

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



September 1, 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.

Listen Well

By Kevin Rhodes

Many people today proclaim their love for Jesus and their desire to follow Jesus, but the vast majority do not appear interested in listening to Jesus—either that or they possess very poor listening skills—because they seem to ignore what Jesus says. Jesus had healed a blind man and responded to His critics among the Pharisees, but some remained puzzled and asked for greater detail. “Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me’” (John 10:25-27). Our Savior did not say that some people would remain incapable of hearing Him; He taught that the people’s readiness to listen, believe, and follow Him distinguished them from the rest. Thus, a disciple distinguishes himself from the world by how closely He listens to the Messiah in order to follow Him.

If you are to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, then you must listen to His direction and instruction. Since He sent the Holy Spirit to inspire the apostles with the complete message for mankind (Jn. 14:26; 16:8-13), disciples must focus their attention on what the gospel says. “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him” (Heb. 2:1-3). Religious division exists primarily because people listen to someone telling them something about Jesus instead of listening to the actual message of Jesus Christ contained in scripture. Becoming a disciple of a man who talks about Jesus does not make you a disciple of Jesus Christ. We must appreciate that difference and listen carefully to what God’s Word says. When men lead you away from scripture, they are leading you away from Jesus Christ. Therefore, listen carefully to what men say, and follow what the Word of God says.

As Jesus taught, He explained not only His own mission but also the work of those who went before Him. After sending word back to John, who was then in prison, He talked to the people about John. “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to

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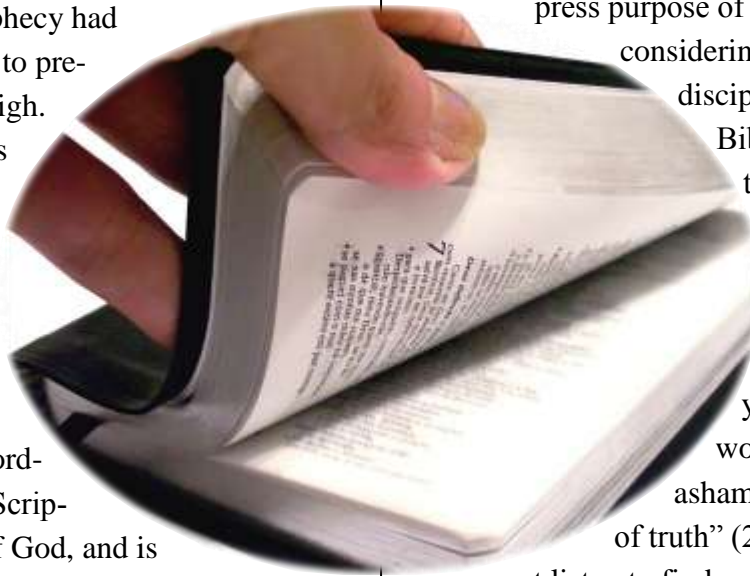
For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their prayers:
but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.
And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

1 Peter 3:12-13

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come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Mt. 11:13-15). Jesus expected his hearers to appreciate the impact of His Words. They understood according to prophecy that the promised Elijah would immediately precede the Messiah and the kingdom. Thus, His explanation announced that the time of prophecy had passed and the time for them to prepare themselves had drawn nigh. God had worked for centuries to bring them to this moment. Jesus lived and taught to give power and meaning to the message and to make redemption possible. But all of that is meaningless if we do not prepare ourselves accordingly. Paul later wrote, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Discipleship demands we listen to our Master to prepare ourselves for eternity. If we do not prepare, we did not really listen. And if we did not really listen, we have no right to claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus regularly challenged those around him to improve their listening skills. But He did this with attention to meditation on spiritual thoughts rather than to helping grow their interpersonal skills. When He spoke in parables, Jesus intended to provoke spiritual thought beyond the moment of the lesson. Therefore, he closed the parable of the sower with, “He who has ears to hear, let



him hear!’ And the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’ He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given’” (Mt. 13:9-11). When you listen to Jesus or other words of scripture, you should do so with the express purpose of reflecting on God’s will and considering how it applies to your life. A disciple of Christ does not read the Bible for reading’s sake or listen to a sermon for the sermon’s sake (or the preacher’s sake). Instead, he does so to learn and to apply. Paul told Timothy, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). A disciple does not listen to find excuses, to look for exceptions, or to try to justify himself. He listens to learn, and he learns so he knows how to live.

