

# 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 13, 2013

## Contact Us:

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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.

## Have You Been "Tested"?

by Carl B. Garner

Ask any teacher and they will tell you that grading student tests or research papers is not their favorite pastime. Take my word for it—it is not half as much “fun” as I once thought it would be. Obviously, before you can grade someone’s work, you must know the correct answers, or at least have the necessary training. When that chore comes to me, I’m reminded of exams I have taken and how difficult they were. However, final exams seem to be a permanent part of school and the learning process.

Many jobs that are open today require a test or some means by which to evaluate the candidate’s ability to fulfill the required tasks. Some are disappointed when they do not meet the requirements. Such exams serve an important purpose in the work environment. It is not likely that we will eliminate such “tests” anytime soon.

When you think about it, man has always been tested to determine fitness for some responsible effort. We demand more of our physicians than their desire to practice medicine. Extensive study and testing are required. Bible students are familiar with the account of Abraham being *tested* by God to determine whether he was worthy to be the father of a nation blessed by God (Gen. 22; Heb. 11:17). These things being true, we are not surprised to discover that God wants more than mere “warm bodies” to dwell with Him throughout all eternity. The sixty-six books of the Bible reveal the qualities He *expects* of His people. Yes, if we want to be part of the kingdom of God, we will be tested and tried. Perfect? No, but dedicated to Him, obedient to His Word, not merely a pew-warmer, but one who takes his or her service to God seriously.

If you wanted to be an instructor at the University of Texas, you would not be surprised that you must meet certain specific requirements and that proof of possessing them would be expected of you. If you wanted to be a pilot for American Airlines, you would be expected to meet certain skill tests. It makes no sense at all to think of God as being so desperate for followers that He would take anyone, regardless of their moral or spiritual qualities.

While Jesus was on this earth, He sought out men who would serve honorably and diligently. At least one of those chosen failed the test and was rejected as one of Christ’s servants. He was tested with thirty pieces of silver, and for that price betrayed the Savior. He returned the silver, but Judas’ character was revealed. He was tested, and he failed the test.

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*Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD;  
that walketh in his ways.*

*Psalms 128:1*

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Abraham's "test" was extremely difficult. God demanded that Abraham offer his promised son as a sacrifice to Him (Gen. 22). What "test" could have been more severe than to sacrifice your only son? However, Abraham had such faith in God that he knew God could "raise him up" (Heb. 11:17). Abraham had faith in God, and God had faith in Abraham. Therefore, an entire race of people came from him, which included the Messiah Himself, born into a Hebrew family.

The "test" Jesus would eventually face was one of the most stressful, most painful, most shameful known to man—that of crucifixion. No means of execution was more dreaded than crucifixion, but Jesus faced that "test" and made it possible for all of us to be part of His kingdom. Jesus "passed" His test. We too must face tests of life that can be challenging to us. Yes, we must pass those tests, and there will be temptations every day, with sin a possibility with each one.

When we seriously consider the costs and the rewards, we begin to see that whatever the cost, whatever the test, being a Christian will always be worth whatever that test may require (Rom. 8:18). Will we be put to the test in all points of our life? Probably so. Temptations of Satan are real. Is being a Christian worth the hardships that may come? Is it possible for anyone to "survive" the tests we face and overcome? Yes, in fact Jesus has promised: "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). In Christ we can do it!

## Keep Your Perspective

By Kevin W. Rhodes

"Are we there yet?" Most, if not all, parents will recognize this regular refrain coming from the back seat during a trip of some length. For a child unfamiliar with the distance between places and the time necessary to travel those distances, that unknown length between the beginning and the end of a trip can truly try one's patience, especially if it is longer than a normal journey. This is why when that child is informed, "No, we are not there yet," you might just hear, "Are we **ever** going to get there?" I think this also describes how many Christians feel about their own spiritual growth. Once the newness of their new life in Christ wears off and they have overcome a number of early challenges, they only then realize just how much more work lies ahead of them. What we all must realize is that this feeling is both natural and normal.

One very real problem in overcoming this feeling of never getting there spiritually lies in the nature of measuring spiritual progress. What actually signals that you have grown spiritually? How do you measure spiritual growth in the first place? How do you know where you stand spiritually today versus where you were spiritually yesterday, and how do you look for changes in improving for tomorrow? Now, I suppose that we could begin by emphasizing the most important difference in spiritual standing, the difference between being lost and being saved. However, this is rarely where people have trouble. Where we have such difficulty is in determining the growth between just having been saved and being what we ought to be. To address this we must learn to keep in mind three specific points along the way: (1) where we started, (2) the perfect standard of Jesus, and (3) where we are right now. All of these are important to help us keep the proper perspective and keep us moving the right direction. If we forget that Jesus is the standard of Christian living, then we will stop growing when we become comfortable. If we forget where

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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 94**  
**Psalm 81-86**  
**& 1 Thessalonians 5—2 Thess. 1**  
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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we started, we will become depressed and have problems with guilt. If we never reflect on where we are right now, we will see neither our weaknesses in comparison to Christ nor our strengths in relation to where we once were.

To put this into practical use, we must apply it to practical things, spiritually speaking. We should consider sins we have put in our past and temptations that do not have the same allure as they once did (Acts 17:30; James 1:13-15). We should reflect on our previous ignorance and appreciate our current knowledge (1 Pet. 2:2). We should think about our previous inactivity in the church and feel good about our growing participation (1 Thess. 1:8-10). However, we must also consider our current struggles and the temptations that still challenge us (1 Cor. 10:13). We must realize how much God has given us in His Word and therefore how much we still have to learn (2 Pet. 3:18). We must see not only what we are doing in the Lord's work but also what still needs to be done (1 Cor. 15:58).

