

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 25, 2014

Contact Us:

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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

Is the Church of Christ a Denomination?

The church that the Lord built, the church of Christ, is a unique and different institution from all other religious bodies on the face of the earth. One of many ways it is different is that it is not of protestant denominationalism. When we claim that the church is not a denomination, people generally ask, "What do you mean that the church of Christ is not a denomination? Is it non-denominational? Like a community church? What is it and how is it different?"

This is the way that many see the church of Christ today: just another denomination or calling it a non-denominational community church. Even some church members have become confused about if the church is or is not a denomination. I know that I have refused to join any denomination and have chosen to be just a Christian. Can one be a Christian without joining a denomination? Surely he can. But, if one becomes and remains a Christian only, is he a member of any church? And if so, whose? The answer of course is Christ's church and his church is not a denomination.

When Christ said that he would build his church (Matt. 16:18), did he have in mind a denomination or a federation of denominations with their own organizations, their own creed books and their own ideas of how the church is to be? When reading passages such as Romans 16:16, do we perceive that they were all denominations? Were they not simply local congregations of people who had become Christians only? If one in the first century could be just a Christian before there were any denominations, why can't one be just a Christian today in the 21st century without being a member of any denomination?

Now some may make the accusation saying, "I thought a man by the name of Alexander Campbell was the one who started the church of Christ?" However, the truth is that Alexander Campbell was almost 1,800 years too late to establish the church of Christ. Campbell was born on September 12, 1788. But as was already noted, the churches of Christ existed back when the book of Romans was written by the hands of the apostle Paul. Thus, Campbell was not the founder. He simply took on the name used in the first century as does every church of Christ today. The fact is that many in the 1700-1800 in various denominations concluded that they should abandon human names, human creeds, human traditions and human religious bodies and return to the New Testament as their authority of religion. Campbell, and many others, withdrew themselves from the denominations which they had been raised in and preached in and began to free themselves from all human interferences and hindrances and became free to preach the Gospel as it is in the New Testament. This group of individuals began to speak where the Bible speaks and remained silent where it is silent. Many desire to be Christians only without being affiliated with any denomination and thus members of the one spiritual body of Christ, the church. Alexander Campbell and others did not seek to make a new denomination, but to be part of the body of Christ that already existed in many other places during that time.

It is wonderful how men are able to pick up God's guide book, the Bible, and start working toward restoring the original church founded by Christ. This is what the men of the restoration did which was far more glorious and significant than the reformation movement of the 1500-1600's out of which did start all the major denominations that we see today.

Today, it is possible for one to hear of Christ, believe on him as the son of God, repent of all sins, confess faith in Christ and be baptized in the water for the remission of sins just as people did in the first century. This is not a great mystery, nor is it impossible to achieve. Such actions will make the same thing today as it did 2,000 years ago, simply a Christian, a member of the Lord's church. All today who do this in a particular geographical location make up the church of Christ in that location. If they remain true to New Testament teaching in doctrine, worship, practice and daily life they continue to be, even in this complex century, simply a church of Christ, without being a denomination of any kind. Indeed the church of Christ is not a denomination, but simply Christians following the uniqueness of God's Word as should all mankind.

Robert Notgrass

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Luke 16:10-13

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



Advantages Faithful Christians Enjoy

The Christian has many, many advantages for a productive and prosperous life in this world, and after this brief life is over, joy eternal

In the end, faithful Christians are the recipients of an eternal inheritance because we are God's chosen people (1 Peter 1:3-9; 2:9). Christians sing "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done." It's more than a beautiful hymn, it's good advice.

We should not focus exclusively on the turmoil, sin and chaos of the world in which we live. Christians values may cause us to wonder about the corruption around us as we hear the news and observe society continuing on its downward path of self destruction. Can things get any worse? As the light of the world and the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13-16), we seek to rescue the perishing with the Gospel. We must not allow Satan to discourage us.

Christians understand that this world and this life are but temporary and if it were not so, then death and the grave would be the victors. But God has revealed to all who will hear, that we have within us an immortal spirit and that death and the grave can not claim the victory over us. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Cor. 15:55-58).

Let Us Count Some Of Our Blessings As Christians

1. We know there is an all wise, all powerful, ever present, loving and merciful Creator, because God has revealed this to us through His Holy Oracles, the Bible.
2. We know God calls us, speaks to us and guides us through His holy word and by His providence (Matt. 11:28-30; 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
3. We know we may call upon God at any time and that He will hear and give answer to our petitions. "We know that

God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him" (John 9:31). "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).

4. We know Jesus loves us because the Bible tells us so. This may be the most profound thought that man may possess. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:9-14).