Sadly, some people act as if their ignorance (some of it self-imposed) insulates them from rebuke or criticism. This does not reflect discipleship thinking. A disciple dedicates himself to learning the will of his Master—not only to be more and more like his Master but also to prepare himself to face the same type of challenges his Master faced. Jesus warned that those following in His footsteps would face the same persecution and rejection that He had (Jn. 15:18-21). However, more than that, Jesus came to prepare His disciples for Judgment. As our Savior closed a series of parables, He said, “The Son of

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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 88

**Psalms 45-50
& Philippians 1-2**

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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Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Mt. 13:41-43). Jesus has given more than adequate warning. He came to prepare us. But we must listen to Him to know what it takes to prepare. “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48). In a more difficult passage recorded by Mark, echoing the same theme, Jesus said, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Mk. 4:24-25). In this instance, more than ever, Jesus challenges His disciples to take responsibility for how well they listen and with what discernment they listen. Thus, Jesus does not call on His people to be gullible. To the contrary, He argues that one can-not become His disciple without carefully evaluating the message according to truth. Paul found just such a people in Berea where Luke noted, “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

The world is filled with people who have listened to someone about religion. It contains many who have heard something of Jesus Christ and claim some kind of allegiance to Jesus Christ. But Jesus does not call us to be interested parties. He did not die so that we would listen to Him some of the time. He left heaven and came to earth to call us to be His disciples—to listen to Him in all things, all the time, with a mind (and ear) toward eternity.

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **26 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ September 20-22: Annual Lectureship at 5th & Grape, “The Great Grace and Matchless Mercy of God”.
- ◆ October 3-5: Texas Ladies In Christ retreat; details and registration forms on bulletin board.
- ◆ October 20-23: Our Fall Meeting with Rick Popejoy.³

Please join us for our first Sunday fellowship meal follow this morning’s worship.

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: James Fuller (06), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Billie Ford (17), Matthew Ochoa (20), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28), Jimmy Seale (29).

September Anniversaries: Kaci & Matthew Churchwell (15), Pam & Terry Teague (16), Darlene & Don Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Aug. 18, 2013	Aug. 25, 2013
Bible Class	51	48
AM Worship	68	65
PM Worship	63	52
Wednesday PM	49	45
Contribution	\$1874	\$1636

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 9/1/13	Next Week: 9/8/13	September 2013	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Greeters	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller	Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Billy Chism	Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Hank Wheeler Joe Dennis, John Barnum	Jim Moore*, James Thomas Garrett Barnum, Gene Bannister	Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger	October 2013	
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey	Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Wilcox	Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	John Barnum	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller	
Scripture Reading	Jim Moore <i>Matthew 24:42-51</i>	Kevin Wilcox	Keep Grounds: Jim Moore	
Communion	Allen Griffith	Jim Moore		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 4 Don Smith	September 11 Jim Moore	September 18 Joe Dennis	September 25 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)

Studies for the week of September 1, 2013	Sunday Class1 Timothy (Intro.) Wednesday Class.....Redemption Through The Bible
<p>Living Like Noah (Hebrews 11:7) We can enjoy many of the same things Noah had:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Warning from God — God warned Noah of things to come; Noah in turned preached those things to a “deaf” generation (Gen. 6:11-14; Matt. 24:36-39; 2 Pet. 2:5; Acts 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:10;). A Fear of God — he respected God, knowing He would do exactly what He had said He would; this fear prompted Noah to action (Prov. 1:7, 29-30). An Obedient Faith — He acted on his faith that he had in God, preparing for something he had never seen (Gen. 6:22; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; James 2:14-26; Rom. 6:17-18; 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7). A Place of Safety — by following Gods instructions, he enjoyed a place of safety within the ark (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:23; 1 Pet. 3:20-21). A Family — within that place of safety, Noah had his house, that is his family (Eph. 2:19; John 20:17; 1 John 3:1). Faithfulness — Noah showed it was possible to be faithful to God, a testimony to those who refused to do so (Matt. 12:41-42; Heb. 11, 12:1-2; Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:7-9). An Inheritance— he was an heir of the righteousness and blessings obtained through an obedient faith in God (Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:1-2; 3:7) <p><i>Because of his actions (Gen. 6:9), Noah was blessed of God; we can receive the same reward when we live like Noah (1 John 1:7; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).</i></p>	<p>Time Stewards (Ephesians 5:15-17) We are stewards of everything God places within our hands; this includes the time spent in this life; how will we use it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Walk In Wisdom (walk circumspectly—v15) — walk diligently, accurately, exactly; not foolishly but as one who is skilled. Our lives are not to be lived haphazardly or as those stumbling in the dark; rather we must think about the things we do—short- and long-term (4:1, 17; 5:1-2, 8; 2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 119:11, 105). Redeem The Time (redeeming the time—v16) — knowing the snares of this world, how will we use the moments we are given? Paul wanted to use them wisely to the glory of God (3:1-13; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:9; Phil. 1:20) - boldness can be used in the sense of openly (Mark 8:32, John 7:12-13), plainly (John 10:24, 11:14, 16:29), confidently (1 John 5:14; Heb. 3:6). Would we pray that we would use our time as we ought? Guard Yourself (be not unwise—v17) — equip yourself with the understanding of the will of the Lord in order to walk wisely. What he taught could and should be imbibed (5:18-20, Col. 3:16-17; James 1:21), understood (3:4), and done (James 1:22). God has provided for what we need in this spiritual warfare, but we must take it up and learn to use it (6:10-18). <p><i>What are we doing in the time God has given? Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (1 Cor. 4:2)</i></p>