

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



April 27, 2014

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... 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

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

How Important Is Our Gospel Meeting?

One of the most successful and proven ways of spreading the borders of the Lord's kingdom, both in the past and in the present, is through planting the seed of the kingdom in such efforts as Gospel Meetings (Lk. 8:11). There is no way to possibly know how many Gospel Meetings have been conducted since the first one on Pentecost! It is doubtful that any would even dare to guess how many souls, perhaps even yours, have been first enlightened with the Gospel in such efforts. It brings joy to our hearts just to ponder the thought that through many centuries legions of faithful soldiers of the cross have traveled far and wide to proclaim the powerful Gospel of Christ because of their concern and interest in the lost! It is also of great interest, and known only to God, to think how many souls have been garnered into "the harvest" for the last day (Jn. 4:35) by such efforts. Many who read these words were likely obedient to the conditions of pardon in the Gospel during one of these efforts.

Important To Please Our King

No individual Christian can possibly be pleased with himself or herself without seeking to please his King! He went to the cruel cross because of His desire "to seek and save the lost" (Lk. 19:10; Mt. 26:28). He sent the apostles out to offer the terms of obedience by which the lost might be redeemed (Mk. 16:15,16).

Likewise, He told them to teach us "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:20). Therefore, if they were under obligation to preach and teach all nations, so are we! Early Christians continued steadfastly in this work, and so must we (Acts 2:42). Our Gospel Meeting is important, then, to please our King. Can He depend on us to do our best? Will we invite, advertise, talk to others, and pray for the good results of this effort to preach the Gospel? Can we afford to do otherwise?

Important To The Lost

Our Gospel Meeting is important especially to those whose thoughts have not been brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). If any are not under Divine control through hearing and obeying the Word sent from Heaven, they are out of control for salvation (Ps. 119:10,11). Wickedness is strongly fortified by human passion, ignorance, and prejudice. These strongholds of wickedness in those who walk in moral flesh as they head for destruction are difficult to break. But the Gospel is God's powerful means through which sinful souls may hear, learn, and be made free (Jn. 8:31,32). The Gospel is God's forceful mode of operation, in the hard hearts of men, which is able to break down every false reasoning: of philosophy, even the reasonings of rationalists, which the devil uses to keep men in the darkness of sin and ignorance (Rom. 1:16,17). Surely we can see that it is important to the lost to hear the Message! Without hearing, saving faith cannot be established in the lives of our family and friends (cf. Heb. 11:6)! We must remember that this saving faith comes only by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). How very important it is, then, that we conduct this Gospel Meeting.

Important to Living Christians

Edification is necessary in the command to us to keep our faith strong (Eph. 6:10). Without a regular diet of Truth, we will become weak and cannot overcome the sin of the world in order to enter Heaven at last (Heb. 4:1). Christians must "continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:23). We must see the importance of this Gospel Meeting for ourselves! Some are perhaps now on the verge of falling back into the world. Thus, life-restoring exhortation can be gained in this Gospel Meeting, which to us is

(Continued on page 3)

"Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luke 13:2-5



Stop Assuming God will Forgive Your Sin

Imagine walking into an expensive restaurant and seeing an old friend, already enjoying his dinner. When you see the half-eaten feast on your friend's table, you think to yourself, "Wow! He's really pigging out tonight. That's going to be huge bill." You wave to your friend and he waves back. When you finish your dinner the waiter brings your check. To your surprise, the waiter has added someone else's meal to your ticket. "What's the meaning of this," you ask the waiter. The waiter replies, "Your friend said you wouldn't mind picking up the tab, so we put his meal on your bill."

Personally, I would be outraged with such a person and I would no longer consider that man a "friend." But are we doing the same thing to God?

Are we being presumptuous about God's grace? Do we say things like, "Well, if it is wrong, God's grace will cover it"? In other words, "I'm going to pig out and expect God to take care of the consequences. I believe that is the grossest form of arrogance alive in the religious world today!

A Watered-Down Gospel

The gospel has become so watered-down and perverted that we have a generation of people who have a completely warped understanding of Christ, Christianity, and the grace of God. The true gospel of Jesus Christ brings about **repentance** in those who understand it and respond to it (Titus 2:11-12), but many have abandoned Jesus' message of, "*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). Instead, we teach that Jesus just wants you to enjoy yourself, and He'll pick up the tab.

