

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



August 31, 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.

The Truth About "Safe Sin"

According to the name I scribbled on the page, the two quotes that follow are from the pen of Mike Jackson. He says: I like coming up with oxymorons. These are expressions or statements which are apparently self-contradictory but make a point nonetheless. Some examples are: 'cruel kindness,' 'heavy lightness.' And some on the lighter note include: 'clean dirt,' and 'tough love.' As a rule, these words just do not go together.

I shall add another one to the list, 'safe sin.' Please let me explain. These are 'good' sins (there's another one). Acceptable sins, sins that are laughed about! If put to a vote, these would be removed from the list of sins altogether.

It is obvious that the world in which we live would like nothing better than to vote certain "sins" out of the realm of sinfulness! Our government evidently decided long ago that it would become the expert on sin, and now it informs us about the so-called "social ills" of society. The psychologists and sociologists have influenced most folks more than the Bible, thus, sin has now become a disorder, a disease, a fault of one's own heredity, etc. Never mind that the inspired Word of God says that sin is "lawlessness" (ASV) or "transgression of the law" (KJV) (cf. 1 John 3:4)! It does not matter with most that they must ignore the fact that the Bible declares, "*the wages of sin is death*" (Rom. 6:23). And, since some one or some thing can always be conveniently blamed for one's acts and condition, it would be unthinkable to think "*the soul that sinneth, it shall die*" (Ezek. 18:20). Since, according to worldly wisdom on human behavior, changes must continually occur in the way folks think and act, it would be a total surprise to learn that the Bible states, "*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven*" (Psa. 119:89). In other words, sin has always been just that, sin, and always will be! Nothing that man can do or say will change this Biblical truth. At the great Day of Judgment, every soul will be reminded that Christ compassionately warned, "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day*" (John 12:48).

The world has indeed "done a number" on most people's thinking. How many people do you know who simply smile upon hearing a filthy joke? What about one eagerly listening to another tell of their sinful encounter? How often do you hear of someone referring to a person's sinful action as "cute?" Or, one may exclaim, "It's just the way that boys/girls are today." Another boldly declares, "We are living in the 2000s, not the 30s or 40s." Someone else says, "society has changed," as if such an explanation makes sin acceptable today. The wisdom of the world would have one believe that the passage of time changes everything. Such is the devil's lie. There is no truth in what Satan says (cf. John 8:44). God never changes (Malachi 3:6), and His word/truth will never "pass away" (Mark 13:31).

From the beginning of time, sin has been the problem of man (Gen. 3:1-19, 22-24). It is sin that separates one from God. Isaiah recorded, "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid [his] face from you, that he will not hear*" (59:1-2). Sin will not change, and neither will the truth that sin separates one from God change! People who commit the sins this world has deemed to be "normal" and "acceptable behavior," glamorous and exciting, will one day learn "*that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*" (Gal. 5:21).

Listen carefully, no matter what one chooses to believe, there is no such thing as "safe sin!" The high price of sin is the devil's best-kept secret! Sin is always costly, but the devil will attempt to

(Continued on page 3)

"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man" Luke 21:34-36



The Facts Concerning Jesus' Sacrifice

Giving up what is valuable is called a sacrifice. However, in order for a sacrifice to be of any merit, the one sacrificing must experience the effects of that which is given up. When God sacrificed His Son for our sins, He viewed our spiritual condition to be important; thus the life of His Son was offered. Paul demonstrated this point to the Corinthians: *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin"* (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus became that propitiation or satisfaction the Lord God needed in order to be appeased (1 John 2:2).

In the Old Testament, the sacrifices of bulls and goats were required for the sins of the people. Furthermore, at times they were even commanded to offer bloodless sacrifices unto God for His appeasement (Lev.1-4). However, these sacrifices (under the Mosaic system) were never intended to take away sin; they were to be used until the sacrifice of Christ (Heb. 10:1-10). In addition, the sacrifices of old could not cleanse the conscience from the guilt of sin; hence, the sacrifice of Christ was necessary (Heb. 9:9; 14-15). Therefore, the question must be proposed, "How does a sinful man approach a Holy God?" The answer: through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This is the only way to the Father for life (John 14.6).

