

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 26, 2014

Contact Us:

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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.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.

Peace in a World of Unrest

Virtually every year, during the Miss America, Miss Universe, Miss USA, or Miss Whatever pageant, there is that one contestant who is asked, "What is your dream for mankind?" And the standard response is, "World peace."

We live in a world where conflict and turmoil are around every corner. The television, the radio, the newspapers; virtually every media outlet is saturated with school shootings, terrorist attacks, civil unrest in foreign countries, rape, kidnapping, and the like. Is peace even a possibility in such an unstable environment? Most would agree that peace is a valued commodity, so why is it so elusive? In order to capture peace, we must know precisely what it is we are pursuing.

Look up the word *peace* in any standard dictionary and you will find a definition similar to this one: "Peace is the normal, nonwarring condition of a nation, group of nations, or the world. It is an agreement or treaty between warring or antagonistic nations, groups, etc., to end hostilities and abstain from further fighting or antagonism. It is a state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations."

The worldview of peace is the absence of conflict or turmoil. It is the lack of trouble, hardship or crisis. Peace is often synonymous with comfort and tranquility because these are the by-products of peace. However, the dictionary does not do the concept of peace justice. For the truest definition of peace, we must go to a higher source—the Word of God.

Biblical peace is not the absence of all trouble. Biblical peace is the presence of God. Peace comes from trusting that God is in control. It is produced when we surrender fully to God and succumb wholeheartedly to His will. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7). Paul wrote these words from a dark, damp prison cell. Though behind bars, peace was not elusive for Paul because he trusted in the One who was in control.

We, too, can experience the peace that surpasses all comprehension. We have been granted access to this peace. True peace is found in Jesus Christ. Christ died to overcome the world and to bring us peace. In fact, He is referred to as *The Prince of Peace* (Isa. 9:6). Take note of His words in The Gospel of John: "These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world (John 16:33)." What a glorious thought and a profound promise that our Lord has won the victory over worldly strife. In Him, we also have victory, and that should bring us peace.

Do you have peace? If not, then seek the source. Don't be held hostage by conflict and turmoil. Rise victorious!

Chris McCurley, (via start2finish.org/peace-world-unrest/)

"How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell... It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

James 3:5-10



Apologetics—What’s at Stake

In his book, *Why Religion Matters*, Huston Smith, contrasted the worldview that believes God is the ultimate reality with the view of secular materialism that believes there is no reality (no God) beyond the physical universe—the physical laws of nature and the chemical properties of matter.

Truly serious minded people—those concerned about evidence—will recognize the importance of thinking about the implications of these two major worldviews. The opening chapter of *The Epistle of Paul to the Romans* not only answers the question concerning what is at stake regarding the implications of these two worldviews, but this chapter (Romans 1:18-32) is as great a statement about this issue that is available to humans.

The late Dr. Thomas B. Warren summarized the content of these powerful verses (Romans 1:18ff) in his 1978 debate on the existence of God with philosophy professor Wallace Matson of the University of California (Berkeley). Warren said, “In Romans 1:18 and following, after Paul made clear that the evidence of God is right before the eyes of everyone...[he] then showed, in regard to those who turned away from God, three times in that chapter...‘God gave them up’ in giving a list of the terrible and heinous crimes that were committed (cf. *Warren-Matson Debate* 310,312). The loss of God from the mind of man—“...[T]hey refused to have God in their knowledge...” (Romans 1:28) - results in “the loss of God in the life of man” (Robertson, *Word Pictures of the New Testament*, Vol. 4, 331).

Paul wrote, “...[T]heir foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:21). *Foolish* is the Greek word **asunetos**—an adjective derived from the verb, *sunieimi*. The noun (*sunesis*) refers to “putting together the facts and information and drawing conclusions and seeing relationships” (Rogers and Rogers, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*, 460). Robertson says they were “not able to put together the manifest evidence about God” (329). Lard states that they either argued from false premises or “conducted the process

amiss” (i.e. invalid argumentation) and either, or both, results in “unwarrantable conclusions...[T]hey became foolish. This could not have happened had their reasonings been sound’ (*Romans*, 54).

Some today claim that the belief that God is the ultimate creator of all things is detrimental to human society and the advance of science. Former NASA scientist, Dr. Nobie Stone, disagrees. Stone, who serves as deacon and Bible class teacher with Mayfair Church of Christ, Huntsville, AL, argues in a recent book that this is really not about science. It is about this battle between faith in science (scientism) and faith in God (theism). He says, “The difference is critical. It is the difference between a Christian society and a godless society. It is the difference between a life of purpose and hope, and a life of emptiness and despair.”

