

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



May 18, 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.

Will You Help Bring Biblical Balance to the Church?



People seem to have a tendency, when they encounter a viewpoint with which they disagree, to adopt a polar-opposite view. One look at American politics will tell you we do this politically, but we also do it morally, theologically, and doctrinally. I think this tendency is putting many souls in danger and is driving a wedge into the Lord's church. It seems to me, what we really need is some biblical balance.

Please understand, **I'm not advocating a moderated view—I'm advocating a biblical view.** That biblical view, it seems, is often found somewhere between the two extremes on many theological issues.

What are your favorite passages?

We have a tendency to develop a skewed and extreme viewpoint because we develop our theology around a few of our "favorite passages." When someone says, "This is my favorite passage, it absolutely changed my life," a little red flag goes off. Not that this phrase is necessarily wrong, but it often indicates a person has developed their entire theology around one passage of Scripture.

Remember this, if everything we needed to know could have been summed up in one passage, God probably would have done it that way. But that's not how He did it! He gave sixty-six books, "for our instruction" (Romans 15:4). Obviously, we have to "rightly divide" (2 Timothy 2:15) the word, to know how each passage applies to Christians today, but at the same time, we must remember, "**All** Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17, emp. mine).

Most of us agree that the totality of Scripture is harmonious and there are no contradictions. So if a passage doesn't seem to fit your viewpoint, you either don't properly understand the passage or your viewpoint is wrong! If you find yourself pitting one Scripture against another, you need to stop and rethink what you're doing. It is easy to take an isolated verse or chapter and make it mean whatever you want it to mean, but if your entire theology is based on a handful of your favorite verses, you probably have a skewed theology.

Your job is to readjust your thinking to be in harmony with God's word, not to readjust God's word to be in harmony with your thinking!

What are your views about God's grace?

"Grace" seems to be one of those words over which we are divided. Some seem to believe grace is something only given to those who don't need it—perfect people. Others seem to believe grace means God tolerates Christians continuing to live in sin. The first group seems to say, "You and I are the only two people going to heaven...and some days I'm not so sure about you." The second group seems to say, "If you believe in Jesus,

(Continued on page 2)



"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.... But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:20,22-24

(Continued from page 1)

you're going to heaven, 'so eat, drink, and be merry!'"

The difference can be seen in the fact that some people like to quote the first part of Romans 6:23 by itself, "For the wages of sin is death." And other people like to quote the second part of the verse by itself, "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If your view of grace is that only perfect people receive it, you don't understand biblical grace. And if, on the other hand, your view of grace soothes your conscience about your worldly behavior, you don't understand biblical grace either.

How do you interact with people?

Some people seem to think we should never voice our disagreements. They think we should simply "live and let live," tolerating everyone and everything, without question. Other people seem to be dogmatically arguing and fighting with each other all the time. Isn't there a way we can disagree with one another and do it, "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2)?

After all, if you believe I'm wrong and I'm going to hell, I would hope you would do what Paul did when he "opposed [Peter] to his face, because he stood condemned" (Galatians 2:11). And wouldn't you want me to tell you if I thought you were wrong? Can't we teach, encourage, and admonish one another in a "spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1)?

Why must we either be completely tyrannical or completely passive? Isn't there a biblical balance?

Will you help bring biblical balance to the church?

I confess, I have not always been biblically balanced. I want to be more balanced in the future. Will you help me? Will you join me? I hope that together we can encourage one another to see what God loves and what God hates. I hope that we can let the world know what we stand for, and not just what we stand against. I hope we can tell people the truth and tell them in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Wes McAdams, via www.radicallychristian.com



Senior Spotlight

Our congratulations to **Garrett Barnum** on his upcoming graduation from Brownwood High School. We are very proud of Garrett's accomplishments, as we know his family is also.

Among Garrett's high school achievements are Health Occupation Students of America (4 years), Football (3 years), Basketball (3 years), Track (3 years), National Honor Society (2 years), Choices (2 years), Magna Cum Laude, and Pharmacy Tech Program.

Even more important, Garrett has grown into a fine Christian young man. He is willing and able to serve the Lord in many capacities. He is in charge of the services at Care, Inc. one Sunday each month, as well as making Wednesday evening devotional talks, making announcements, leading prayers, waiting on the Lord's table, and anything else he is asked to do.

We will miss Garrett. He will be with us through the summer, but will leave this fall to attend Angelo State University. He plans to attend the 9th & Main congregation in San Angelo, where he will continue to grow in his faith and service to the Lord.

We will be honoring Garrett with a Graduation Party this evening after our evening worship service. Please plan to attend and wish Garrett the best.

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
Gbnv.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

Sunday 5/18:	Job 40-42
Monday 5/19:	Genesis 12-15
Tuesday 5/20:	Genesis 16-18
Wednesday 5/21:	Genesis 19-21
Thursday 5/22:	Genesis 22-24
Friday 5/23:	Genesis 25-26
Saturday 5/24:	Genesis 27-29

*"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)*



Will continue each Tuesday through the summer (except camp weeks).