There are many facts concerning the sacrifice of Christ. His sacrifice was a sweet savor to the Lord (Eph. 5.2). This statement is paramount. What Jesus freely did for mankind was unprecedented and must not be overlooked. Jesus always did that which pleased the Father, so God made Him our Lord and Christ (Acts 2.36). This was not an afterthought—God knew man was going to sin and responded to the dreadful act instead of reacting. His sacrifice was determined before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Unlike Old Testament sacrifices, His was offered once for all time for sin (Heb. 9:12, 10:12). Upon completion, the Lord was raised from the dead and appeared to many for forty days (1 Cor. 15). Because of His obedience to God, He ascended to the Father and was given existence at the right hand of God (Dan. 7:13-14; Heb. 1:3).

Furthermore, Jesus, *"though he was rich, yet for [our] sakes he became poor, that [we] through his poverty might be rich"* (2 Cor. 8:9). He gave up the glories of heaven and became man to identify with us (Phil. 2:5-11). He endured the hardship of a mock trial and unwarranted scourging, not because of any sin He ever committed, but because of ours (Matt. 26:47-27:56).

Jesus was that sacrificial Lamb spoken of by Isaiah the prophet. He was the One smitten by God and afflicted before the foundation of the world (53:4-5). Peter lets us know in no uncertain terms that He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. This alone tells of the mindset of Christ. Imagine taking on the offences of those who were not concerned for your welfare. This was heart-wrenching to our Lord, as was seen in the Garden of Gethsemane as He was praying earnestly to the Father in heaven (Matt. 26:36-46).

Many would ask, "Why is this important?" Jesus became our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7). Just as in the days of the Egyptians, when the Lord had the Israelites put blood upon the doorpost for their deliverance, Jesus' sacrifice ensures us of forgiveness and cleansing from sin when we are immersed into Christ (Ex. 12:21-30; Heb. 9:14-15). Consider this, the families during the time before the Exodus had to pick out a lamb, kill it, roast it, and place the blood in the proper place according to God's standard. When God saw the blood, He would then pass over. God chose His own Passover Lamb in the person of Christ, and when He sees the blood that came from His Son's side, then He is appeased (Ex. 12:13; John 19:34).

In closing, let us never forget what the Lord did for us some two thousand years ago when He bore our sins in His body upon the tree (1 Pet. 2:24-25). A scourging that should have killed Him before He made it to the cross became our entryway to glory and ultimately eternal life. We can truly say, *"By His stripes we are healed."* Even though our Lord was badly beaten, even though He was struggling from every emotion imaginable, He teaches us a valuable lesson in His sacrifice: have the will to make it to the end despite the opposition, the suffering, and the stress. One is brought to tears when considering the entirety of what the Lord went through in order for us to have an opportunity for eternal life. Jesus gave self up for that which was greater—our salvation. Jesus taught us about true sacrifice and how it hurts at times in order that others may benefit. Jesus teaches us, that it is okay to bear the wrong for the right reason. Jesus teaches us, how to please the Superior One—God. And finally, Jesus teaches us that God has the final say and He will exalt the righteous in due time.

Mike Bonner

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 Reading Schedule

Aug. 31 Ezek. 16-17

Sept. 1 Ezek. 18-19

Sept. 2 Ezek. 20-21

Sept. 3 Ezek. 22-23

Sept. 4 Ezek. 24-27

Sept. 5 Ezek. 28-31

Sept. 6 Ezek. 32-34

"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)



Grape—"Knowing the Will of God." Flyer on bulletin board.

- ◆ Sept. 20 **Ladies Day @ 5th & Grape**—"The Will of God: Unity of the Sisterhood." Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Sept. 27 **Annual Auction @ Cherokee Home for Children** (Requested donation list on bulletin board)
- ◆ Sept. 28 **Michael Shank** (Author of "Muscle and a Shovel") @ **Hico**. Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Oct. 2-4 **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**. Information & registration forms are on the bulletin board.

Visitation Meeting

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

Special Announcements

- ◆ ***** **Ladies** ***** If you plan to attend the **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**, Cindy needs your completed registration form and \$70 registration fee **today!** All of our ladies who are able are highly encouraged to attend. You will be glad you did!!!
- ◆ Study sheets are available for Daniel Chapter 7, Part 1.
- ◆ If you have updates / information for the bulletin, please have them to Johnny by noon on Fridays, if possible.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Sept. 27**—Ladies Fellowship at Jessica Stultz / Earlene Burge's home. More details to come.
- ◆ **October 5-8**—Fall Gospel Meeting Speaker: Johnny McCaghren, Theme: "The Scheme of Redemption"

In The Area

- ◆ Sept. 13 **Ladies Day @ Hamilton**—"Being at Peace" Mona Popejoy. Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Sept. 19-21 **26th Annual Bible Lectureship @ 5th &**

(Continued from page 1)

disguise the high price that one will pay for sinful living. Yes, one can live in sin! The apostle Paul notes, "*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them*" (Col. 3:5-7).

