

# 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 20, 2014

## Contact Us:

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office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 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 A Man Rob God?

"Will a man rob God?" These words were asked by Malachi to the people of Israel ((3:8). Malachi charged Israel with the sin of robbing God. I'm sure the Israelites did not think they were actually doing that. In fact, the very idea of robbing God would have undoubtedly been appalling for Israel. After all, one of the Ten Commandments was "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15). Yet, that is exactly what Malachi said they had done.

How had they robbed God? Malachi answered they had robbed Him in tithes and offerings (3:8,9). They had not brought the tithes that God had commanded. Even while giving offerings to God, Israel had robbed Him by offering the lame and sick (1:8). He charged them with offering God things that they would not offer a secular ruler (1:8). When they refused to offer what rightfully belonged to God, they were robbing Him. Malachi further reminded them of God's promise to bless them materially if they would only first give to Him (3:10-12).

We need to consider this same question. Will a man rob God? It is common to hear Christians justify their lack of generosity to God by saying that Jesus or the apostles never commanded us to tithe. That is true, but that does not mean that we are not commanded to give. "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Christ had much to say concerning possessions. Close to half of His recorded sayings concern man and his possessions. In Luke 21 He observed some rich men giving their offerings to the Lord. He also saw a poor widow who contributed two mites. A mite was the smallest Jewish coin in circulation and was worth very little. In comparison to the relatively large amounts contributed by the rich, it was insignificant. Yet, Jesus commended her by saying that she had given more than everyone, because she gave all she had (21:3,4). Why was she willing to give so much? Obviously it was given out of love. Her gift was small, but her love was great.

The poor widow is not the only liberal giver in the New Testament. In 2 Corinthians 8 the apostle Paul commended the Macedonia Christians for generously giving to help the afflicted Christians in Jerusalem. These Macedonians were described by Paul as being in affliction and deep poverty (8:2). Those words carry the idea of being about as deep in poverty as you can get. One commentator described it as "rock bottom poverty." Yet in spite of their poverty they gave liberally. Paul even though they had given too much! Imagine this! These Gentiles gave generously to help some poor Jews, most of whom initially did not want to even accept them! Why did they give so generously? They gave because of their great love for God and appreciation for what He had done for them. They gave generously because they "...first gave their own selves to the Lord" (2 Corinthians 8:5).

Why do we give? We do not give to accomplish a great work. If that was true,

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"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells in him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise..."  
Daniel 2:20b-23a



# The Value of Training—Part One

Considering the real value of our previous training is essential for our future success. By this I do not mean that we should toss aside all that we have learned but rather that we should grow to have a greater appreciation for spiritual training—at least when it truly follows the model of Jesus Christ. In today’s society, people value schooling more than perhaps any other time in human history. Following the Great Depression, pushing children to attend college became a much promoted solution to economic woes was considered the key to success. But training and education encompasses far more than preparing for a particular career. The education and training that proves most valuable is that which prepares you for life, of which your career can only be a part. However, few people give significant thought to the spiritual training they receive for life, and that is truly a shame because it is the foundation for every other part of life. More than that, it is the preparation for life beyond this life. It matters. But it will only accomplish great things when we begin valuing it as we should.

Spiritual training determines the faithfulness and abilities of the next generation. The apostle Paul understood this. Writing to his own protégé, Timothy, he said, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim.

2:1-2). All of us needed someone to take the time to teach us, guide us, correct us, mold us, and point us in the direction of further study and growth. We need someone to show us the flaws in our reasoning, to lead us to a greater understanding of scripture, and to challenge us when we begin to plateau. These are essential for growth; therefore, they should be essential parts of our training. Yet we rarely appreciate them at the time. We get comfortable with our assumptions, with our ignorance, and with our immaturity because we do not recognize them for what they are. Therefore, we must recognize the value of solid training and reflect on its power to remake us in the image of God’s Son (Rom. 8:29).

But sometimes disciples grow lax, insisting that others learn and grow while forgetting to do so themselves. If disciples focus on the ignorance of the world and the immaturity of young Christians, these can quickly become a standard by which they measure themselves. However, Jesus’ own words offer a gentle reminder: “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Lk. 6:40). A Christian’s training will have the appropriate impact only when he continually looks to Christ as his model. Thus, assessing the value of our training is not simply the reflection on what we learned in the past but also the consideration of how well we are prepared to grow in the future.

*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 7/20:** Deut. 24-27

**Monday 7/21:** Deut. 28-29

**Tuesday 7/22:** Deut. 30-31

**Wednesday 7/23:** Deut. 32-34

**Psalm 91**

**Thursday 7/24:** Joshua 1-4

**Friday 7/25:** Joshua 5-8

**Saturday 7/26:** Joshua 9-11

*“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)*



**Visitation Meeting**

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **33 contacts** were made.

**Special Announcements**

- ◆ If you have not received a copy of "Search The Bible: A Study Guide of God's Plan for Man," ask Allen Griffith for a copy. Allen has challenged each of us to go through this study on our own. Take up the challenge. You just might learn something!
- ◆ We need to get pictures of Susan Bridges, Justin Waldrip and Daphne Escamilla. Please see Tom Wilcox.
- ◆ If you have updates / information for the bulletin, please have them to Johnny by noon on Fridays, if possible.

