

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



October 6, 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

Hearing Well Means Counting the Cost

by Tom Moore

My friends, there is a cost to anything worthwhile – nothing valuable really comes free and there is a price to be paid. The question that we need to ask ourselves is, “Are we willing to pay the price for true discipleship?” In the context of Luke 14:25-33, Jesus gives some profound and soul-searching commands concerning counting the cost of discipleship. Realize that as we count the cost of discipleship we must be setting the proper priorities in our spiritual life – this is part of the cost. Hear well these words of our Lord.

Counting the cost involves loving God more than our family. “If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters.....he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). I believe the language of this verse is a hyperbole (a deliberate and obvious exaggeration used for effect) emphasizing the high price in following Jesus. As much as we love our parents, spouse, children, and grandchildren, we are to love the Lord more, much more. Many times this will come at great cost. For example, the condemning of a loved one caught up in the sin of unauthorized divorce and remarriage is an issue of great cost.

Counting the cost entails loving God more than our life. “If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not.....his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). Again, here we have a hyperbole. Jesus is emphasizing that His priority must come before even our own lives. It is strangely ironic that many today who claim they would give up their lives for Christ are not willing to give up that next promotion by putting a higher priority on taking time from their careers to serve Him and are not willing to risk a friendship to teach someone the Gospel that could save their souls. Our priorities can become greatly chaotic if we fail to count the cost. Jesus says we must seek His kingdom first (Mat. 6:33)!

In Luke 14:28-32, Jesus gave an earthly illustration of counting the cost; it is about completing the mission before us. Discipleship is not only about starting a race; it is about the finish line. Completing what you start is important in construction: be sure you have enough resources to complete a tower before you start to build it. Completing what you start is important in military undertakings: be sure you have sufficient forces before engaging an enemy. Such failures in planning are considered avoidable, hence the embarrassing mocking of those who start building what they cannot finish or the embarrassing surrender before the battle has even begun. Spiritually speaking, there must be considerable planning as we count the cost of building our spiritual house and engaging in the spiritual warfare as the Al-

(Continued on page 2)



*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits,
even the God of our salvation.*

Psalms 68:19

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

(Continued from page 1)

mighty's disciples.

Counting the cost demands we love God more than anything and everything. "So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). We often sing the song, "All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give." Many would probably choke on those words if they sang with the understanding. Do we mean, All to Jesus I surrender, except my bank account, my boat, my cabin, my pride, my job? Jesus is here asking for an unqualified renunciation of all that we possess. We may think the money in our bank account is ours, but it is not. It belongs to the Lord for His service. Do you remember a certain ruler came to Jesus and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18-30). Jesus said, "One thing thou lackest yet: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" (v. 22). We are told that this ruler became "exceedingly sorrowful," for he was very rich (v. 23). What would Jesus have you sell? Might it be your time, or your possessions? Jesus would have you sell anything that would hinder you from serving Him with all your heart.

Are you willing to hear well the word of God – well enough to truly count the cost of being His disciple?

Living For Christ

by Denny Wilson

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He gave His life so that I might live. As a Christian, who has put on Christ (Gal. 3:27) and who has been added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47), I am a member of the family of God and an heir of His precious promises (Gal. 3:26-4:7). As such, my life must be lived for Christ.

To live for Christ, we must change our past behaviors and spend each day following the doctrine of Christ laid out for us in the pages of the New Testament. I love the way Peter describes this change, found in 1 Peter 4:1-4: "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our pasts lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, drunken-ness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."

As he begins this discussion, Pe-

ter says to live for Christ, we must arm ourselves with the mind of Christ. To have the mind of Christ means we will submit to God's will first in our lives. It means we will work to seek and save the lost. It means we will have the heart of a servant to help those who are in need. It means daily living in a way that is pleasing in the sight of God.

Peter then tells us that with the mind of Christ, we will change our behavior. We will no longer follow the lusts of this world (Cf. 1 John 2:15-17). Instead, we will cease sinning and live the rest of our time for the will of God. We sometimes sing the song, "This World Is Not My Home." However, too many times we live like this world is what really matters in life. As people with the mind of Christ, Christians must do the will of God rather than love the world which is passing away. With the mind of Christ, our thoughts and actions change. As he continues in verses 5 and 6, Peter tells us the importance of this change. We will give an accounting for our lives before God so we must live according to God's will.

The change that we make in our lives upon becoming a Christian is

(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 93

Psalm 75-80

& 1 Thessalonians 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)



(Continued from page 2)

something that is noticeable to the world. It is interesting that Peter would tell us that we have spent enough time living like the world. We have made plenty of mistakes. We have sinned against God in worldly living. So stop acting like the world. He then tells us that the world will think we are strange because we don't continue in worldly living. The ESV & NAS say that the world is surprised that you don't continue to act like they do. People may be shocked that we would change our lives and they may think we are peculiar because we don't participate in the sinful ways of this world, but that is what is required when we stop living for ourselves and begin to live for Christ. They can speak evil about us, they talk about us behind our backs, they can make fun of us, and they can mock and ridicule us all they want. That is to be expected. The world persecuted Christ and they will persecute His followers (John 15:20). We must have the strength of character to stand up for the Lord regardless of what others may say. We wear His name. Act like it!

