

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



July 6, 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

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

The End (Part 2)

NATIONAL ISRAEL

The Jews (as well as many others today) refuse to see that the Old Testament has been replaced with the New Testament (Heb. 10:9; Gal. 3:24-25).

Physical, political, fleshly Israel in the days of the first century would not give up. They were hanging on to the Mosaic system for dear life. They refused to accept that Jesus was the Messiah. He was/is the Christ. He did not fit their preconceived idea. They were looking for a military-type leader who would rise up among them and overthrow the Romans, establishing the ancient kingdom as it was in the days of David.

Israel as a nation refused to see the truth! They were a great hindrance to the Lord's new and living way. God saw fit to bring the entire system down —taking it out of the way. In God's providence, the armies of Rome besieged the city of Jerusalem and destroyed it in 70 A.D. Once and for all, no Israelite family could trace their lineage back to Abraham. The system of Judaism was completely and forever abolished.

SIGNS OF THE DESTRUCTION

The apostles had asked for signs regarding the temple being destroyed (Matt. 24:3) and the Lord answers their petition. He says in Matthew 24:14 that when the Gospel had been preached in all the world, the end would come. The "end" here is not the end of the world (He will speak about the end of the world beginning in verse 36). The "end" He is speaking of in verse 24 is the end of Judaism, the Jewish economy, their political system, the priesthood, everything would be wrecked and annulled.

In Colossians 1:23, Paul exhorts the brethren of the church in Colosse to "...continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [and] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven...." These words were thought to have been written about 62-63 A.D. which was only 7 or 8 years before the destruction of Jerusalem. The Gospel had been preached to every creature under heaven.

In Matthew 24:4-35, Jesus reveals some of the signs leading up to Jerusalem's utter destruction when not one stone of the temple would be left upon another. Verse 15 speaks of the "abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel" (cf. Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20). This occurred when the city was surrounded by the Roman army. Christians were told to flee unto the mountains —get out of the city —not delay their departure (vs.16-18)! Escaping the city would be more difficult for those with child and/or with small children (v.19). It obviously would be more difficult in the winter or on the sabbath day when the gates of the city would be closed (v.20). False christs and false prophets would show great signs and wonders. Jesus warns them not to be fooled (v.24).

The Lord ends the giving of signs with these words, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" (Matt. 24:34). "This generation" is the generation in which they were living. A generation is roughly 40 years. The Lord predicted the temple would be leveled in "that" generation. That was the answer to the disciples first two questions: 1) when shall these things be, and 2) what shall be the sign of thy coming? His coming was not his second coming at the end of time, but his coming in judgment upon the city and nation of Israel as he did through the Roman army.

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"My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins"

James 5:19,20



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The Lord predicted the coming of his kingdom would occur in that generation. *“Verily I say unto you, That **there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power**”* (Mark 9:1). There were some in the audience to whom the Lord spake these words that would not die until they see, observe, experience, the establishment of his kingdom, the church, his bride. If his kingdom was not established in that generation, then the Lord either lied or there are some of those people still living today! We absolutely know that neither of these options are true. The Lord did not lie and there are certainly no people living today that heard the Lord speak these words. The fact is, the kingdom/church was established in that generation just as the Lord said it would be. We read about it on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. It’s called the “church” (singular, Acts 2:47), and the “churches of Christ” (plural, Rom. 16:16).

The point is this, every “sign” given by the Lord in Matthew 24:4-35, Mark 13:5-31 and Luke 21:8-33, came to pass in “that generation.” Every sign was fulfilled in their lifetime! If they did not come to pass, if they have not been fulfilled, then Jesus did not know what he was talking about. If the people of that generation thwarted (foiled, prevented) the Lord’s prophecy of these things from coming true, then they are more powerful than God! Millions of people today are still looking for the fulfillment of these things, thinking the Lord is coming in the near future to establish his kingdom. If the Lord was prevented from fulfilling his prophecy in the first century, who’s to say he won’t be prevented again if he attempted it in the twenty-first century? Jesus did not lie and there are no people living today who are 2,000 years old!