How can you read the words of Christ and think Jesus takes sin so lightly? How can you think He is alright with you continuing to live like the world? Jesus taught **radical repentance**! He said, "*And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire*" (Matthew 18:8-9).

The horror of the cross should teach us about the love of Christ, but also about the destructive and damnable nature of sin. If you think wearing a cross around your neck or calling yourself a "Christian" gives you a license to continue in a sensual and profligate lifestyle, you don't understand the Good News!

A Hodgepodge Religion

This live-however-I-want-and-assume-God-will-forgive-me religion is anything but Christianity. **Christianity embraces God's love, forgiveness, and mercy but does not take it for granted!** Sure, you can find many verses about God's mercy and forgiveness in Scripture, but how do you ignore all the verses concerning repentance and righteous living?

Please understand the truth, you cannot save yourself by living a sin-free life, but you also cannot be saved by Christ while continuing to presumptuously live in sin!

An Appeal

None of us are perfect. We all have sin and struggles. John wrote, "*If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us*" (1 John 1:10). But he also went on to write, "*Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning...*" (1 John 3:4-8a).

If we understand the gospel, we will do our best NOT to sin (1 John 2:1). If we understand the gospel, we will not become sinfully presumptuous about God's grace!

- Please do not, "*pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord*" (Jude 4).
- Please do not, "*presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance*" (Romans 2:4).
- Please do not, "*go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth,*" because if you do, "*there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries*" (Hebrews 10:26-27).

I hope this gives you something to think about. I hope you'll think twice before presumptuously charging a sin to Christ's account! You'll never be able to pay Him back – so please don't try – but stop assuming He doesn't mind you continuing to do that which sent Him to the cross!

Wes McAdams, via www.radicallychristian.com

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

Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish:267, DirectTV:376

Radio

[Preaching the Word](#) (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Gbntv.org and on Roku

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

We are at the end of the material we have been using. I am looking for a new study we can begin. Any suggestions?

"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)



- dren (see bulletin board for details and donation needs)
- ◆ May 4-7—**Gospel Meeting @ Gordon** (Michael Light)
- ◆ Jun. 10—**Summer Youth Series begins @ Bangs**. This Year's Theme—"In the Days of Their Youth"
- ◆ Jun. 29-Jul. 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ Jul. 20-25—**Senior Camp**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COME AND HEAR

LOY MITCHELL
PRESENTING A SERIES OF GOSPEL LESSONS

MAY 11-14, 2014

THE TRUTH
THINGS EVERY PERSON NEEDS TO KNOW

4TH & STEWART CHURCH OF CHRIST
3201 4TH STREET
BROWNWOOD, TEXAS



"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Jn. 8:32

Service Times & Topics

Sunday	9:45am	The Bible Is Our Only Guide
	10:40am	Rightly Dividing the Word
	6:00pm	The Destructiveness of Sin
Monday	7:00pm	Jesus Christ is the Answer
Tuesday	7:00pm	The Church Jesus Built
Wednesday	11:00am	The Lord's Work in Zimbabwe
	7:00pm	What Must I do to be Saved?

Lunch will be provided after services Sunday and Wednesday
Snacks and fellowship after each evening service

Loy was born in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1932, to Owen and Maude Mitchell, along with three sisters and six brothers. All seven boys became gospel preachers. Loy married Donna Taylor in 1954. They have four children. Donna passed away in 2002. Loy married Debra Griffin, a widow, in 2004.

In 1958, Donna, Loy and their first child Stanley, left for Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to spread the gospel of Christ and to train the indigenous people to preach and teach. Loy and Donna spent 28 years in Africa. Each year he and Debra return to Africa to preach and to check on the work and the brethren there.

Loy started preaching at Wilmington, Kansas, in 1950 and has done local work in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. He taught at Fred Hardeman University from 2006-07. He and Debra just moved from Dyersburg, TN, to Knott, TX, where he will continue to preach and teach the gospel. Loy also holds Gospel meetings, Mission Seminars, and speaks to churches by appointment and reports on the work in Africa.

Loy loves the Lord and his greatest desire is that all men know about Jesus Christ and become Christians.

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eternally important. "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed" (Heb. 12:12,13).

Thus we hope that all may see the importance of our Gospel Meeting! Pray for the success of this effort! Clear your calendar for this important work! It is more important than any other appointment any may have!

