

# 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 15, 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

## *Is Atheism the Way to True Peace and Joy?*

*Carl B. Garner*

It is no surprise that some like to make fun of “religious fools,” as they often term it. To them, someone who believes in the Bible and heaven is sadly misguided. To their thinking, Christians are merely deceiving themselves in believing in a day of rest in heaven—or a time of punishment for the ungodly, depending upon the nature of one’s life. “This is all there is; this life is the only life. How we live today will not be the cause for eternal pleasure nor punishment,” the agnostic and unbeliever state with considerably convincing words. “Intelligent people do not have to depend on some imagined “god” for their happiness. ““God” dwells in all of us!” is the cry of atheism. “Religious folk need to live in today’s world instead of seeking another,” say those who reject the Bible.

Often in the writings of such thinkers is found the charge that “religion” is merely superstition, and sadly some are persuaded that is true. They speak of their own joy in life, not in a “heaven.” They believe the most rewarding, happiest life is in rejecting the “myths” of religion and just living for today. “Forget the Bible and God, and just live for yourself.” Are they right—really? There have been some very successful people who thought so, and they publicly gave their testimony that the only path to true happiness is to cast off the shackles of religion. That may sound good, and there are some very persuasive people who embrace these views. Were they just “blowing smoke”? Let us examine and see if their lives were as happy as they claimed.

Note the words of some who embraced those views of life—those “blissful lives in unbelief.” Surely, their happiness will be a powerful force to lead many to join ranks as “infidels”—or, perhaps it will not.

**Bertrand Russell** described himself as “an atheist and an agnostic.” When addressing the idea of religion, he said it is “mere superstition.” “If you are looking for a philosophy that will give you joy and happiness,” Russell said, “religion will not be the place to look. It will merely lead to ultimate disappointment.” Thus, if we long for a happy life—and if we believe Russell— you must find another path, but if we examine his own published words, we will find that his life was anything but filled with joy. How happy are these words from Bertrand Russell’s own hand?

The life of man is a long march in the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, toward a goal that few can hope to

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*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ,  
so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.  
Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church,  
and gave himself for it;*

*Ephesians 5:24-25*



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

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reach, and where none may tarry long.

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**, a German writer, artist, biologist, theoretical physicist, and mathematician is considered “the supreme genius of modern German literature and life.” A teacher in any of those fields of study may have introduced him to us. A former student of mine told me Goethe was the most intellectual man of his time. He also said Goethe’s goal in life was the attainment of genuine joy and happiness. If so, he must have been greatly disappointed, for Goethe wrote in his last years: “In all my seventy-five years I have never enjoyed a month’s total of genuine comfort and peace.” What a sad commentary on all forms of unbelief!

**Robert Ingersoll** wrote: “The notion that faith is to be rewarded by an eternity of bliss is too absurd for refutation.” However, at the graveside of his beloved brother, he stated:

Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of a wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the un-replying dead there comes no word; but in the night of death, hope sees a star, and listening love hears the rustle of a wing.

It takes more than merely believing God’s word to enjoy the hope and joy found therein, but those who continue to reject Him will have no hope at all.

Why not take the words these famous, intelligent men have spoken and written and compare them with what life is really like, what God and the Bible really state? We know—and these and other men have admitted—

that man rejects God and the Bible because the Bible contradicts them and what they prefer to do. It appears that many will do whatever it takes to be “happy.” Sadly, they have cast aside the real source of joy for an outlook on life that provides only the very opposite.

## ***Some Things Atheists Cannot Prove***

*Rick Laing*

1. There are no absolutes (Is that an absolute?)
2. There is no such thing as truth (Is that the truth?)
3. Physical matter is eternal
4. Man evolved from animals
5. The Bible is false
6. Jesus never existed
7. Jesus was a false prophet
8. Man’s morals equal Bible morals
9. Man does not have a spirit
10. The age of the earth
11. God does not exist (Since God claims to be everywhere and invisible, have they checked every star and planet in the universe?)
12. There was not a beginning
13. Anything is right or wrong (since there are no absolutes of truth, murder, then, is only a matter of opinion)

While atheists scramble to find a weapon to destroy the gospel, the most powerful armada of facts is on our side! And let me throw in one more—they cannot prove that God will not judge the world!

