

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



October 12, 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.10:00 AM
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.



You may have heard the phrase, "Restoration Movement" or you may have heard people say we need to "restore New Testament Christianity" or "restore the New Testament church." You may or may not know what people mean by these phrases; and you may or

may not see a need for "restoration."

I cannot speak for anyone but myself, but I want to lay out what I mean when I speak of "restoring the New Testament church."

Before I talk about restoring the New Testament church, I want to define the terms.

1. The New Testament

The New Testament, in a nutshell, is this true story:

- Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth (see John 1:1-14).
- He chose apostles (see Matthew 10).
- He taught and modeled a perfect life in the presence of His apostles (see Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 2:1-6).
- He died for our sins, was buried in a tomb, and miraculously rose from the dead (see 1 Corinthians 15:3,4)
- He ascended up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (see Acts 1:9; Hebrews 10:12).
- He sent the Holy Spirit – on the Day of Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem – to empower His apostles to do miracles and teach the world what it means to be a disciple of Jesus (see Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 16:13; Acts 2).
- 3,000 people became forgiven disciples of Christ on that day, by being baptized into Christ (see Acts 2).
- These new disciples – or Christians as they were later called – devoted themselves to the inspired teaching of the apostles, so they could learn how to follow Jesus (see Acts 2:42).
- The apostles – directly led by the Holy Spirit – went around the world teaching people everything they needed to know about living a Christian life (see the books of Acts-Revelation).

The New Testament is a collection of Holy Spirit inspired writings that tell this story and **everything** mankind needs to know to be a follower of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

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"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

Hebrews 11:1-3

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2. The Church

The word “church” is translated from the Greek word in the New Testament, “ekklesia,” which means, “assembly.” It refers both to the world-wide body of all Christians (Ephesians 5:25-27) and to the single local “assembly” of Christians (Acts 11:22).

The book of Acts is a historical record of how Christianity spread and churches were established throughout the known-world. The New Testament epistles were written mostly by the apostle Paul and written mostly to local churches. These letters contain Jesus’ instructions – through Paul – about how these churches should function. They contain explicit and implicit instructions about collective worship, church leadership structure, church discipline, and many other issues with which these first century churches dealt.

The New Testament paints a very clear picture that the church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27), the body of Christ (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12), and Christ purchased her with his blood (Acts 20:28). He cares very much about how the church functions when they are assembled together and when they are living their individual lives.

3. Restoration in the First Century

When instructions are given to any group of people, there will inevitably be deviation from those instructions. This happened in the first century church. Christians deviated in small and large ways from the instructions they had originally been given by the apostles. A good portion of Paul’s writings were devoted to correcting these deviations and getting churches back on track (see 1 Corinthians 11:20-23 and Galatians 1:6-9).

This is the idea of restoration. “**Restoration**” is the act of **returning something to its former condition**. But sadly, restoration is almost always short-lived. Paul warned that Christians would continue to deviate further and further from their original instructions (2 Timothy 4:3-4):

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from

listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

In every generation, to keep people from deviating – and to restore them when they deviate – men of God must, “*Preach **the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching*” (2 Timothy 4:2, emph. mine).

4. Restoration in the Twenty-First Century

Over the centuries, there have been numerous deviations from the instructions of the New Testament. Some of these deviations have been in theological doctrines, some have been in worship practices, and some have been in what is seen as acceptable Christian behavior. The answer for correcting these deviations is what it has always been, preach the word and bring about restoration.

What Should be Restored and What Shouldn’t?

Of course this presents several difficulties. Not the least of which, is separating the practices which were incidental to the first century church from those things which the Lord meant for His church to practice until the end of time. I believe this is possible. And I believe the Lord expects us to do this. He has given us His word as a guide and a mind to reason through every issue.

Arguments Against Restoration

Many argue, however, that we shouldn’t even try to restore the practices of the New Testament church. They argue that all of those instructions were specific to the Christians of that time and have no application for us today. I would like to ask, “If the instructions given to the first-century church are not applicable today, how can we be sure that *anything* from Scripture is applicable today?” If we shouldn’t teach New Testament worship, then why should we teach New Testament salvation through Jesus Christ?

The New Testament may have been written to other people under other circumstances, but if we cannot make some sort of application of all of it, then we cannot make application of any of it. We cannot treat the New Testament as a smorgasbord, taking the things we like and leaving the things we don’t. We must use the logical and reasonable mind that God gave us to determine in what way every passage of the New

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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 Reading Schedule

Oct. 12 Mt. 11
Oct. 13 Mt. 12:22-50; Lk. 11
Oct. 14 Mt. 13; Lk. 8
Oct. 15 Mt. 8:14-34; Mk. 4-5
Oct. 16 Mt. 9-10
Oct. 17 Mt. 14; Mk. 6; Lk. 9:1-17
Oct. 18 John 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)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **28 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ A big thank you to everyone who helped to make our Gospel Meeting a success. The subject and material was well received. In addition to the numbers below, we had 65 Monday evening and 69 Tuesday evening. We had visitors from Abilene, Bangs, Cisco, Coleman, Cross Plains, Deleon, Hamilton and Rising Star—as well as several from Brownwood.