Borrowed from Gary Colley, Getwell Church of Christ

Our Gospel Meeting Starts 2 Weeks from Today

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **25 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ Sign-up sheet to provide **meals for Loy & Debra** on the back bulletin board.
- ◆ **Flyers for the Gospel Meeting** are available at the back of the auditorium. Please take them and use them!
- ◆ **May 3—Work Day**. If you know of any repair/maintenance that needs to be done, let Don Smith know.
- ◆ **May 4—Fellowship Lunch & Elders, Deacons and Preacher's Meeting**.
- ◆ **May 4—Going Away Party for Ethel Adams**, 4:00pm at the building.
- ◆ **May 11-14—Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell**
- ◆ **May 18—Graduation Party for Garrett Barnum** after evening services.

In The Area

- ◆ May 3—**Ladies Day @ Granbury Street (Cleburne)** "Inside Out: Showing Our Inner Beauty to the Outside World" (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ May 3—**Cherokee Day @ Cherokee Home for Chil-**

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Caroline Dennis (April 30), Ian Barnum (5), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Karla Boyd, Kami Hardy & Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum & Billy Chism (15), Peggy Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Gracen Hardy (30)

May Anniversaries: None

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Apr. 13, 2014	Apr. 20, 2014
Bible Class	36	42
AM Worship	63	78
PM Worship	41	39
Wednesday PM	44	31
Contribution	\$1805	\$1948

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 4/27/14	Next Week: 5/04/14		
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	April 2014 Make Announcements: Garrett Barnum Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox May 2014 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler			
Communion	Don Smith*, Kevin Wilcox Garrett Barnum, Hank Wheeler	John Barnum*, Joe Dennis Garrett Barnum, Caleb Dennis			
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas			
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller			
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith			
Communion	Don Smith	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Gene Bannister			
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 30 Don Smith	May 7 Allen Griffith	May 14 Gospel Meeting	May 21 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)

Studies for the week of April 27, 2014	<i>Sunday Class Terms of Entrance into the New Testament Church Wednesday PM Mark: Chapter 9</i>
<p>Studies in Luke—Call to Repentance—13:1-9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There was a common belief in the first century that if something bad happened to you, it was because of sin in your life. ◆ This chapter begins with such a belief on the part of Jesus' audience. ◆ Jesus dispels the theory by stating, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." ◆ Jesus uses the occasion to once again teach on the urgency concerning the time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The generation Jesus was speaking to was headed for disaster! ◆ However, they had an advantage. Jesus was giving them warning. ◆ The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (6-9) represents Israel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They had been groomed for generations to bear fruit, yet they bore none. ◆ The patience of the owner (God) is wearing thin. ◆ Jesus again heals on the Sabbath (10-13), breaking Israel's traditions, but not God's law. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ruler of the synagogue is indignant (14), but Jesus points out the inconsistency of their practices (15-17). ◆ Israel's rejection is again shown in Jesus answer (24-30) to the question, "Lord, will those who are saved by few?" (23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Notice especially verses 29,30. Israel would be cast out & the Gentiles would sit down in the kingdom of God. ◆ Why? Paul deals with this in detail in Romans 9-11. ◆ This chapter closes with Jesus' lament over sinful Jerusalem. ◆ In ch. 12, Jesus exhorted the people to wake up to what time it is. ◆ In application, this chapter holds the same message: Repent! 	<p>Epistle of James—The Sin of Respect of Persons (1) 2:1-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This text gives further example of inconsistency on the part of those whose practice of pure and undefiled religion was defective. ◆ Must Not Be a Respector of Persons (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "Show no partiality" ◆ "Partiality" and "the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ" have nothing to do with one another—to try to hold both is inconsistent. ◆ It is impossible for one properly to approach God in worship if the heart is not right. ◆ Practice By Some (2-4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A distinction was being made between the rich and the poor—the rich being honored and the poor dishonored. ◆ This actually showed a doubt in their faith (which taught equality in Christ) ◆ Thus, they set themselves as judge—a position belonging only to God. ◆ Are we guilty of the same? ◆ Riches of Poverty and Poverty of Riches (5-7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ James reminds his readers that most Christians are poor, and should relate much more with the poor man. ◆ As a general rule, the poor are much more receptive to the gospel than the rich. ◆ James reminds them of the sins of the rich—they oppress, they drag you into court, they dishonor the name of Jesus. ◆ The application is obviously much broader than just rich and poor. We make distinctions between people for many reasons, and all are sinful.