

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



June 22, 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.

It Pays to be a Christian!



"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26, ESV).

You know the story of early Christianity. Courageous church members were thrown to the lions, burned at the stake, executed for the "crime" of holding on to their faith. Becoming a Christian meant risking your job, your social status, perhaps even your life.

But in the year 313 Constantine the Great issued the Edict of Milan, where Christianity was legalized. After almost three hundred years of persecution, the early church took a sigh of relief. It seemed like the best thing that ever happened to the church.

Its effect, however, went much further than merely tolerating Christianity. It became apparent that being a Christian was an advantage. Having the local Bishop vouch for church membership opened the way up for jobs and promotions. Thousands flocked to the church, proclaiming their faith in Jesus. The church enjoyed unprecedented growth, at least numerically.

But there was something troubling about the partnership between church and state, Caesar and Christ. Lost in the enthusiasm, the construction of state-funded cathedrals and the host of new members was the call of the man they supposedly followed.

The church was saying: "It pays to be a Christian." Jesus was saying, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24).

Either Jesus needed a better Public Relations department, or the church had lost its way. Someone has observed that the problem with Christians these days is that no one wants to kill them anymore. I remember that during the Cold War, when believers in Russia were driven underground, that they prayed that Christians in the West would remain faithful, and not succumb to the temptations of ease and material abundance!

Does it pay to be a Christian, or does it cost? Are we to exchange a couch for a towel, or should we get rich on the Stock Exchange? Do we want to have the Christ of the cross...without the cross of Christ?

He demands sacrifice, obedience, submission to him. It costs to be a Christian. But following Christ is worth the cost. The rewards are eternal.

Stan Mitchell

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire.... You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter"

James 5:1-3,5

The Value of Endurance—Part Two

Disciples of Jesus Christ will never be greater than their teacher; therefore, we must prepare ourselves to face life as He did. In accordance with His lifelong practice, when Jesus was feeling the full burden of His nearing crucifixion, “*He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will’*” (Mt. 26:39). Everyone faces adversity in life—trials of failing health, failing finances, and failing family members come to mind—but the essence of them all remains the toll these can take on us spiritually. Turmoil in life creates temptation of soul. We cannot avoid it, and it would be foolish to deny it. Therefore, we must face it as our Savior did—with complete trust in God. Life’s burdens challenge our faith, and disciples must learn to respond with faith. As our burdens increase, so should the fervor of our prayers (1 Th. 5:17-18). Even while facing circumstances and perhaps even consequences that put our faith to the test, we must learn to respond with complete confidence in God’s will. But as disciples we must do more than simply accept Satan’s fiery darts; we should also wield the sword of the Spirit with skill and determination (Eph. 6:10-17), accepting life as it comes while meeting it with God’s will in our hearts. This took Jesus to the cross, but it also made Him welcome in heaven.

True disciples aspire to be like Jesus, even though that necessarily places them at odds with the world. The apostle Paul wrote, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1), a statement that we typically associate with the fruit of the Spirit and the Christian graces, but it equally applies to the stand both took against the religious world of their day, against religious tradition in the church, against spiritual inertia among God’s people, and for God. Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Mt. 10:34), describing the natural antagonism that the truth of the gospel would create. Therefore, real disciples do not run from such controversy; rather, they accept it as an inevitable part of confronting Satan’s influence in the world.

Disciples, then, should expect to be misunderstood, mistreated, and misrepresented, because that is exactly what people have done to Jesus. The apostle Peter said, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Pet. 4:12-16). Today’s world seems so different from the days when prayer was welcome in society, the Bible was revered, and morality expected; however, evil’s return to prominence in western civilization binds us more closely to the Christians of past generations, and certainly in the first century, where Christianity thrived because of the depth of devotion rather than social acceptance. Disciples should therefore not prepare to avoid adversity but to face it and to endure it. “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful” (Jas. 5:11).

The apostle Paul told the Romans to look beyond today’s difficulties to the sunrise of eternity (Rom. 5:1-2). “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Rom. 5:3-4). Thus, endurance adds eternal value to our souls. The problems we face in life help us grow, giving wisdom about the nature of this life. Our endurance strengthens our resolve, reinforcing the principle that this world’s difficulties are small and fleeting (2 Cor. 4:16-18). Thus having prepared ourselves in spirit, we look at that which lies beyond the flesh, and then, having done so, in hope, we begin to see heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

Kevin Rhodes

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 6/22:	Leviticus 19-21
Monday 6/23:	Leviticus 22-23
Tuesday 6/24:	Leviticus 24-25
Wednesday 6/25:	Leviticus 26-27
Thursday 6/26:	Numbers 1-2
Friday 6/27:	Numbers 3-4
Saturday 6/28:	Numbers 5-6

“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)



The Tie That Binds

“It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. God is my witness how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:7,8, ESV).

Every now and then I have someone say, “I can be just as good a Christian as ‘those’ people at church without going to church. I’ve never liked ‘organized religion’ anyway.”

It makes me think of Will Rogers’ remark: *“I don’t belong to any organized political party; I’m a Democrat!”*

Not all churches are “organized.”

But all of them are families!

What, one wonders, did Paul miss when he was sent to prison for preaching the Gospel? Room Service? A trip to the Mall of Philippi? Chains bound his body to an imperial guard, but Christian love bound him to his brethren.

