

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



November 10, 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.

Bind Us Together

By John Haffner

Mankind lacks the ability to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6). This sobering fact calls Christians the world over to take inventory. Do we have faith? Bible study informs us that faith comes from Scripture (Rom. 10:17) and requires growth to produce fruit (2 Pet. 1:5-8). We also learn that living and genuine faith is evidenced by works of righteousness (James 2:17-18); but what keeps faith going? How are we able to maintain faith under the assault of persecution and temptations in this life (2 Tim. 3:12; James 1:15)? The influence of evil can seem overwhelming for any faith, but we gain strength by looking to our church family. The Lord designed Christian fellowship for faith renewal.

The ministry of Jesus evidences the importance of fellowship. Even the Son of God appreciated the value of comrades, calling the twelve to work alongside him. He instructed them to work together and to serve one another (John 13:14). When Jesus sent the twelve out to teach, He sent them in pairs of two (Mark 6:7), so they could encourage and support each other. Christ's teaching on love and fellowship lends boldness to every Christian's faith. Paul echoed these lessons, stating that one who has Christ's word dwelling in him will share his brother's load, edify, and admonish him (Gal. 6:2; Col. 3:16). The promotion of the cause of truth requires unity among true ministers of the Gospel.

The history of the early church demonstrates the value of fellowship as well. After its establishment in Acts 2 we immediately see the church involved in fellowship. Their faith took root in the words of Peter's sermon, leading them to be baptized for the remission of their sins. They further nourished that faith by devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship (Acts 2:42). The whole of the New Testament speaks the principle of togetherness. The church must not be divided (1 Cor. 1:10), but rather should be bound together in love (Col. 2:2). We find strength in this unity, building our own faith with that of our brothers and sisters. The church comes together to spur on and edify each member (Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25). This fellowship also serves as a lifeline, pulling back those who have lost their way (Gal. 6:1). The enduring faithfulness of the Lord's body demands Christian teamwork.

The book of Philemon holds a wonderful lesson on Christian fellowship. Paul writes to his Christian friend Philemon about his servant Onesimus. Previously, Onesimus was only valuable to Philemon in terms of physical labor, but now he profits Philemon and all Christians as a source of spiritual support (Phile. 1:10-11). Paul explains that Onesimus has become their brother in the faith, and he should be

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*Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity,
peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2 Timothy 2:22

From Discouragement to Strong Faith

By Tom Moore

All Christians will become discouraged and frustrated at times and have their faith weakened. We call it “having the blues” or “being down in the dumps.” God does not want His children to be discouraged, depressed, and dejected—He wants them to be strong in faith. Thus, the Almighty’s message is: “*Be of good cheer*” (Matt. 14:27) and “*Be of good comfort*” (Matt. 9:22). Our Savior declared, “*These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33).

David suffered discouraging times. “*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him For the help of his countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me: Therefore do I remember thee from the land of the Jordan, And the Hermons, from the hill Mizar.*” (Ps. 42:5-6). David was severely discouraged but was able to overcome his painful emotion to become stronger in faith.

God’s prophet, Elijah, was enduring hardship.

But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper-tree: and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, It is enough; now, O Jehovah, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers...And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy

prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.
(1 Kings 19:4, 14)

Here we see that Elijah was suffering from physical exhaustion, the unfaithfulness of others, and people were even trying to kill him; but he was able to overcome his anguish and had his faith renewed.

There are various types of discouragement we come to endure. The best of God’s people have suffered the loss of health (2 Cor. 12:7; Phil. 2:25-30; 2 Tim. 4:20; Job 2:7). Because of the certainty of death, we will all experience sorrow that can cause depression (2 Kings 4:20; 2 Sam. 12:18; John 11:14, 35). Material losses can bring heartaches (Job 1:13-22). Friends turning on us brings frustration (Ps. 41:9; 2 Tim. 4:10). Church problems are the cause of much discouragement for many (Acts 14:22). All these have a way of weakening our faith if we are not careful.