### **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 90**  
**Psalm 57-62**  
**& Colossians 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)*



## Set Your House in Order

Kevin W. Rhodes

Around the time of the Assyrian assault on Jerusalem during the reign of Sennacherib, another difficulty—this one more personal—developed. “In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live”’ (2 Kings 20:1). To this Hezekiah responded with prayer and weeping. In response to this, the LORD sent Isaiah another message: “Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David”’” (2 Kings 20:5-6). As a sign that God would fulfill this, He caused the sundial to go backward ten degrees (2 Kings 20:7-11). Then, immediately after this account, the inspired record notes Hezekiah’s biggest mistake, welcoming envoys from Babylon in to view the wealth of Judah (2 Kings 20:12-19). All this should cause us all to reflect on how often we take seriously the charge to set our worldly affairs in order but fail to give heed to our spiritual affairs. God gives us time and opportunity to live for Him, but we then squander that time and make mistakes loaded with consequences.

Given an opportunity to prepare for death, would you concentrate on what you will miss or what your future holds? If given “extra time” to live upon this earth, would you continue as you did before or grow more conscious of every thought considered, word spoken, and action undertaken? Would you reevaluate yourself spiritually or remain content with your current level of understanding and effort? Would you find great comfort in your relationships with God and with brethren or would you realize something is lacking? Hezekiah received fifteen years. None of us know if we have fifteen minutes. The time to set our house in order is now. But begin with the spiritual. Then,

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### Response

We rejoice at the decision of **Erin Anderson** to be baptized into Christ last Sunday night after evening services. We certainly want to encourage her as she begins this new walk in her life.

### 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:

- ◆ 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

	Sept. 1, 2013	Sept. 8, 2013
Bible Class	48	47
AM Worship	64	66
PM Worship	45	57
Wednesday PM	44	40
Contribution	\$2052	\$1688



# Privileged To Serve

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

	<b>This Week: 9/15/13</b>	<b>Next Week: 9/22/13</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>September 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Ryan Smithey  <b>October 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Cindy Fuller <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	The Dennis Family	Gene & Barbara Bannister		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Don Smith John Barnum, Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis*, Ken Maninger Caleb Dennis, Garrett Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Kevin Wilcox	Don Smith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller <i>Colossians 1:9-18</i>	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	September 18 Joe Dennis	September 25 Allen Griffith	October 2 Tom Wilcox	October 9 Kevin 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of September 15, 2013</b>	Sunday Class ..... <i>Tom Wilcox Teaching</i> Wednesday Class ..... <i>Singing</i>
<p><i>(Continued from page 3)</i></p> <p>however much time you have left upon this earth, it will be time well spent.</p> <p>Around the time of the Assyrian assault on Jerusalem during the reign of Sennacherib, another difficulty—this one more personal—developed. “In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live”’ (2 Kings 20:1). To this Hezekiah responded with prayer and weeping. In response to this, the LORD sent Isaiah another message: “Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David”’” (2 Kings 20:5-6). As a sign that God would fulfill this, He caused the sundial to go backward ten degrees (2 Kings 20:7-11). Then, immediately after this account, the inspired record notes Hezekiah’s biggest mis-</p>	<p>take, welcoming envoys from Babylon in to view the wealth of Judah (2 Kings 20:12-19). All this should cause us all to reflect on how often we take seriously the charge to set our worldly affairs in order but fail to give heed to our spiritual affairs. God gives us time and opportunity to live for Him, but we then squander that time and make mistakes loaded with consequences.</p> <p>Given an opportunity to prepare for death, would you concentrate on what you will miss or what your future holds? If given “extra time” to live upon this earth, would you continue as you did before or grow more conscious of every thought considered, word spoken, and action undertaken? Would you reevaluate yourself spiritually or remain content with your current level of understanding and effort? Would you find great comfort in your relationships with God and with brethren or would you realize something is lacking? Hezekiah received fifteen years. None of us know if we have fifteen minutes. The time to set our house in order is now. But begin with the spiritual. Then, however much time you have left upon this earth, it will be time well spent.</p>