THE FINAL END

What’s of utmost importance to people’s lives today is the second coming of Christ in the clouds when every eye shall see him (cf. Rev. 1:7). That event is likewise spoken of as an “end.” At the Lord’s second coming, *“...all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”* (John 5:28-29). None will be left on this earth.

*“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. **Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even***

the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power” (1 Cor. 15:22-24).

There’s no such thing as a “rapture” as taught by millennialists. The general concept of this man-made doctrine is that the saved who are living will be raptured (caught up from the earth), leaving behind all who are not saved. Those remaining will wonder what happened to family members, working associates, friends, neighbors and loved ones. They envision cars running off the road because the driver disappears, planes falling out of the sky because the pilot was taken, running-backs disappearing on the 10 yard line, the ball left tumbling for others to claim. The world will be left in total bewilderment. Biblically speaking, the doctrine of the so-called rapture theory is absurd and preposterous!

When the Lord comes again, he will hand over the kingdom/church to God the Father, not establish it (1 Cor. 15:24). The eternal kingdom (church) exists NOW. Faithful Christians everywhere are members of it. We are members of it. The prophecy of Zechariah 6:12-13 that the Messiah would be both *king* and *priest* has been fulfilled in Jesus the Christ. He is *“king of kings and Lord of lords”* (1 Tim. 6:15). When he ascended into heaven *he sat down on the throne at the right hand of God*, all authorities and power being made subject unto him (Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; Heb. 4:16; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22).

Jesus is our great *high priest* making atonement and intercession for us (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-16; 7:26; 8:1-4; 9:11; 10:11-23). If he is not a king now, then he is not a priest now because the prophecy of Zechariah (6:12-13) said he would be both king and priest at the same time. Since he is a *priest now*, he is a *king now* and since he is a *king now*, he is a *priest now*. This point cannot be refuted without denying the Holy Scriptures.

A CLEAR DISTINCTION

In Matthew 24 and Mark 13, a clear and distinct contrast is made in the Lord’s answer to the disciples’ questions. They had ask (Matt. 24:3): 1) “when” shall these things be? 2) what “sign” will there be when these things will be fulfilled? 3) what “sign” will there be concerning the end of the world?

In Matthew 24:4-35 and Mark 13:5-31, Jesus gives sign after sign after sign they should look for that would signal the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The signs and destruction would occur over a period of “days” —an indefinite number (Matt. 24:19,22,29; Mark 13:17,19,20,24). BUT, beginning in

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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 7/6: Numbers 23-25

Monday 7/7: Numbers 26-27

Tuesday 7/8: Numbers 28-30

Wednesday 7/9: Numbers 31-32

Thursday 7/10: Numbers 33-34

Friday 7/11: Numbers 35-36

Saturday 7/12: Deut. 1-2

“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)



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verse 36 of Matthew 24 and verse 32 of Mark 13, the Lord speaks of “a day,” a single day, even to a specific “hour.” Matthew 24:36, “*But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*” Mark 13:32, “*But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*”

All through the beginning of these two chapters there are “signs.” All of a sudden, an abrupt change is noticed when the Lord clearly says there are “no signs.” There are signs when He speaks of “days” (plural), but then there are no signs when He speaks of that “day” (singular). He cannot be speaking of the same event. And, he definitely is not. He is speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in the first part of the chapter and is speaking of the end of time, his second coming, in the remaining verses of the chapter and extending on through chapter 25.

CONCLUSION

With the Lord’s death on the cross, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension upon high to sit down at the right hand of God, the preaching of the Gospel on Pentecost (Acts 2) and then ultimately the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the END had come. The system of sacrifices prescribed in the law of Moses, along with the entirety of the law itself was abolished.

However, there is another END to come, the cession of life and all things material in the entire universe—the end of the world, the end of time. There will be no more opportunity to obey the Lord. No one will be given a second chance. There are no signs or warnings of that event. It will happen “*...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised...*” (1 Cor. 15:52).