The Lord has done so much for us, we should want to live for Him. Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Christ gave Himself for us and now, we who have obeyed the gospel, have a new purpose: to give ourselves for Him.

We cannot let the world and its lusts or the worldly and their attitudes keep us from faithful living. Jesus said, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father..." (Mark 8:38). Most of us have done things we are ashamed of and it is hard to bear. I don't even want to think about Christ being ashamed of me. We must learn to repent of our sins, change our behavior and live for Christ.

Simple question: are you living for Christ each day of your life? If not, why not? Repent and live for Him each day. Let us have the courage to stand for Christ daily.

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **33 contacts** were made.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **TODAY:** Fellowship Meal following AM worship.
- ◆ **October 6-9:** Gospel Meeting at Bangs (various speakers)
- ◆ **October 19-20:** Back to the Bible Lectures at Park Heights in Hamilton.
- ◆ **October 20-23:** Fall Meeting with Rick Popejoy.
- ◆ **October 27:** Bible Bowl hosted here at 2 PM.

Meeting Notes:

Flyers are out for our upcoming meeting; it is now just 2 weeks away. Please start making plans to join us and use the flyers to invite family, friends, neighbors, etc. Also remember that we will be doing a potluck lunch Sunday, October 20; finger foods following Monday and Tuesday night; and lunch on Wednesday....hope you can join us. Please, be praying for the success of this meeting.



Come join us and Rick Popejoy, gospel preacher from San Angelo, as we study topics from the book of Hebrews:

- A Word of Encouragement
- Agents of Revelation
- Agents of Redemption
- Agents of Mediation
- The World Was Not Worthy
- Let Us Therefore

October 20-23, 2013

Sunday @ 9:45 AM / AM 10:45 AM @ 10:00 PM

Monday / Tuesday @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday @ 7:00 AM with lunch following

4th & Stewart Church of Christ
3201 4th Street • Brownwood, TX 76801
325-946-7132 • 4th&StewartChurch.org • www.4thandstewart.org

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Jim Moore (03), Lisa Greer (05), Matthew Churchwell (07), Jo Maninger (12), Seth Smithy (13), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Peggy Dudley (25), Phyllis Hooper (26).

October Anniversaries: Juanita & Stormy Barnum (25), Patti & Mike Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Sept. 22, 2013	Sept. 29, 2013
Bible Class	50	64
AM Worship	64	77
PM Worship	48	62
Wednesday PM	46	52
Contribution	\$1961	\$1951

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 10/6/13	Next Week: 10/13/13	September 2013	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister	
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler	Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Ken Maninger, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, Joe Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Keep Grounds: Ryan Smithey	
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Jim Moore	October 2013	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez	Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Mike Bannister	Billy Chism	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller	
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis <i>Psalms 71:19-24</i>	John Barnum	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 9 Kevin Wilcox	October 16 Garrett Barnum	October 23 Gospel Meeting	October 30 Don Smith

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 October 6, 2013		Sunday Class 1 Timothy (Chapter 1-2)	Wednesday Class Redemption Through The Bible
<p>Paul's Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1) While Paul's overall impression of the Thessalonians was not great (Acts 17:11), there were some who had obeyed the gospel and Paul was thankful for their:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Character (v2-3) — they were a people of faith, love, and hope shown by their work, labor, and patience. (cf. James 2:17) Example (v6-7) — They followed good examples and became examples to others themselves. Most importantly the example they followed and set was a godly sort (2:13; 1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 11:39, 12:1). Evangelistic Efforts (v8) — The word of God did not stop with them but as an echo continued to sound forth in that area. (cf. Acts 8:1; 4:20; Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2). Zeal (v9) — They gave heed to the gospel and were willing to change from what they had known when presented with the truth (cf. Acts 17:11, Matt 13:15, Eph. 19:18-20); from vain idol worship to fruitfully worshipping and serving the true and living God (cf. Acts 17:23ff, 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 2:10). Hope (v10) — They now can and do look forward to the coming of the Lord as those who are prepared in Christ (4:17, 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 14:13, 21:27; cf. Eph. 1:3, 7; 1 Cor. 15:20, 58; 1 Thess. 5:8/Eph. 6:17). <p>NOTES: _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>A Psalm of Life (Psalm 71) This is a beautiful psalm of one who recognizes his dependency on God throughout life, and now as an aged person, still trusts in Him. His prayer is that God would continue to be with him and that he would both praise God and proclaim Him to future generations. Is such our desire?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Birth (v6) — From a very early age he learned to lean on God. We must remember the need to teach our children about God and is will from the time they are born (cf. Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 3:15). Youth (v5, 17) — In his youth, the psalmist made God his hope and trust. We should not waste the time of our youth in which we have energy, zeal, and opportunity to serve God (Eccl. 11:9-12:7, 13; Eph. 5:15-17; Matt. 24:42). Old Age (v9, 18) — Now aged, the psalmist still has much to offer; there is still a work to do as he continues proclaiming God's will to younger generations. Notice that his life has blessed him with much knowledge and experience that he will now use in proclaiming the news concerning God (v8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24). What benefit will our life and wisdom be (1 Tim. 4:12-16; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)? <p>NOTES: _____ _____ _____</p>		