5. We know the Lord will provide for us because He has promised that he will do so. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God

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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

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

Sunday 5/25:	Genesis 30,31
Monday 5/26:	Genesis 32-34
Tuesday 5/27:	Genesis 35-37
Wednesday 5/28:	Genesis 38-40
Thursday 5/29:	Genesis 41,42
Friday 5/30:	Genesis 43-45
Saturday 5/31:	Genesis 46,47

"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)



- model of the tabernacle set up)
- ◆ June 9-12 VBS @ **Dublin**—“How we got the Bible”
- ◆ June 10—**Summer Youth Series @ Bangs**. This Year’s Theme—“In the Days of Their Youth.”
- ◆ June 17 **SYS @ DeLeon**
- ◆ June 21 **VBS @ DeLeon**—“The Race is On! Running with Jesus Every Day!”
- ◆ June 24 **SYS @ Hamilton**
- ◆ June 29-July 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ July 8 **SYS @ Hillcrest** (Stephenville)
- ◆ July 15 **SYS @ Hico**
- ◆ July 20-25—**Senior Camp**
- ◆ July 19 **SYS @ Gordon**
- ◆ Aug. 5 **SYS @ 5th & Grape** (Abilene)
- ◆ **Aug. 12 SYS @ 4th & Stewart**

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **27 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ Cindy McCaghren will be starting a **new class** next Sunday for the **Jr. High and High School girls**. It will meet Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings in the library.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ June 14—**Ladies get together** at McCaghren’s. 9:00am-12noon. Bring snacks/finger foods.

In The Area

- ◆ June 9-12 **VBS @ Bangs** (They will have a scale

(Continued from page 2)

and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt. 6:25-33).

6. We know the Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want (Ps. 23).

7. We know God created this world and that at a time he chooses he will bring it to an end (Gen. 1:1; 2 Peter 3:9-12). Christians need not worry about the earth’s destruction by the hysterical ranting of global warming charlatans or sky gazers who fear some space object will bring an end. The end of the world is in the hands of the Creator of the world and He alone knows when such will happen (Matt. 24:36).

8. We know the Lord has prepared a place for those who are prepared for heaven. “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

The Christian has many, many advantages for a productive and prosperous life in this world, and after this brief life is over, joy eternal. “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, O what a foretaste of glory divine.” All things are ready, come to the feast.

Is your heart right with God? Today is the day of salvation. Make your calling and election sure. Believe in Christ, obey His commands and enjoy the peace that exceeds our understanding.

Lloyd Gale, *Seek The Old Paths*, September 2013

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 11, 2014	May 18, 2014
Bible Class	46	48
AM Worship	76	67
PM Worship	57	60
Wednesday PM	57	45
Contribution	\$1,588	\$1,986

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/25/14	Next Week: 6/1/14		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	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	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Don Smith*, Kevin Wilcox Jon Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Hank Wheeler, Kevin Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Joe Dennis		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Communion	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 28 Don Smith	June 4 Joe Dennis	June 11 Allen Griffith	June 18 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 May 25, 2014	Sunday Class <i>What Must I Do To Be Saved?</i> Wednesday Class <i>Mark 10</i>
<p>Studies in Luke—The Unrighteous Steward—16:1-13</p> <p>The setting is still the same as last week (see 15:1,2). Jesus tells of a man, a manager, whose handling of his master's goods is brought into question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He is being fired and does not know what he will do. ◆ He calls in his master's debtors and has them write off part of their debt. ◆ He is dishonest, yet he is commended by his master for his shrewdness. ◆ Jesus concludes, "<i>For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.</i>" ◆ Is Jesus approving of this man's dishonesty? No! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He is giving a lesson in Christian prudence—the appropriate use or application of wisdom. ◆ What is commended is the man's resourcefulness. ◆ It is an indictment on the sons of light, not a commendation of the sons of this world. ◆ Jesus' point—His disciples should use all the resources they have at their disposal for godly purposes, thus laying up for themselves treasures in heaven. <p>Wendell Winkler suggested four principle of stewardship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Divine ownership—all belongs to God (time, money, children, etc) ◆ Human endowment—He has given these things to us to manage for a little while. ◆ Faithful administration—1 Cor. 4:2 ◆ Inevitable accounting—We will give an account to the master <p>We should serve God with the resources we have with at least the same fervency the world uses to obtain its worldly pursuits.</p>	<p>Epistle of James—Admonition to Teachers (1)—3:1-12</p> <p>James now focuses on our speech, especially that of teachers, as part of our "<i>pure and undefiled religion.</i>"</p> <p>Perils of Being a Teacher (1,2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A person should not become a teacher without seriously considering the responsibility. ◆ We will stand accountable for the things we teach. <p>Problem of the Tongue (3-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The tongue is small, but unless controlled, can control our whole life. ◆ Things we say can start a fire that will destroy our life and possible other people's as well. ◆ This destructive fire, the misuse of the tongue, comes from Satan. <p>Problem of Taming the Tongue (7,8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Every kind of animal can be tamed, but the tongue cannot. ◆ It is wild and restless, like a caged wild animal. ◆ It is like a deadly poison. ◆ It must be handled very carefully! <p>Inconsistent Use of the Tongue (9-12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ James points out the inconsistency of using the same tongue to praise and to curse. ◆ If we praise God but curse man, who is made in the likeness of God, is God pleased? No! ◆ No curse can be pronounced by a Christian upon another without reflecting the curse upon God whose image that man bears. ◆ "<i>These things ought not to be so</i>" (10) ◆ Look at nature—its beautiful harmony of operations many times rebukes the inconsistencies of human conduct.