**Upcoming Events**

- ◆ **July 27—Ice Cream Social** after evening service at the home of Earlene Burge & Jessica Stultz. Bring ice cream or snacks and enjoy a time of fellowship.
- ◆ **August 12—Summer Youth Series**—Wes McAdams from Baker Heights in Abilene will be our guest speaker.
- ◆ **October 5-8—Fall Gospel Meeting** "The Scheme of Redemption"

**In The Area**

- ◆ **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. 6-8 **VBS @ Hamilton**—"Whole Armor of God" Classes for cradle roll thru adult
- ◆ Sept. 27 **Annual Auction @ Cherokee Home for Children** (Requested donation list on bulletin board)

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most of us would not give anything, because we cannot give enough by ourselves to accomplish very much. We give for the glory and honor of God. We give because of our great love for God, and we simply express that love in our giving. If we give little, then our love and trust in God is correspondingly small. God's love for us is greater than we can comprehend; therefore, how can we stand before God having little love in our hearts?

How much should we give? The Jews gave more than 10%. That was really just the starting point. Most Christians think they are poor. Of course, that is a very relative term. The amount we give is dependent upon how God has prospered us. The poor widow had nothing left after she gave. The Macedonians gave even while in deep poverty. We should never use the excuse of being poor to justify our lack of generosity. God looks upon the heart and judges us, not just on the size of our gift, but on how we have been blessed. Paul aptly stated this principle in 2 Corinthians 9:6,7: *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."*

When we give ourselves to the Lord, how much we should give is not a big question. We give all we can, sometimes even more than others might think we should. After all, if we have really given ourselves, then God already has everything anyway. God has promise to bless us if we first give to Him. Jesus said, *"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you"* (Luke 6:38) This is not a promise of prosperity, but simply trusting in God to bless us with the things we need in this life.

Will a man rob God? That is a serious question, and the answer is just as relevant today as it was in Malachi's day. I doubt any Christian consciously thinks he is robbing God. However, when we fail to give as God intended, that is exactly what we are doing. Don't be guilty of robbing God!

*Jerry Bates*

*The Voice of Truth International, vol. 76, pp. 11-13*

**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**

	July 6, 2014	July 13, 2014
Bible Class	56	42
AM Worship	72	63
PM Worship	48	44
Wednesday PM	49	41
Contribution	\$2,007	\$1,846

# Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 7/20/14	Next Week: 7/27/14	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		John Barnum Family	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		John Barnum	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas*, James Fuller Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis John McCaghren, Hank Wheeler	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis		Billy Chism	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Caleb Dennis		Chase Churchwell	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith		Don Smith	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler		Garrett Barnum	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas		Joe Dennis	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith		Don Smith	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	July 23 Allen Griffith	July 30 Singing Night	August 6 Tom Wilcox	August 13 Kevin Wilcox

**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

# 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of July 20, 2014</b>		Sunday Class ..... Being A Member of the Body of Christ
		Wednesday Class ..... Mark 12-13
<p><b>Studies in Luke—The Parable of the Minas—19:11-27</b>                      Jesus tells this parable at Zacchaeus' house in Jericho. Jesus is nearing the end of his journey to Jerusalem. As he nears Jerusalem, speculation is running wild. Many expect Him to set up an earthly kingdom and overthrow the Romans. Thus, Jesus told this parable, "because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately" (11).</p> <p>◆ <b>The Parable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three primary characters or groups of characters                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ A nobleman—"went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return" (12)</li> <li>◦ Ten servants—each received the same amount of money (1 mina—3 months wages) and the instruction, "engage in business until I come" (13)</li> <li>◦ The citizens who lived in the nobleman's region—"We do not want this man to reign over us" (14)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two primary conflicts                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The citizens with the nobleman being made ruler over them.</li> <li>◦ The nobleman's servants.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>◆ <b>The Interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The characters                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The nobleman—a figure of Christ</li> <li>◦ The servants of the nobleman—the disciples of Christ</li> <li>◦ The citizens—the Jews who rejected Christ</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The conflicts                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Nobleman's servants—what are we doing with the things entrusted to us? (time, money, the Gospel, family, friends, etc.)</li> <li>◦ Citizens—the Jews destruction in 70 A.D., with a further application to the final judgment of all who reject Him.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p><b>Daniel 2—Dream-Image of Nebuchadnezzar—Part 1 (1-23)</b>  <b>Daniel's Prudence, Prayer, Power &amp; Promotion</b></p> <p>◆ <b>Nebuchadnezzar's troublesome dream and summoning of the wise men (1-16)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The king's dreaming of dreams and troubled spirit—magicians called (1-6)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The king's entire staff of wise men are summoned</li> <li>◦ "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream" (3)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The wise men's second appeal and protest (7-12)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The wise men are "trying to gain time" in order to defer the fatal moment of the king's judgment (7-9)</li> <li>◦ The wise men's fervent non-availing protest (10-12)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The king's decree of death upon all the wise men includes Daniel and his three companions (13-16)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Search for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach &amp; Abed-nego (13)</li> <li>◦ Daniel's counsel and prudent response (14-16)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>◆ <b>Daniel's petition and praise to the providing God (17-23)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plea for mercy—"Then the mystery was revealed" (17-19a)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Daniel requests his friends petition God of heaven for "mercy"</li> <li>◦ Daniel's friends beseech the "God of heaven"</li> <li>◦ "Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel" (19)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prayer of thankfulness—"Blessed be the name of God forever" (19b-23)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The theme of this prayer of praise is The Wisdom &amp; Power of God</li> <li>◦ Daniel's reasons for why the name of God should be eternally blessed—His Wisdom and Might</li> <li>◦ By mentioning the attributes, Daniel distinguishes between the True God and the idols of Babylon</li> </ul> </li> </ul>