

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



December 29, 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:

Johnny McCaghren

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

The Bible is the Greatest Adventure Story

By Richard Mansel

Voracious readers learn the proper strategies to maximize the pleasure of the story. We must be honest and fair with writers and allow them their own stories. When we run ahead or afield, our wayward minds ruin the hard work of the storyteller.

As readers of Scripture, the rules become magnified because God's Word contains the words of eternal life (John 6:68). We must do our best to understand the truths contained in the Bible, so we can go to heaven (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6).

Training our minds to do so is crucial.

When we pick up an adventure novel, we race through the pages captivated by the plot. As the author maneuvers the characters through scenes of danger, the reader ignores everything around them.

While the Bible isn't fiction, it's a tale of breathless adventure. Humans are placed in the Garden and when they sin, they're banished from the pristine paradise (Genesis 1-3). In time, the sin of the world leads to a total destruction of life, save eight souls and a boatload of animals (Genesis 6-9).

Through the pages of God's Word we find stories of high adventure and intrigue. Unlike a novel, we know the outcome of all the stories. The plot has been unraveled, and the spoilers fully analyzed.

The seasoned Bible student must be attuned to that reality. We can't take the words of Scripture for granted and shortchange the morals.

When we come to a chapter like Esther 4, we smooth over the Queen's shocking dilemma and the palpable tension of her spiritual challenge, because we know the outcome.

Paul's arrest and harrowing voyage to Rome as a prisoner suffers when we breeze through the details. Instead, we need to slow down and feel the roll of the waves and the volatile emotions of the passengers.

When familiarity breeds contempt, we lose God's message and we cannot make application to our lives as God desires.

The fear and uncertainty of Biblical characters becomes real when we read the story as the Holy Spirit intended. We should feel the vibrancy of their decisions and the consequences of their actions so we can integrate the lessons into our own lives.

As writers and preachers, we must dig deep within the text to find the details to make the common come alive. Each of us as readers must come to the Word and allow it to breathe God's message of redemption.

Our souls are at stake when we read the Bible. We can't read it as literature where we judge its authenticity based on human parameters. God is limitless and can accomplish super-human things and our faith must travel alongside him (Isaiah 55:8).

Reading the Bible is like no other book. With reverence, humility and respect, let's take up the greatest adventure story ever written as soon as possible.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Psalm 51:1,2



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

On A Hill Far Away

By Tom Wacaster

What is it about the cross of Christ that draws men to Jesus? Surely it is not the fact that it was some instrument of death, for other means of execution remain to this day as symbols of only infamy and disgrace. Who has ever written a song about the electric chair, or what poet has ever glorified the gas chamber or the hangman's noose? But let men erect a cross in their yard, or display it upon a billboard, and immediately the attention of those who see that cross is drawn to one figure in history Who made that cruel instrument famous. Let someone display an electric chair in the front of their yard and the onlooker might wonder why such a display. But his attention would not be drawn to any particular figure in history. But let a man put a cross in his yard and immediately those who pass by think of Christ and Christianity. Even as I write these lines the ACLU in cooperation with liberal judges have succeeded in removing the cross from a Veterans cemetery in the state of California for no other reason than the fact that it is in the shape of a cross. From the fields of Arlington Memorial Cemetery in Washington, D.C., to the beaches of Normandy, and around the world, grave yards have been graced with small crosses at the head of each tomb declaring the hope that men have in a resurrection - a resurrection found only in Christ, and made possible because of His death upon the cross. Oh yes, "On a hill far away, Stood and old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame..." For 2,000 years the cross of Christ has cast its beacon of hope across the tumultuous sea of human misery and sin, and the message of the gospel is so closely associated with that cross that to speak of the one is to bring to mind the other. It has been nine centuries since Abbot Rupert wrote the following tribute to the cross of Christ: "We venerate the cross as a safeguard of faith, as the strengthening of hope and the throne of love. It is the sign of

mercy, the proof of forgiveness, the vehicle of grace and the banner of peace. We venerate the cross, because it has broken down our pride, shattered our envy, redeemed our sin and atoned for our punishment. The cross of Christ is the door to heaven, the key to paradise, the downfall of the devil, the uplifting of mankind, the consolation of our imprisonment, the prize for our freedom. The cross was the hope of the patriarchs, the promise of the prophets, the triumph of kings and the ministry of priests. Tyrants are convicted by the cross and the mighty ones defeated, it lifts up the miserable and honors the poor. The cross is the end of darkness, the spreading of light, the flight of death, the ship of life and the kingdom of salvation" (<http://www.rc.net/wcc/throne1.htm>). Dear friend, that cross, and all that it stands for demands some kind of response. Men can ignore it, ridicule it, mock it, and seek to eliminate its presence, but in so doing they stumble over the One Who Himself said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself" (John 12:32). It has been more than twenty years since Lois Cheney wrote the following lines:

I once saw a cross so big, it was as high as the church inn front of which it stood. It was made of railroad steel, and it was very dramatic, and I was moved, and I was impressed, as I walked by and away from it.

I once saw a cross so lovely. It was a work of art, carved and polished. It was made to look both strong and delicate. And I was moved, and I was impressed, as I walked by and away from it.

There once was a cross not so high; not so lovely. It was not a work of art. Rough, full of splinters, uneven, unsymmetrical. Its simple mystery unfathomable. And I cannot walk by it, and I cannot walk away from it.

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 105

Psalm 147—Proverbs 2 & Hebrews 5-6

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Has Man Outgrown the Gospel?

By Allen Webster

Times change. Today's "new" is tomorrow's "old," this morning's "breakthrough" is this afternoon's "castaway," this year's "popular" is lost in next year's "latest." The "up-to-date" is soon "out-of-date."

