

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 8, 2013

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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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.

Sobering Lessons from Mighty Nebuchadnezzar

Marvin L. Weir

It has always been heart-wrenching to see people stubbornly spurn the words of Holy Writ. God graciously informs all of mankind,

Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work. [2 Tim. 3:16-17, ASV]

One might think the Holy Scriptures to be unprofitable the way many people avoid them. No so!

In the experiences recorded in Daniel 4, regarding King Nebuchadnezzar, there is something to reprove our selfishness, correct our actions and instruct us in the righteousness of Jehovah God. May we profit from the ruin Nebuchadnezzar brought upon himself and the remedy for his plight!

Nebuchadnezzar's Privileges! The king was favored with many opportunities. In Daniel 2, God reveals to the king the "great image" (2:31) portraying earthly kingdoms and their destinies. The "image" also revealed that the God of heaven would "set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (2:44). The king's "wise men, enchanters, magicians, nor soothsayers" (2:27) could interpret the vision, but Nebuchadnezzar was privileged to hear God's prophet, Daniel, declare the meaning of his dream. He also saw God's mighty power in saving the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace (3:23- 26). This privilege motivated the king to issue an edict:

Therefore I make a decree, that every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill; because there is no other god that is able to deliver after this sort. [3:29]

The king was privileged to be warned in a vision of the great tree being cut down and its branches severed (4:10-13). He was warned of his heart changing into a beast's heart (4:14) and was counseled to "break off [his] sins by righteousness, and [his] iniquities by showing mercy to the poor" (4:27).

How many are there in this day and time that continually reject the privilege of

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But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed are ye: and fear not their fear, neither be troubled; but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear:

1 Peter 3:14-15

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hearing God’s word? The admonitions, warnings and pleadings continue to sound forth from Holy Writ. God in His mercy encourages everyone to repent (Luke 13:3) and obey the gospel (Rom. 1:16), but many people turn a deaf ear to the privilege of hearing such a plea! One knows not when his privileges to attend to sacred matters will dry up.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride! “At the end of twelve months he was walking in the royal palace of Babylon (Dan. 4:29). The twelve months can represent God’s grace, but such grace suddenly and unexpectedly came to an end. Nebuchadnezzar was convinced that all things were continuing as they always had and the warning from God was neglected and forgotten. The majority do likewise today!

Some declare that on the royal palace (400 feet high), the king had a full view of the Great Babylon with some 25 streets intersecting each other (150 feet wide and 25 miles in length). The city had 100 brazen gates, and had a walled massive structure 300 feet high and 80 feet wide to allow two chariots to pass on top. The wall contained 250 towers. The river Euphrates ran through the middle of the city. The king could see the great bridge, the gorgeous temple and the magnificent hanging gardens. Yes, his pride conquered him, and he said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built for the royal dwellingplace, by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?” (4:30). Do not the Scriptures declare that “Pride goeth before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18)?

Nebuchadnezzar’s Fall!

While the word was in the king’s mouth, there

fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from thee: and thou shalt be driven from men; and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; thou shalt be made to eat grass as oxen; and seven times shall pass over thee; until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whosoever he will. [Dan. 4:31-32]

The mighty king who was glorying in the grandeur of his own earthly kingdom was driven from the presence of men as a raving maniac or lunatic.

The root cause of the king’s problem was rebellion against the word of God. Like lunacy, sin will separate us from the fellowship of God. People today must learn from the fall of this king and heed God’s warning: “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Restoration! When the king lifted up his eyes toward heaven (acknowledging God), his understanding returned to him (4:34). The prodigal did much the same when he came to himself and vowed to return to the father (Luke 15:17-20). Without unashamed obedience to the word of God, one today will find his lot far worse than Nebuchadnezzar’s fate for a period of time (cf. 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

Like the prodigal, one who is living in sin must come to himself (Luke 15:17). Upon swallowing his pride and acknowledging God and His ways, Nebuchadnezzar said, “[I] praise and extol and honor the King of heaven; for all his works are truth, and his ways justice; and those that walk in pride he is able to abase”(4:37). O for kings and presidents to do likewise today!

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 89

**Psalms 51-56
& Philippians 3-4**

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)



TRAPPED AT SEA

By Brett Petrillo

It was a sailor's worst nightmare. There are plenty of things to fear in the sea, but this one is unlike any other. It is known as the doldrums. These parts of the sea are entirely without wind or any other way of moving boats dependent on the sea breeze. You may have seen this phenomenon in movies like Master and Commander or Pirates of the Caribbean. The doldrums would trap sailors for days and sometimes even weeks, putting serious strain on the ship's supplies.

Sometimes it feels like our lives are trapped in the doldrums. We feel stuck in a rut. It makes it hard to grow and improve ourselves. We feel like we are the same day-in and day-out and this makes it hard to put the necessary effort forth. So, when we hit the doldrums of life, how do we get out?

Get Started. This is probably the toughest step. The longer we stay trapped, the harder it is to get moving again. We get comfortable with the same way of life and it's a challenge to mix things up. But when we are stagnant, something must get the waters moving again. Once we get started, it's only a matter of time before we get out of our rut and moving again.

Make Achievable Goals. List out what you want to improve and begin working on them one at a time. Don't strive for perfection or you will just burn out and get stuck again. Makes the goals realistic.