One will do well to never forget that God's word is true (John 17:17). God's Word also "*abideth for ever*" (1 Peter 1:25). Jesus Christ, the One who came to save the world (Luke 19:10), will at His next coming judge the world (Rom. 2:16). At that great day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, "*Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*" (Phil. 2:10-11).

Keep in mind there is no "safe sin." All will one day not be accountable to worldly wisdom, but they will "*give account to him that is ready to judge the living and the dead*" (1 Peter 4:5).

Marvin Weir, via *Seek The Old Paths*, Oct., 2013

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: James Fuller (6), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28), Jimmy Seale (29).

August Anniversaries: Jack & Joyce Hill (10).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 17, 2014	Aug. 24, 2014
Bible Class	43	49
AM Worship	62	69
PM Worship	40	42
Wednesday PM	33	34
Contribution	NA	\$1,533

		This Week: 8/31/14	Next Week: 9/7/14		August 2014 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Cindy Fuller Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox September 2014 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich			
Opening Prayer	James Thomas		Joe Dennis			
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Griffith, John McCaghren		Hank Wheeler*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, James Fuller			
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister		Tom Wilcox			
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis		Chase Churchwell			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller		Mike Bannister			
Scripture Reading	Don Smith		Allen Griffith			
Communion	Ken Maninger		Hank Wheeler			
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism		Ken Maninger			
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 3 Joe Dennis	September 10 Allen Griffith	September 17 Johnny McCaghren	September 24 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 August 31, 2014	Sunday Class Unity in the Body of Christ Wednesday Class Mark 14-15
<p>Studies in Luke—Days of Vengeance—Chapter 21</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Since Luke 19:45, we have found Jesus in Jerusalem teaching in the temple daily. ◆ The Jewish leaders had used every scheme they could think of to entrap Him in His words, but at every turn were outwitted and embarrassed. ◆ As Jesus' disciples admired the beauty of the temple, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down" They responded, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" ◆ Parallel texts are found in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. <p>The Destruction of Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First, Jesus warns them not to be led astray. ◆ Then, He lists a number of other signs. ◆ But persecution would arise even before the precursory signs. ◆ With the word "but" in v. 20, Jesus changes from precursory signs to immediate signs. ◆ The Parable of the Fig Tree ◆ Jesus warns them to take heed to His words. <p>Observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some readers become confused by the language in vs. 25-28. ◆ Consider other passages containing the same kind of language (cosmic symbolism): Isa. 13:6-10; 19:1; 34:3,4; Ezek. 32:7,8; Joel 2:1,2,28ff. ◆ God is using the same language as Isaiah and other prophets describing a nation that is about to be snuffed out. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jesus here deals with the "days of vengeance" - the destruction of Israel - a day the Christians must be prepared for to avoid the destruction. ◆ What about "the day of vengeance"? Christians must be prepared to avoid the destruction. Are you prepared? 	<p>Daniel 6—Daniel and the Den of Lions: Kept by Faith Conspiracy—A Devilish Design (1-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Daniel's faultlessness and faithfulness (1-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Darius and his three "high officials" of which Daniel was one. ◆ Daniel "became distinguished above all the other(s)..." because of the "excellent spirit" that was in him. ◆ Determination of fellow officials (4-9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They sought to find fault with Daniel concerning "the kingdom." ◆ They sought to find fault with Daniel "in connection with the law of his God" ◆ The foolish act is done by King Darius, who will regret it shortly, and grieve that he has made such an irrevocable law. <p>Calumny—A Deceiving Defamation (10-18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Daniel's praying exposed (10-15) ◆ Daniel's punishment executed (16-18) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The king's dilemma. ◆ The king's decree upheld—Daniel cast into the den of lions. <p>Confidence—A Deliverer for Daniel (19-24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preservation of faithful Daniel (19-23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The king's emotion and concern. ◆ The prophet's reply ◆ The prophet's faith ◆ The prophet's deliverance ◆ Punishment of fault-seeking conspirators (24) <p>Commandment—Darius' Decree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Daniel's God praised (25-27) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Darius does not rise above polytheism, but does acknowledge Daniel's God to be above other gods. ◆ Daniel's God prospers his servant (28) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Just as Daniel had prospered under Nebuchadnezzar, he continues to prosper under the Medo-Persian kings. Why? He walks by faith.