Paul missed his Christian brethren! Sometimes we appreciate something only when it is taken away from us. I knew a Christian couple who was transferred to the Islamic Sultancy of Bahrain. It was against the law to hold Christian worship there. Bibles were banned. Christians, if there were any there, went underground. All they could write of was how they missed Christian fellowship.

It’s too easy to take cheap shots at our brethren. We dismiss our church, its leadership and our efforts; we talk as if we would simply walk away from our beloved fellow Christians at the drop of a hat.

Paul appreciated his brethren. I doubt his brethren were any more perfect than ours. They had a sister “Bossy” and brother “Cantankerous.” He might have been tempted, just once in a while, to skip a Wednesday night Bible study, or a fellowship meal when he was free. But he was bound to a prison cell, and he missed the sweet fellowship of God’s people.

Don’t let anything less than chains keep you from being with your brethren this Sunday!

Stan Mitchell

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **30 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ Tom Wilcox will be taking **pictures** over the next few weeks **to update the directory and picture board**. We especially need updated pictures for the Churchwell family, Ginger King, Kristi & Lunday Maninger, Peggy Moore, Veneta Nolen, and Jessica Stultz.

In The Area

- ◆ June 24 **SYS @ Hamilton**—“Know the Scriptures from Your Youth”
- ◆ June 29-July 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ July 8 **SYS @ Hillcrest**—“Fear the Lord from Your Youth”
- ◆ July 15 **SYS @ Hico**—“Keep God’s Commands from Your Youth”
- ◆ July 20-25—**Senior Camp**
- ◆ July 29 **SYS @ Gordon**—“Trusting God from Your Youth”
- ◆ Aug. 5 **SYS @ 5th & Grape**—“Proving Yourself from Your Youth”
- ◆ **Aug. 12 SYS @ 4th & Stewart**—“Prepare Yourself from Your Youth”

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), Tiffany McCaghren (22), Donnie Evetts (24), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	June 8, 2014	June 15, 2014
Bible Class	44	47
AM Worship	57	65
PM Worship	47	48
Wednesday PM	46	49
Contribution	\$1,666	\$1,996

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 6/22/14	Next Week: 6/29/14		
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	June 2014 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox July 2014 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Peggy Moore Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	Peggy Moore & Hank Wheeler	James & Cindy Fuller			
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith			
Communion	James Thomas*, Don Smith Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	John Barnum*, Garrett Barnum Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis			
Closing Prayer	John McCaghren	Hank Wheeler			
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	Mike Bannister			
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Kevin Wilcox			
Communion	James Thomas	John Barnum			
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Gene Bannister			
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 25 Kevin Wilcox	July 2 Garrett Barnum	July 9 Don Smith	July 16 Joe Dennis	

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 June 22, 2014		Sunday Class A Brief Look At Church History	Wednesday Class Mark 11
<p>Studies in Luke—The Unrighteous Judge—18:1-8</p> <p>Jesus is teaching His disciples, "to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (1)</p> <p>The point of this parable is not to pester God until He gives us what we want, it is that we have a Righteous Judge who will avenge His people.</p> <p>The Unrighteous Judge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Two primary characters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A judge who "neither feared God nor respected man" (2) ● A widow who came often to the judge saying, "Give me justice against my adversary" (3) ◆ Eventually the judge grants her request—but only because she a constant nuisance to him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus points to what the unrighteous judge said to himself (4-6), then draws a contrast with how a loving God responds (7,8) ● Notice the contrasts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An unrighteous judge and a just God. ○ A despised widow and the beloved elect. ○ The slow, begrudged response of the judge and the Lord who "will give justice to them speedily." ● "If a bad man will yield to the mere force of insistent demands which he hates, how much more certainly will a righteous God be prevailed on by the faithful prayer which He loves?" (Trench) <p>Application</p> <p>God's people have always cried out to Him for justice. He will avenge, but not always in the time or manner of our choosing. Remain faithful. Pray. And do not lose heart. Leave it in His hands.</p> 	<p>Epistle of James—Concerning Rich Oppressors—5:1-6</p> <p>Those addressed in this section are not Christians, but those who are oppressing poor Christians.</p> <p>"Luxury has a way of ruining character. It is a form of self-indulgence. If you match character with wealth, you can produce much good; but if you match self-indulgence with wealth, the result is sin" (Wiersbe)</p> <p>Admonition To The Rich (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If the rich understood their coming fate, they would literally shriek in fear. ◆ Their coming judgment is already on its way. <p>Conditions of Wealth (2,3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Their riches are rotten and moth-eaten—worthless. ◆ The corrosion of their wealth stands as testimony against the corruption of themselves. ◆ They have nothing to look forward to besides destruction—they are to be pitied, not envied. ◆ They have laid up treasure, but not with God—its only value is a testament against them. <p>Selfishness and Its End (4-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Many had gained their wealth by defrauding the poor laborer—the man who needed his pay each day to feed his family that night. ◆ It may seem that the wealthy has won, but the cry of the defrauded is heard by the Lord of hosts—He will avenge the wrong. ◆ As the rich man sits in luxury, he prepares himself as an animal for the slaughter—the judgment to come. ◆ The helpless victims do not resist—much like Christ did not resist His captors, but judgment is coming. ◆ "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord" (Rom. 12:19) 		