What will YOU do when that day, that time, that end, comes? Will YOU be ready? The only way to be ready is to be ready NOW, “*...for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*” (Matt. 24:44). “*...Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation*” (2 Cor. 6:2). Won’t you obey the Gospel today?

To be ready NOW, you must **BELIEVE** in Jesus as the Christ, the only begotten Son of God (John 8:24), **REPENT** of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10) and be **BAPTIZED** in water for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6,17-18; 1 Peter 3:21). Living **FAITHFUL** the rest of your life, you’ll be ushered into that final abode of heaven at the END.

Won’t you obey today?

Garland Robinson, *Seek The Old Paths*, June, 2014

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **26 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Monthly fellowship meal today after services.** Please plan to stay and share this time together.
- ◆ **Elders, Deacons, & Preacher’s Meeting** today after lunch.
- ◆ A new addition of **The Spiritual Sword** is available on the back table. Theme: *A Handy Guide to Understand the Bible*. Please take one and use it. They are a valuable tool.
- ◆ New **newsletters** from **Rohan Jones** and **Loy Mitchell** are posted on the bulletin board.

In The Area

- ◆ **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)

July Birthdays: Jason Warman (6), Mariah Martinez (8), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), Steven Martinez (13), John Barnum & Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	June 22, 2014	June 29, 2014
Bible Class	57	48
AM Worship	69	76
PM Worship	48	40
Wednesday PM	46	34
Contribution	\$2,021	\$1,701

This Week: 7/6/14		Next Week: 7/13/14		July 2014 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Peggy Moore Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller August 2014 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Dennis Family	Gene & Barbara Bannister		
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	James Fuller		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, John McCaghren Hank Wheeler, James Fuller	John Barnum, Garrett Barnum Tom Wilcox, Kevin Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	John McCaghren		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
Scripture Reading	Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 9 Don Smith	July 16 Joe Dennis	July 23 Allen Griffith	July 30 Singing Night

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 July 6, 2014		Sunday Class Lessons To Learn From Church History Wednesday Class Mark 12
<p>Studies in Luke—The Rich Ruler—18:18-30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What must I do to inherit eternal life? ◆ One of the significant themes of Luke is that of the kingdom of God. ◆ Luke focuses on various aspects of that kingdom, as it was a primary part of Jesus' teaching. ◆ As Jesus concludes a statement about how we must become like a child if we wish to enter the kingdom of God, a certain ruler approaches with the question, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (18) - a very valid and important question! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus first addresses the implication of the statement, "Good teacher." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "No one is good except God alone" (19) ◦ Thus, if Jesus is good, He is God • Next, Jesus goes to the law, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do no steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" (20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The ruler replies, "All these I have kept from my youth" (21) • Jesus, knowing the one thing that stood between the ruler and eternal life, then said, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich" (23) ◦ That was the one thing the ruler was not willing to do. Eternal life was important to him, but not quite as important as his possessions. ◆ What is standing between you and eternal life? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you willing to give it up? • Sometimes drastic measures are necessary for the sake of eternity! 	<p>Epistle of James—The Christian in Illness and Sin—5:13-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prayer and Singing (13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray." • "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." • These are both imperatives (commands). • It is not unusual to go to God in suffering, but we have a tendency to neglect God when we are cheerful. ◆ Illness and Efficacy of Prayer (14-18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a difficult section. • Two possible meanings of verse 14. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It endorses using the best available medical means for the sick (as oil often was in the 1st century). This is approved in the Bible, along with prayer asking for God's providential help. ◦ Or, it was miraculous healing in the 1st century. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The elders would be a likely group to have received miraculous gifts. × If this is the meaning, this verse has no direct bearing nor direct teaching for the church today. • I tend to favor the first explanation, however, neither explanation violates New Testament teaching. • In either case, the anointing with oil was secondary to the prayer of faith. ◆ Converting Wandering Brethren (19,20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cannot "wander from the faith" unless he has been in the faith. • "Wander" means to stray or drift, not to willful rejection. • This one is lost and needs conversion, just as the alien sinner needs conversion. • There is no greater work a Christian can do, than that of seeking and saving the lost! 	