Truth doesn't change. It reads the same today as yesterday and as it will tomorrow. It is "*once for all delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3). Some feel they have outgrown the ancient Gospel. The idea that there is a standard which is absolute is, to them, obsolete. The concepts of sin and spiritual death are replaced by the exaltation of self and sensuality. The idea of self-denial now to gain heaven later is given a passing thought—and then passed on. Bible concepts—power in the blood, a virgin-born, sinless, sacrificial, miraculously-raised Savior are but myths of a bygone era. Post-moderns have "grown up." They don't need the Gospel anymore. Or have they? Has man outgrown the Gospel?

NOT UNLESS HE HAS FOUND ANOTHER FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Vegetable and fruits have been on kitchen tables since Eve prepared meals in the Garden, but no one is calling them out-dated. Noah must have grilled the first T-bone just after the Flood, but—though several thousand years have passed—steakhouses still do pretty well. **What nourishes the spirit?** The Gospel fills those who "*hunger and thirst after righteousness*" (Matthew 5:6). Baby Christians first take the "*sincere milk of the word*" (1 Peter 2:2) and progress until they can eat "*strong meat*" at God's table (Hebrews 5:12-14). No one has found a substitute for God's "soul food."

NOT UNLESS HE HAS FOUND ANOTHER CURE FOR MAN'S MOST SERIOUS DISEASE

Medical treatments have been around at least since Moses (Leviticus 12:1-4; Deuteronomy 23:10-14), but nobody's in a hurry to close hospitals and pharmacies. A cure for sin (forgiveness) is still man's most basic spiritual need (Romans 3:23; 6:23). We all have ancient Israel's contagion: "*From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment*" (Isaiah 1:6). The only antidote has "Gospel" on the label (Romans 1:16).

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **18 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Party** at the building. Starting at 6 PM till whenever. Bring games, food, etc. and come enjoy a good time together as we welcome the new year.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell:** May 11-14, 2014.

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (22), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Judie Turner (29), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: Jim and Peggy Moore (22).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | Dec. 15, 2013 | Dec. 22, 2013 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class | 45 | 41 |
| AM Worship | 59 | 63 |
| PM Worship | 47 | 46 |
| Wednesday PM | 43 | 25 |
| Contribution | \$2345 | \$1831 |

Privileged To Serve

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

| | This Week: 12/29/13 | Next Week: 1/5/14 | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Sunday AM: | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | Song Leader: Ken Maninger | December 2013 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Jim & Peg Moore Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox January 2014 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: James Fuller | |
| Greeters | Allen and Linda Griffith | Tom and Carol Wilcox | | |
| Opening Prayer | James Fuller | Don Smith | | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Ken Maninger, Hank Wheeler | Joe Dennis*, Gene Bannister Garrett Barnum, Hank Wheeler | | |
| Closing Prayer | John Barnum | Jim Moore | | |
| Attendance Cards | Caleb Dennis | Chase Churchwell | | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | Song Leader: Ken Maninger | | |
| Opening Prayer | Joe Dennis | James Fuller | | |
| Scripture Reading | Jim Moore | Allen Griffith | | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith | Joe Dennis | | |
| Closing Prayer | Garrett Barnum | Kevin Wilcox | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | January 1 Joe Dennis | January 8 Allen Griffith | January 15 Johnny McCaghren | January 22 Tom 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 December 29, 2013 | Sunday Class Identity of the New Testament Church Wednesday PM Mark: Chapters 1 & 2 |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">New Year's Resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This is a time when many are making resolutions that they hope to carry out for the next year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As Christians we are to occasionally examine ourselves/test ourselves (2 Cor 13:5). ◆ Resolve to study God's Word more. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Studying God's Word is important because: ◆ It is commanded (2 Tim 2:15; Col 3:16a) ◆ It tells us everything we need to know (2 Pet 1:3) ◆ It will make us spiritually mature (1 Pet 2:2) ◆ It helps us know the truth and recognize false teachings (Acts 17:11; Titus 1:9) ◆ Resolve to be more evangelistic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It is a command (Mt 28:19,20; Rom 10:14-17) ◆ People are lost if they do not obey the Gospel! ◆ Resolve to increase your weekly contribution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Again, giving is commanded (1 Cor 16:1,2) ◆ Give yourself to God (2 Cor 8:1-5) ◆ Resolve to decrease personal habits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some habits should be eliminated all together (1 Cor 6:18-20) ◆ Some habits may need to be evaluated and simply decreased. ◆ Resolve to eliminate bad attitudes ◆ Resolve to pray more. ◆ Resolve to mend broken relationships. ◆ Resolve to become a Christian. | <p style="text-align: center;">Unleashing God's Word In Your Life Lesson 3—A Personal Word To You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The supernatural wisdom and great prophecies in the Bible came from God, not from men. ◆ Natural Revelation (Rom 1:20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nature reveals: God's power, the Godhead, and God's wrath. ◆ Why can so many not see the Creator in nature? - Rom 1:21,22 ◆ Nature also includes our own conscience (Rom 1:19). ◆ Special Revelation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Takes up where creation and conscience leave off. ◆ Gives us specifics. ◆ Came progressively over time. ◆ Various means of special revelation—Theophany, prophets, casting of lots, the Urim and the Thummin, dreams, visions, and speaking audibly. ◆ Miracles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An extraordinary event manifesting God's intervention so that God may reveal Himself in a special way. ◆ God accompanied His Word with signs in order that people might know it was His Word. ◆ "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power..." (Heb 1:1-3) |