Stone, whose experimental research with certain aspects of orbiting space crafts is internationally recognized, writes, “Those who embrace a materialistic worldview claim...this understanding somehow liberates us and enriches our lives. Yet, ironically, the very claims they make undermine any purpose or value of life...[I]f man was not created on purpose, then he has no purpose. If we are here as the result of a grand and complex accident then, by definition, we are not here on purpose and life has no inherent value or meaning. This is the ultimate conclusion if materialism is true, and this distorted view is having a tragic effect on society. It is ironic, but telling, that in such an affluent and free society that offers almost unlimited opportunity, one of the highest causes of death among its young people is suicide” (*Genesis 1 and Lessons from Space: Faith, Reason, and Nature*, xiii-xiv).

Yes—the stakes are very high. Romans 1:18-32 makes this obvious. The present effect that materialism is having on society just makes it more obvious. Moral collapse follows spiritual collapse.

Charles C. Pugh III
(via *Publishing Peace*, vol. 10 no. 9, p. 3)

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
Gbnv.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. 26	Lk. 12-13
Oct. 27	Lk. 14-15
Oct. 28	Luke 16-17:10
Oct. 29	John 11
Oct. 30	Luke 17:11-18:14
Oct. 31	Mt. 19; Mk. 10
Nov. 1	Mt. 20-21

“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 **34 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **Next Sunday: First Sunday Fellowship Meal** and Elders, Deacons & Preacher Meeting.
- ◆ We will be beginning a new class on **Personal Evangelism** on Wednesday evening, November 5th. Be planning for and praying for this class.

In The Area

- ◆ 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. 21-22 **Marriage Seminar @ Dripping Springs**— “*Put Your House in Order*” David & Tracie Shannon (Preregistration required at <http://dschurchofchrist.com/marriage-seminar/>)
- ◆ Nov. 23-26 **Gospel Meeting @ Bangs**— “*The Church Moving Forward*” Tom Moore

The Hypocrite

It came up again in a conversation between, for want of a better term, a conservative member of our fellowship and a more liberal one. The liberal brother was explaining that he no longer believed in the “argument from silence.” Then he made that statement that really caught my attention: “I believe the church of Christ has been hypocritical down through the years when it insists that we sing a cappella, reasoning that the New Testament is silent on the subject of instruments.

The topic of instrumental music can wait for another article. Let’s say something about hypocrisy.

Let’s be clear about something: His terminology was incorrect. He didn’t mean we were “hypocrites” because we sang a cappella, he meant we were “legalistic.”

Hypocrisy is an attitude of the heart. It occurs when someone pretends to be something that he is not, usually hoping to receive the approval of others (Matthew 6:1). To be legalistic on the other hand means to try to earn our salvation by works of the law.

Our liberal spokesman has no idea, I repeat, no idea of the genuineness of my heart. He has not been blessed with the ability to read minds, he is not clairvoyant, he cannot possibly know whether for me, Christianity is the real thing or not. God, and God alone can read the intentions of my heart. Furthermore, just because I am “conservative” does not mean I hold my convictions lightly, that I worship only by rote, that I serve God merely out of a sense of duty. Almost forty-five years of mission work and preaching through bad times and good, I have surely demonstrated whether this Christianity business is real to me.

As for being a legalist (which is what I suspect he actually meant), I am under no misapprehension that to follow God’s directions would pay for even an hour of Christ’s death on the cross. But please take note of this: To accept God’s grace never meant that we got to take his directions lightly! Where did we get the idea that grace means God does not care what we do? Surely grace, properly understood, emphasizes God’s commands more highly, not less. That’s why grace is necessary! It only means that when we in our human weakness fail to live up to God’s expectations, he is gracious and forgives.

“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20 ESV).

I am certainly happy to talk about my convictions about the “argument from silence” any time, but in the mean time, please don’t toss that “hypocrite” label around so casually.

Stan Mitchell (via forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Eian Stewart (6), Matthew Churchwell (7) Joe Maninger (12), Sarah Evetts (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23), **Phyllis Hooper (26), Lucille Stout (29).**

October Anniversaries: Aaron & Tori Stewart (21), Stormy & Juanita Barnum (25), **Mike & Patti Bannister (27).**

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 12, 2014	Oct. 19, 2014
Bible Class	43	35
AM Worship	53	52
PM Worship	38	42
Wednesday PM	39	41
Contribution	\$1,668	\$1,967

	This Week: 10/26/14	Next Week: 11/2/14		
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	John Barnum Family	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	James Fuller		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Joe Dennis	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell, Gene Bannister, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Billy Chism		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: John McCaghren		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 29 Singing Night	November 5 Tom Wilcox	November 12 Don Smith	November 19 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 October 26, 2014

Sunday Class Acts 1:8ff
 Wednesday Class Singing Night

Angry Word! O Let Them Never

Many of the songs we sing are designed to teach and admonish (Col. 3:16). One such song is "Angry Words! O Let Them Never". A favorite of many, it is a song...