- ◆ June 21 **VBS @ DeLeon**—“*The Race is On! Running with Jesus Every Day!*”
- ◆ June 29-July 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ July 20-25—**Senior Camp**
- ◆ Aug. 12—**Summer Youth Series @ 4th & Stewart**

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **35 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Thank you to everyone who helped make our Gospel Meeting a success.** Thank you to **Loy Mitchell** for coming and preaching the word. Thank you to **Debbie Mitchell** for coming and trying to keep Loy somewhat under control! Thank you to our **visitors** who came. Thank you to our **members** who worked so hard behind the scenes. Our **attendance** was **81 Monday evening, 83 Tuesday evening, and 25 Wednesday morning**, in addition to our regular meeting times listed below. Loy challenged us from God’s word. Let’s not let that challenge die.
- ◆ **Tonight—Graduation Party for Garrett Barnum** after evening services. Finger foods and snacks.
- ◆ Tom Wilcox will be taking **pictures** over the next few weeks **to update the directory and picture board.** If you would like to get your picture updated, please see Tom.

In The Area

- ◆ June 9-12 **VBS @ Bangs** (They will have a scale model of the tabernacle set up)
- ◆ June 9-12 **VBS @ Dublin**—“*How we got the Bible*”
- ◆ June 10—**Summer Youth Series begins @ Bangs.** This Year’s Theme—“*In the Days of Their Youth.*”

What Are You Preaching About Next Sunday?

Suppose I announced a new series of sermons to begin next Sunday on the theme: “The Worthlessness of Christianity.” Just imagine some of the topics that might be included in such a theme:

- The Uselessness of Prayer
- Spend Your Money on Your Pleasures, Don’t Give
- Sleeping Late Is More Important than the Lord’s Supper
- Ignore the Elders and Do As You please
- Sunday Morning Bible Class Isn’t Worth Two Cents
- A Little Smoking, Drinking, Cussing Never Hurt Anybody
- Better to be Rich and Wicked than Poor and Righteous

I guess the list might be able to go on from there. I would think everyone of us (including me) could hardly imagine such gall and such unholy attitudes coming from the pulpit.

But, brethren, **we preach by the way we live!** And all the eloquence in the world becomes mere deception when dedicated deeds are not present. **You and I are preaching daily by our manner of life!** Do you subscribe to one code of conduct in word and quite another in deed?

Daily living is the whole crux of the matter. It is not only what your life preaches on Sunday, but on Monday through Saturday as well. It matters little what is said because, to use a well-known phrase, “What you are doing speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say.”

What will your life be preaching about next Sunday (as well as Monday through Saturday)?

Denny Sneed,

via Pathway church of Christ at Borger bulletin

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: 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

	May 4, 2014	May 11, 2014
Bible Class	48	46
AM Worship	65	76
PM Worship	53	57
Wednesday PM	36	57
Contribution	\$1,984	\$1,588

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/18/14	Next Week: 5/25/14		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	May 2014 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Jessica Stultz & Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: James Fuller June 2014 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Kevin Wilcox Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Don Smith*, Kevin Wilcox Jon Barnum, Garrett Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Hank Wheeler		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 21 Garrett Barnum	May 28 Don Smith	June 4 Joe Dennis	June 11 Allen Griffith

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 May 18, 2014		Sunday Class What Must I Do To Be Saved?	Wednesday Class Mark 9
<p>Studies in Luke—The Lost Son—14:11-32</p> <p>In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables having the same basic structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Something/someone was lost ◆ Something/someone was found ◆ There was rejoicing over what/who was found <p>Setting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Parables normally have two settings: the setting involved in the parable itself and the setting in which the parable is told ◆ The setting of the parable itself is that of a home, a far country, and the older brother coming in from the field ◆ The setting in which the parable is told is tax collectors and sinners coming to Jesus, and the Pharisees and scribes grumbling about it <p>Characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The younger son who wanted his share of his father's property while his father was still alive. He then wasted his inheritance in "reckless living," found himself in a downward spiral, and finally "came to himself" and went back home. He represents the tax collectors and sinners ◆ The father, who, though he had been wronged by the younger son, still loved him and eagerly awaited the day he might return. When he did return, the father celebrated. He represents God our Father. ◆ The older brother, who had only hatred toward his wayward brother. He saw no reason to rejoice at his return. He represents the Pharisees and scribes. <p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If you have sinned and wondered away, come home. ◆ If others repent and desire to come home, celebrate with them.. ◆ In any cases, avoid the attitude of the older brother. 	<p>Epistle of James—Relationship of Faith & Works—2:14-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep in mind James is building on the earlier parts of the letter—true religion must show itself in proper response. ◆ James is not downplaying faith, it is the necessary foundation of salvation. He is showing what true faith looks like. It works! <p>Profession and Practice (14-17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A faith that does not produce good works is a useless faith. ◆ "Can that faith save him?" The implied answer is NO! ◆ Example: A brother or sister is in need. You wish them well, but do nothing to help. What good is that? Absolutely none! <p>It Is Both—Not One Or The Other (18,19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "You have faith and I have works." No! The two are not mutually exclusive. They complement one another & work hand in hand. ◆ "Show me your faith apart from your works." This is impossible! Faith can only be shown through good works. ◆ "You believe that God is one; you do well." Yes, but even the demons go that far, and what is their fate? <p>Proof Of Our Faith (20-26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do you want proof that faith apart from works is useless? Okay. ◆ When was Abraham justified? When he believed in his heart or when he took action (offered his son of promise, Isaac)? ◆ Scripture is clear, both OT and NT, it was when he took action (worked). "...because you have <u>obeyed</u> my voice" (Gen 22:18). "...because you have <u>done</u> this" (Gen. 22:16). "Because Abraham <u>obeyed</u> my voice and <u>kept</u> my charge" (Gen. 26:5) "You see that faith was <u>active</u> along with his works, and <u>faith</u> was <u>completed</u> by <u>his works</u>" (Jas. 2:22) ◆ Want more proof? How was Rahab the prostitute justified? 		