The blur of living can often cause us to lose perspective about life. This proves truer still regarding spiritual life. So many good-hearted Christians find their focus drifting toward failure because they see only their failures. They only see their failures because that is what they are looking for. While we do indeed need to realize where we still fall short and where we still require growth, we must also learn to look for our personal successes. Beloved, each and every time that you take a Bible lesson to heart, each and every time you find the strength to put distance between yourself and temptation, each and every time you choose to do God's work rather than remain idle in the cause is a step forward in the Christian soldier's march toward heaven. *"brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:13-14).

### Visitation Meeting

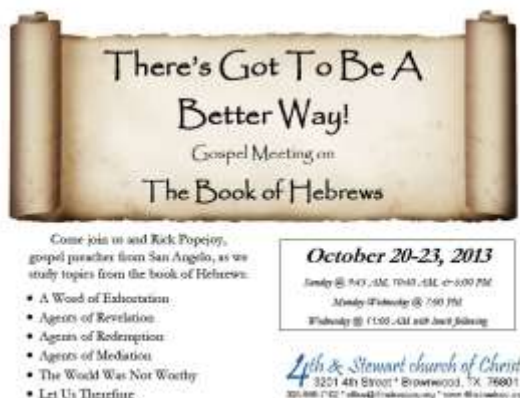
Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **34 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **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 1 week away. Please 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.



## 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 Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



## Records

	Sept. 29, 2013	Oct. 6, 2013
Bible Class	64	48
AM Worship	77	67
PM Worship	62	43
Wednesday PM	52	48
Contribution	\$1951	\$1898

# Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 10/13/13	Next Week: 10/20/13		October 2013
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox		Allen & Linda Griffith		<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>Opening Prayer</b>	Hank Wheeler		Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, Gene Bannister Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		Jim Moore*, Kevin Wilcox Joe Dennis, Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Moore		Allen Griffith		
<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>	Billy Chism		Garrett Barnum		<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Billy & Peggy Chism <b>Clean Building:</b> The Smithey Family <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum <i>Hebrews 3:16-4:2</i>		Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith		Jim Moore		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith		John Barnum		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	October 16 Garrett Barnum	October 23 Gospel Meeting	October 30 Don Smith	November 6 Jim Moore	

# 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 October 13, 2013</b>		Sunday Class ..... 1 Timothy (Chapter 1-2)	Wednesday Class ..... Redemption Through The Bible
<p><b>The Christian's Walk (1 Thess. 4)</b>            Having acknowledged their suffering (chap. 3), Paul continues to exhort them to stand fast in the Lord by continuing in their Christian walk; one that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A Walk In Holiness (v1-8).</b> That is a life that seeks to please God by living according to His plan and purpose. As a holy God, He calls us to follow Him in holiness (Eph. 5:1; 1 Pet. 1:14-16).</li> <li><b>A Walk In Harmony (v9-10).</b> As those who are walking in holiness, we walk in fellowship with God and one another. This should show in our love one for another that continues to grow. (3:12; John 13:34-35; 1 John 1:3, 7; 1 Pet. 1:22, 2:1-3; Heb. 10:24).</li> <li><b>A Walk In Honesty (v11-12).</b> While they would suffer tribulation (3:4), they should not bring it upon themselves but seek to live peaceful lives as examples to others (Rom. 12:8; 1 Pet. 4:15-16; Col. 4:5; Phil. 2:4-16).</li> <li><b>A Walk In Hope (v13-18).</b> Their lives in Christ gives them hope that death is not the end; rather we can be comforted in the knowledge that we all (those in Christ—v14, 16) will join the Lord in the air and live with Him for eternity (John 14:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; Rev. 14:13; 21:3-4; 22:14).</li> </ol> <p>Notes: _____            _____            _____</p>	<p><b>Learning From The Past (Psalm 78)</b>            The psalmist reminds his people of great lessons from history; lessons we continue to need today (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Learn and Teach History (v1-8).</b> He was going to speak of things concerning God that he heard and learned from the past and teach them to future generations. The ultimate aim was that future generations would not repeat the same mistakes, but follow God. Do we learn from the past?</li> <li><b>Live Up To Your Potential (v9-16).</b> He seems to especially condemn Israel (v9) who was equipped and able follow God but chose not to. What do we do with our opportunities?</li> <li><b>Gratefully Trust In God (v17-31).</b> Their father provoked God by not trusting in Him and not being thankful for that which they did receive. Are we a thankful, trusting people?</li> <li><b>Whole-heartedly Repent and Follow God (v32-41).</b> When the people did turn back to God it was neither sincere nor lasting; rather they consistently turned from God, grieving Him and thwarting the blessings He desired for them. Do we sincerely repent of sin and resolve to walk with God?</li> <li><b>Forget Not God (v42-64).</b> How sad that this people had seen the mighty works of God in Egypt but forgot them and thus turned their affections from Him and ultimately were rejected by Him. Do we forget all that God has done for us and all the daily blessings we receive?</li> <li><b>God Will Bless the Righteous (v65-72).</b> God blessed Judah for continuing with Him but turned from Israel who rejected Him. Will we learn that God will bless His people?</li> </ol>		