Keep Yourself Accountable. Either do this yourself or find people who are riding the "current" in the right direction. Use friends and loved ones to help pull you at of the doldrums. Whatever method works for you, keep using it.

The doldrums of life are quite a challenge, but we can't stay in them forever. God asks for us to grow, learn, and improve (1 Corinthians 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:15; etc). In some ways, the doldrums of life are much more frightening that the ones at sea. The doldrums of the sea have physical consequences, but the doldrums of life can have eternal consequences. If we aren't careful, we can become stagnant and lukewarm like the people of Laodicea (Revelation 3:16). If this sounds all to familiar, then let this serve as a gentle breeze to get you started once again.

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.

Directory Update:

The phone number for Phyllis Hooper is incorrect on the recent directory pages; please change it to: 325-646-1751.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ September 20-22: Annual Lectureship at 5th & Grape, "The Great Grace and Matchless Mercy of God".
- ◆ September 28: Ladies Day at Dublin
- ◆ September 29: First Bible Bowl at Bangs beginning at 2 PM; we are studying I & II Corinthians this year.
- ◆ October 3-5: Texas Ladies In Christ retreat; details and registration forms on bulletin board.
- ◆ October 20-23: Our Fall Meeting with Rick Popejoy.

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: Joyce & Jack Hill (10).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Aug. 25, 2013	Sept. 1, 2013
Bible Class	48	48
AM Worship	65	64
PM Worship	52	45
Wednesday PM	45	44
Contribution	\$1636	2052

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 9/8/13	Next Week: 9/15/13		September 2013	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey October 2013 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Jim Moore
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		The Dennis Family			
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism		Joe Dennis			
Communion	Jim Moore*, James Thomas Garrett Barnum, Gene Bannister		James Fuller*, Don Smith John Barnum, Tom Wilcox			
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger		Kevin Wilcox			
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum		Jim Moore			
Scripture Reading	Kevin Wilcox <i>Psalm 115:1-9</i>		James Fuller			
Communion	Jim Moore		James Fuller			
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith		Gene Bannister			
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 11 Jim Moore	September 18 Joe Dennis	September 25 Allen Griffith	October 2 Tom Wilcox		

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 8, 2013		Sunday Class1 Timothy (Intro; Chap. 1)
<p>Let This Mind Be In You (Philippians 2) Exhorting Christians at Philippi to unity, Paul urges them to have the mind of Christ who was a great example of:</p> <p>1. Humility (v6-8)</p> <p>a. Equal with God, yet humbled Himself to come to earth for us (John 1:1, 14, 29; 2 Cor. 8:9).</p> <p>b. Though a master, He became a servant and an example (Lk. 19:10; John 13:12-17; Mark 9:35; Matt. 20:26-28).</p> <p>c. He did all this willingly (John 10:17-18).</p> <p>2. Obedience (v8)</p> <p>a. Constantly sought to do the Father's will (John 4:34, 8:29; Matt. 26:39, 42).</p> <p>b. Showed a great example of what obedience really means (Acts 1:1; 1 John 3:18; Rom. 16:17; Heb. 5:9; Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:21-23; James 4:6-10; 1 Cor. 1:11).</p> <p>3. Love (v2-4)</p> <p>a. Paul is using Christ as an example of one that loved and put others first; in this example we are reminded that Christ did this for us (Rom. 5:8; John 10:11).</p> <p>b. Will we now love in the same manner (John 13:34)?</p> <p><i>We have a perfect example in Christ (1 Peter 2:21-24), the One who has now been exalted by God (Acts 2:33, 36). Will we submit to Him before it is too late (Rom 14:10-12)?</i></p>		<p>Wednesday Class.....Joe Dennis teaching</p> <p>Acceptable Sacrifice (Psalm 50)</p> <p>1. The Summons (v1-6; Ps. 8:1; Acts 17:31; 1 Cor. 4:3-4;)</p> <p>a. God, in His radiance, comes forth as the judge of His people and calls heaven and earth to witness.</p> <p>b. Herein we are reminded of the majesty, holiness, and righteousness of God. He is the creator, sustainer, and judge of all the earth; the One we should honor and seek to please.</p> <p>2. Message to The Godly (v7-15; cf..Matt 15:9 Acts 17:23-29)</p> <p>a. They were not to be reproved for the <i>fact</i> of their sacrifice, but the <i>manner</i> of their sacrifice.</p> <p>b. Our worship is not for God's benefit, for we can offer Him nothing that is not already His nor is He dependent upon us. He desires our thanksgiving and faithfulness.</p> <p>3. Message to the Ungodly (v16-22; cf. Rom. 2:1-3)</p> <p>a. These have no right to speak of the things of God for they have rejected such and joined in with the wicked.</p> <p>b. They made the mistake of interpreting God's silence against them as indifference and thought incorrectly of the very nature of God but He would reprove them.</p> <p>4. Admonition (v23; Acts 10:35; Rom. 16:17; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14-15) - God will be pleased with, glorified by, and will save those who sincerely praise and obey Him.</p> <p>Important Lessons:</p> <p>1. God is the judge, not ourselves.</p> <p>2. We must worship the God who is, not the God we want.</p> <p>3. God does not want ritual, but heartfelt thanksgiving.</p> <p>4. God will not remain silent forever.</p>