- With valuable advice in our dealings with one another as members of God's family.
- Warning against disrupting friendship and love through unthoughtful use of the tongue.

I. The Need To Bridle The Tongue

A. The Tongue Is Powerful

- It is difficult to control (Jas. 3:2-5; Mt. 12:34,35)
- It has power to do good and evil (Prov. 15:1-2,4)
- "Angry words! O let them never from the tongue unbridled slip; May the heart's best impulse ever check them ere they soil the lip."

B. The Advantages Of Restraint

- Prov. 10:19; 21:23; 17:27-28
- Uncontrolled tongues can destroy friendships.
- "Angry words are lightly spoken, bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred, brightest links of life are broken, by a single angry word."

C. How Then Shall We Use the Tongue?

- If for good, our words can be:
 - Sweet to the soul (Prov. 16:24)
 - A thing of beauty, like apples of gold in settings of silver (Prov. 25:11)
- But if for evil, then beware:
 - We will be judged by our words (Mt. 12:36,37).
 - We will defile our bodies (and our friendships!) (Jas. 3:6)

II. To encourage the proper use of the tongue, the song in verse two and the chorus reminds us of... The Importance Of Friendship And Love

A. The Blessings Of Friendship

- Some of the most beautiful passages in the Bible were expressions between friends
- Good friends provide wonderful benefits (Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 27:6,9-10)
- "Love is much too pure and holy, friendship is too sacred far, for a moment's reckless folly thus to desolate and mar."

B. The Need To Love One Another

- Our Savior teaches us to do so (John 13:34,35; 15:12,17)
- It is a "blest command"
 - Love will avoid offending another with loose words - 1 Cor. 13:4-5a
 - Love will not allow loose words to offend it - 1 Cor. 13:5b-8a
- "Love one another", thus says the Savior; Children, obey His blest command."

Conclusion

- Friendship is too holy to let loose words in reckless moments destroy it...
- May this song, "Angry Words! O Let Them Never" serve to remind us of the blessing and duty we have regarding our love and friendship as disciples of Christ!

The Kings of the North & South: The Great Warfare (Dan. 11:2-12:3)

I. **The three kings: Of Persia (2)**

- The speaker assures Daniel that the revelation to be shown him is "the truth."
- Considering the text being written during the reign of Cyrus we have the following: Cyrus, Cambyses, Gaumata, Darius the Great and Xerxes.
- The "fourth" (Xerxes) would become strong.

II. **The Mighty King of Greece (3,4)**

- The Grecian king is unmistakably Alexander the Great. (356-323 B.C.) (3)
- The mighty Grecian kingdom is noted as being "broken" at the zenith of his career - "as soon as he has arisen." (4a)

III. **The king(s) of the south (Egypt) and the king(s) of the north (Syria/Babylonia): Ptolemies and Seleucids (5-20)**

- The king(s) of the south (Egypt). (5-12)
 - His awesomeness. (5)
 - His alliance. (6)
 - His vengeance. (7-8)
 - His anger. (9-12)
- The king(s) of the North (Syria/Babylonia). (13-20)
 - Return of the North. (13)
 - Retaliation and retribution. (14-20)

IV. **The Contemptible "king:" Arrogant Antiochus (21-35)**

- He is subtle. (Cunning and conquering) (21-24)
 - Antiochus Epiphanies is introduced as "a contemptible" person. (21)
 - The "armies" (i.e. Egyptian) would fall before him. (22)
 - His conquests are due to his "deceitful" ways. (23)
 - He will come in unawares, i.e. in time of security. (24)
- He is sinister. (Crafty and courageous) (25-27)
- He is sacrilegious. (28-35)
 - He is against the holy covenant. (28)
 - He will also return again into the south "at the time appointed." (29)
 - Antiochus, disheartened by the Romans, returns and sets himself against the people of God. (30-35)

V. **The self-exalted One and final conflict and destruction (36-45)**

- The self-exalted one: Analysis. (36-45)
- The self-exalted one; exposition. (36-45)
 - The exaltation of this one is supremely exclusive: "Above every god, and speaks astonishing things against the God of gods." (36-37)
 - This one, "honors the god of fortresses." (38)
 - This one shall "come to his end..." (40-45)

VI. **The great prince: Deliverer of the Faithful (12:1-3)**

- Michael "at that time shall arise [stand up]." (1)
- And "at that time" many (not all) of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake..." (2-3)