begin by following Paul's straightforward command to "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).</p> <hr/> <p>A number of us are once again off for camp this afternoon; it seems we are expecting another cooler week with chance of rain and for that we are certainly thankful. Please keep this effort in your prayers for safety, fun, and certainly spiritual growth. I thank James Fuller for filling in for me as well as Joe Dennis for filling in for me last Wednesday and this coming one as well. We will look forward to being back with you next Sunday. ~Ryan</p>