How can one overcome discouragement and frustration, and thus have one’s faith renewed? I believe that one of the greatest ways to overcome discouragement is to understand that beneath our discouragements are blessings. Listen to the words of the apostle Paul,

And by reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted overmuch, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted overmuch. Concerning this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it

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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 98

Psalm 105-110 & 1 Timothy 5-6

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)



Your Life Is An Open Book

By John W. Moore

Many of our “modern” axioms are not modern. In fact, there are many clichés and sayings that originate from the Bible. The axiom, “Your life is an open book” is nothing more than a rephrasing of Second Corinthians 3:2: “*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.*” Truly, no axiom could be as thought-provoking in aiding each of us in self-examination.

Upon contemplation of this metaphorical way to view self, one must consider what is read by others, by oneself and especially by God about our lives. For example:

- ◆ Do others read of good things or evil?
- ◆ Do others understand the purpose of your “book”?
- ◆ Is your book a reflection of Christ?
- ◆ Is Christ the author of your book?
- ◆ Would others view your book as fictitious, or real and genuine?
- ◆ Is your book filled with lies, distortion and slander or with truth, honesty and love?
- ◆ What chapters of your book do you wish you could change or relive?
- ◆ What will be said in the final chapter of your book?
- ◆ Finally, is your story written in the Book of all books—the Book of Life? (Rev. 20:15)

Indeed, our life is like an open book, and often we are the only spiritual book this careless world will ever read. Therefore, may we endeavor to write in our books the story and life of Jesus.

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:

- ◆ **Nov. 24th:** Bible Bowl at Rising Star beginning at 2 PM.

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received back as such. Paul trusts Philemon will grant his request and offers to compensate any losses (Phile. 1:17-18). This account proves the church benefits far greater from Christian fellowship than from earthly wealth. In Paul’s greeting, he mentions specifically the power of Philemon’s faithful influence. The faith and love readily shared by Philemon refreshed the hearts of the saints (Phile. 1:6-7). The lives of churches and individuals depend upon the continuing love of faithful friends.

Cooperation among God’s servants stands as a lasting biblical theme. Even before the establishment of the church, God-fearing people reinforced each other’s faith. King Solomon recorded this great truth, “*Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken*” (Eccl. 4:12). When we try to maintain our faith in loneliness we are ignoring the support system the Lord made for us. Any servant of God seeking to resist temptation and increase in Christlikeness will find help spending time with people who desire the same things. As iron sharpens iron, fellowship with a Christian brother or sister refines your faith (Prov. 27:17). May we never ignore the blessing and the power of fellowship! Let us be bound together in Christ and renew each other’s faith day by day.

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Linda Jimenez (08), Horace Hooper (09), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), Terry Teague (17), Kevin Wilcox (27), Xavier Martinez (28).

November Anniversaries: Barbara & Gene Bannister (06), Jack & Judie Turner (18).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...



Records

	Oct. 27, 2013	Nov. 3, 2013
Bible Class	55	65
AM Worship	75	80
PM Worship	64	56
Wednesday PM	46	49
Contribution	\$1901	\$1719

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 11/10/13	Next Week: 11/17/13		November 2013 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: The Smithey Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox December 2013 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Jim Moore & Hank Wheeler		James & Cindy Fuller			
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		James Thomas			
Communion	James Fuller*, John Barnum Jim Moore, Don Smith		Don Smith*, Chase Churchwell Ken Maninger, Kevin Wilcox			
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith		Garrett Barnum			
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum		Jim Moore			
Scripture Reading	Kevin Wilcox		James Fuller			
Communion	James Fuller		Don Smith			
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism		John Barnum			
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 13 Joe Dennis		November 20 Allen Griffith		November 27 Tom Wilcox December 4 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)

Studies for the week of November 10, 2013

Sunday Class and Sermons by.....Johnny McCaghren
 Wednesday PM.....Singing

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might depart from me. And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Wherefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

The disappointments we endure, when viewed correctly, make us stronger in faith.

Our faith can be renewed in spite of difficulties realizing the promise of God: *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it"* (1 Cor. 10:13). God will not allow us to endure anything we cannot handle.

Prayer is vital in overcoming discouragement and having our faith renewed. David encouraged himself in prayer. *"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God"* (1 Sam. 30:6). Remember, *"In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:6-7).

Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; Knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)