In The Area

This Week:

- ◆ Oct. 18-19 **5th Annual “Back to the Bible” Lectures @ Hamilton**—*“Moral Issues Facing Our Nation and the Lord’s Church”*

Upcoming:

- ◆ Oct. 25 **Ladies Day @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo) - *“Prov. 4:23: Footsteps of the heart, Leaving Footprints of Truth”* Gina Braswell
- ◆ Nov. **9-12 12th Annual Schertz Lectures**—*“Studies in the Minor Prophets”*
- ◆ Nov. 15-16 **1st Annual TheGospelRadioNetwork.org Lectureship @ Mt. Vernon & via Internet**—*“The Good News...”*
- ◆ Nov. 23-26 **Gospel Meeting @ Bangs**—*“The Church Moving Forward”* Tom Moore

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Testament applies to us today.

People also argue that the New Testament church wasn't perfect, so it shouldn't be used as a pattern for today. Obviously, as was pointed out earlier, at times the first century church deviated from their original instructions and needed restoration. It isn't their deviations after which we should pattern ourselves, but after the inspired instructions they were given by the apostles.

Restoration of More Than Just Practices

Restoration isn't just about restoring the **practices** of the New Testament, it is also about restoring the **principles** of the New Testament. Deviating from the New Testament's instructions on love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) are greater sins than deviating from the New Testament's instructions on worship practices. That is not to say that either can be neglected without consequence. We must pay careful attention to ourselves and allow ourselves to be admonished and restored when we deviate in any way.

When Will Restoration be Complete?

When can it be said that we have successfully restored New Testament Christianity? The answer is, as soon as we all stop deviating from the instructions of the New Testament. And I don't know about you, but I'm involved in a constant battle to restore my own heart, mind, and practices to what they ought to be. I'm thankful for the grace of God, because I'm a work in progress; the restoration of my life is still ongoing.

Restoration is both an individual and a collective pursuit. May we never stop preaching the restoration of biblical principles and biblical practices in every area of our lives. May we never stop doing our best to *“walk in the same way in which he walked”* (1 John 2:6) and follow the apostles, as they followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Wes McAdams, via radicallychristian.com

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7) Joe Maninger (12), Sarah Evetts (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), Lucille Stout (24), Phyllis Hooper (26).

October Anniversaries: Stormy & Juanita Barnum (25), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Sept. 28, 2014	Oct. 5, 2014
Bible Class	44	54
AM Worship	61	76
PM Worship	46	50
Wednesday PM	32	41
Contribution	\$1,874	\$2,134

	This Week: 10/12/14	Next Week: 10/19/14		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	October 2014 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox November 2014 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Greeters	Gene & Barbara Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Communion	James Thomas*, John Barnum Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Gene Bannister*, James Fuller John McCaghren, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
Communion	James Thomas	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 15 Joe Dennis	October 22 Allen Griffith	October 29 Singing Night	November 5 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 October 12, 2014	Sunday Class Acts 1:4ff
	Wednesday Class Mark 16

Faith & Evidence

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
 Faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped for.
 Faith is the evidence [conviction] of things not seen.

I. A Law

A. The law of rationality says that one should draw only such conclusions as are warranted by the evidence.

B. To be rational simply means that one honors the law of rationality – one draws only such conclusions as are warranted by the evidence.

II. A Leap

A. Although it is the case that the Bible teaches Christian faith is rational, and God does not ask us to believe anything for which He does not give us sufficient evidence, some today claim that faith is irrational.

B. The Bible teaches that faith comes from the sufficient evidence provided by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

C. Where there is no revelation (evidence) from God there can be no true faith in God.

III. A Lesson

A. A lesson in John 20:24-31 applies the connection of faith and evidence.

B. Faith does not always mean the absence of sight.

- Sometimes faith and sight are contrasted (2 Cor. 5:7).
- However, the incident with regard to Thomas implies there can be faith where there is sight.
- However, there can also be faith where there is no sight.

C. How do those who have not seen come to faith?

Conclusion

There is an essential connection between Biblically approved faith and evidence.
 Luke wrote Theophilus so he could "know the certainty... those things" (1:4)

The Seventy Sevens – The Response to Daniel's Prayer (9:24-27)

I. Revelation of God 24-27

A. The "seventy weeks" defined. (24)

B. The "seventy sevens" purpose. (24)

- The purposed results noted:
 - "To finish the transgression,"
 - "To put an end to sin,"
 - "To atone for iniquity,"
 - "To bring in everlasting righteousness,"
 - "To seal both vision and prophet" and
 - "To anoint a most holy place."

C. The "seventy sevens" purposed accomplishments examined (24)

- The six-fold results scrutinized.
- Summary: The relationship of the "seventy sevens" and the six-fold results:
 - The six terms are all Messianic.
 - This fact settles the ending boundary date of the prophecy.
 - The six-fold results refer to the Lord's first advent as Messiah.

D. The "seventy sevens" three divisions. (25-27)

- The period is divided as follows:
 - Seven sevens
 - Sixty-two sevens
 - One seven
- The three divisions noted.
 - The "seven sevens" and "sixty-two sevens" are noted together.
 - "After the 62 Sevens." (26-27)
 - The termination of the 70th seven occurrence.
 - The emphasis of the prophecy is not on the end (or the beginning for that matter) but upon the great and wonderful events that would happen therein.