

# 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 17, 2013

## Contact Us:

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## 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.

## Someone Is Watching You!

By Carl B. Garner

Yes, that is right—someone is watching you (and me)—today, right now, and will be watching us tomorrow. I am not talking about someone peeping in our windows, but some are watching us. Every day, people we know, people we do not know, people we may never know—they are watching us to see how we live. They have heard that we are Christians (or claim to be), and they want to see if we are serious about it. They want to know if we are real Christians or just “playing” at being Christians.

This surveillance may make us a bit uneasy, because we realize that we have weaknesses and fail to live consistently with our own standards. However, one of the results of someone professing Christianity is that people want to know if our practice is in harmony with our profession.

Some watch us to catch us in some compromising or hypocritical position. They may want to justify their own behavior by pointing out blemishes in our lives. Others watch because they have respect for our convictions, looking for a positive role model. Whoever we are, many people we do not even know are watching and observing our lives and how we deal with the difficult issues of life.

1. Our children need a good role model. They should be able to follow our example. If they do, will our influence lead them to heaven? That is a tough question, and all parents need to consider it.

2. Our spouses see us. No one knows us as well as they do, and our ways reveal our true character. Let us take a good look—is that how we want friends and fellow-Christians to remember us?

3. Our parents and Bible teachers are watching us. They have read to us from the scriptures; they have taught us the ways of God. They need to have confidence that our lives are on a heavenly course. That would be the very best gift we could leave behind for them.

4. Our friends are watching. They know we are Christians, but they also know if we really mean it when we sing, “O how I love Jesus” and “I want to be a worker for the Lord.” Can they have assurance of their roles when they watch our lives?

5. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are watching us. They are not looking for mistakes, but for strength. They need the courage to make good decisions, and they hope to see them in our daily lives.

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*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15

# ***Trials Can Bring Joy***

*By Kevin W. Rhodes*

**No one really likes problems.** In fact, most people go out of their way to avoid problems. Of course, they usually just create a whole different set of problems as a result, but such is our distaste for the trials of life. The apostle Paul tells us, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but 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). While trials of various kinds—illness, financial problems, family issues, and even church situations—are never fun, they can still bring joy if we approach them the right way.

**Trials help us grow in character and therefore mature us spiritually.** James told early Christians, who experienced a number of various problems, *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing”* (Jas. 1:2-4). James did not tell these Christians that they should enjoy trials. He told them to see the big picture when they undergo them. We often allow trials to take over our lives so much that they are all we can see. Instead, we should see these problems as opportunities by which we can grow in character. It does not mean that the issues disappear, but it does mean that we are determined to make the most of them spiritually, and that can bring us joy.

**Trials teach us endurance and therefore have spiritual value.** James continued his thought by concluding, *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him”* (Jas.

1:12). He returned to this theme as he closed his epistle as well: *“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy”* (Jas. 5:11). When we undergo trials and temptation upon the earth, we must learn to see beyond the immediate problem to what God has promised us in the end. True bliss lies not in life being easy but in the difficulties of lie being overcome. When we endure trials, we lift ourselves above them. When we learn to look beyond the trial itself to see what has lasting value, we learn to look forward to eternity in hope rather than allowing the problem of the moment to define us.

**Trials force us to focus more on the spiritual and more on eternity, and that is a good thing.** The apostle Peter spoke about trials of suffering throughout his first epistle, noting that Christians can rejoice in their hope despite the trials of today (1 Pet. 1:6), that enduring trials for spiritual reasons allows Christians to rejoice in pleasing God despite the pain (1 Pet. 3:14; cf. Acts 5:41), and that to do such is a mark of Christianity (1 Pet. 4:13-14). Throughout, the apostle emphasizes that trials define this life and that, for a Christian, joy defines the next. When we try to avoid the difficulties of this life, we will not be able to enjoy the joys of heaven because we are unprepared for them and will not appreciate them. Trials remind us that we are living in the present but not for the present. We are living for eternity, and the joy that awaits us there can bring us joy today when we keep it in our focus. Trials can benefit others and therefore bring us joy when they matter to us. The apostle Paul told the Colossians that he was able to find joy in his sufferings for

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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 99**  
**Psalm 111-116**  
**& 2 Timothy 1-2**

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*  
*(2 Timothy 2:15)*



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6. Jesus is watching us. He faced the same kind of temptations we are facing now. He endured temptation and torture and scorn because of His love for us. He died on the cross for us. Do our lives say, "I love you Lord, and I want to do your will" or, "Leave me alone, I want to do my own thing"?

Even when we think no one is watching, God is watching, and many others are, many of whom we may never meet. We may think we are unimportant, that no one notices us. But no one "lives to himself, and no man dies to himself" (Rom. 14:7). Our example today could be the very example that someone follows tomorrow. We must remember who and what we are, and whose we are. We belong to Him, and what a blessing that is! Yes, someone is watching you...and it may even be me.

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them (Col. 1:24). To put this into perspective, we should consider childbirth. Labor and giving birth has never been described as a pleasant experience, yet women everywhere gladly endure it, both for the sake of their children and their husbands. Thus, a difficult experience can bring great benefit and joy to others and therefore bring us joy as well. It sometimes takes a great deal of time and effort to teach someone the gospel, including regular studies over many weeks and sometimes an emotional roller coaster. However, all of that is soon forgotten when the person obeys the gospel. The time and effort are no longer at the forefront; the salvation of a soul is. This then brings great joy for the benefit made possible through all the time and effort. It can be hard to accept during the process, but in retrospect even the difficulties of the work can bring joy.

**Trials themselves do not present themselves as joyous occasions.** However, our attitude toward them can change that. When we remember how much we have to gain by properly handling such trials, even these can offer us the prospect of joy.

### ***New Preacher***

As announced Wednesday night, Johnny McCaghren was offered the preaching position here last week and he has accepted. Johnny and his wife, Cindy, are no strangers to the area or this congregation as he has filled in a number of times for me; they are both looking forward to laboring and worshipping together with this congregation. Johnny is to begin working with this congregation on Sunday, December 1st. Please remember to keep in your prayers Johnny and Cindy as they prepare to move and begin this new work, our family as we make final preparations to move for our new work, and the work of this congregation going forward.

### ***Visitation Meeting***

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **21 contacts** were made.

### ***Upcoming Events:***

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

## 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

	Nov. 3, 2013	Nov. 10, 2013
Bible Class	65	48
AM Worship	80	60
PM Worship	56	40
Wednesday PM	49	42
Contribution	\$1719	\$1547

		This Week: 11/17/13	Next Week: 11/24/13		<b>November 2013</b> <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>December 2013</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Joe Dennis <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Jim & Peg Moore <b>Clean Building:</b> Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>		James & Cindy Fuller		The Dennis Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		James Thomas		Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>		Don Smith*, Chase Churchwell Ken Maninger, Kevin Wilcox		Joe Dennis*, Gene Bannister Garrett Barnum, Caleb Dennis		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		Garrett Barnum		Jim Moore		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>		Caleb Dennis/Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell/Xavier Martinez		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Jim Moore		Ken Maninger		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>		James Fuller <i>Psalm 95:1-6</i>		Hank Wheeler		
<b>Communion</b>		Don Smith		Joe Dennis		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		John Barnum		Kevin Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>		November 20 Allen Griffith	November 27 Tom Wilcox	December 4 Kevin Wilcox	December 11 Garrett Barnum	

## 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 November 17, 2013</b>		Sunday Class ..... Redemption Through The Bible	Wednesday PM ..... Redemption Through The Bible
<p><b>Chart A Faithful Course (1 Timothy 6)</b>                      Like a good mariner, we must be careful the course we set in life.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dangers to Avoid (v3-5)</b> - as there were mythological sirens, so there are theological sirens that draw men after themselves unto destruction. We must withdraw from those who do not teach sound doctrine (v3), are arrogant (v4), and corrupt (v5).</li> <li><b>Ports to Pass (v6-11a)</b> - there are things that will keep us from reaching our desired destination. For the Christian some ports that we must navigate around include: discontentment (v6-8), which focuses on what we don't have rather than what we do; love of money (v9-10a), which becomes the god and goal of some; and apostasy (v10), an abandonment of the faith.</li> <li><b>A Channel to Follow (v11-12)</b> - Just as there are things to avoid, there is a path that should be followed, a known, safe course (John 14:6). We should seek to continue in the way God approved (Col. 3:17; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 1:5-7) that makes us more like Him (Eph. 5:1). This path, must be completed whose end is eternal life (1 Pet. 1:3, 9; 2 Pet. 1:10-11).</li> <li><b>A Standard by Which to Navigate (v13-16)</b> - As the stars, compass, or GPS give a standard by which to navigate, so too we have a standard set before us (Col. 3:1-2; Heb. 12:1-2).</li> <li><b>A Treasure to Guard (v17-21)</b> - We are to trust in God, not the uncertain riches of this world (v17); to seek an eternal rather than temporal treasure (v18-19); and to care for that which is entrusted into our care as a faithful steward. (v20-21). All the "treasure" in the world can't compare to such a one's eternal reward (2 Tim. 4:8)!</li> </ol>		<p><b>Praise the Lord for His Goodness (Psalm 107)</b>                      This psalm reminds us that we have much for which we should be thankful to God. The psalmist calls upon us to be thankful (v1) but also to express that gratitude (v2). We as Christians can associate with the things he highlights in the verses of this psalm for the Lord has helped:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Those Who Were Hungering and Thirsting (v4-9)</b> - we once were starving but, now can be filled (1 Pet. 2:3-4; Heb. 6:5; Matt. 5:6; Ps. 107:9).</li> <li><b>Those Who Were In Bondage (v10-16)</b> - once we were in the bondage of sin, but now have been freed (Rom. 6:16-18); as He freed the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt so He has freed us (Ps. 107:16).</li> <li><b>Those Who Were Perishing (v17-22)</b> - we were once dead in trespasses and sin but now are alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1, 1:7). We can now offer up the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God (Heb. 13:5; Ps. 107:22).</li> <li><b>Those Who Were Tossed in the Storm (v23-32)</b> - We were tossed by the storms of life and the various winds of doctrine; but in Christ we have an anchor not only for the storms of life but to ground us in the truth (Eph. 4:14-16; Heb. 6:19-20).</li> </ol> <p><i>He closes by reflecting on the power and the mercy of God, which if we will stop and recognize these same things, we too will see the lovingkindness of God (v43). "O, Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."!</i></p>	