

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



November 16, 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.

Entrance Exam for Heaven

On an Internet discussion board, a high-school valedictorian with a 1510 SAT score said he didn't have any trouble getting into Harvard.

He probably did not have any trouble.

But, it is difficult for ordinary people to win admission to an Ivy League school. The standards are high. Many people are just not going to make it.

There will be some people who just will not enter heaven. Eternal life will pass them by because they are not willing to devote themselves to the things God believes are important.

After the Rich Young Ruler of Matthew 19 walked sadly from Jesus, the disciples had a discussion sparked by something Jesus said. The Master said, "*And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God,*" (Matthew 19:24). The disciples said, "*Who then, can be saved?*"

Jesus told them in the following verse, "*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*" Why is that true?

Some people will just not obey Jesus as they should. The Rich Young Ruler would not. Jesus told him what was required. He declined to do what Jesus said. As long as men rebel against the word of Christ, they have no hope of going to heaven.

One of my favorite lessons from Gospel preachers is one I have never heard. It was written by Gus Nichols and I found it early in my preaching in his book. It was called, "The Dividing Line." Nichols made the case that there are dividing lines some men will not cross to receive eternal life. Baptism is such a dividing line, he wrote.

In Matthew 7, Jesus said, "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven*" (Matthew 7:21 NKJV). That is the true dividing line.

For many people, getting into heaven will be even more difficult than for some high school students to enter Harvard. But, it will not be a matter of test scores. This entrance exam will be scored on whether or not a person will do what Jesus said.

John Henson (via forthright.net)

"*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them,.... And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*"

Matthew 5:1-2; 7:28-29



Hate The Sin, Love The Sinner

There are many issues within our society, at this present time, that are sure to incite a debate. One topic that is guaranteed to cause a firestorm of outrage is that of homosexuality and, along



self demands. That is the message of the gospel—that God met His own requirements for us. Only one person can meet the requirements of a savior. Only one person can give us the atonement

we so desperately need. In John 14:6 Jesus states, “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” The road to redemption is narrow and exclusive. There is only one path to eternal life, and it is through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10:19-22 reads, “*Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*” We come into the presence of our heavenly Father with the atoning sacrifice of our Savior. We come with the knowledge that we are His. We come with a sincere heart; with truthfulness and honesty. We come fully known, completely exposed, laid bare before Him. And we come with the blessed assurance that we will be received. Christ died so that **all** could receive salvation. We are **all** sinners, and we **all** need salvation (Rom. 3:10, 23). Christ loved the sinner enough to allow His only begotten Son to die a cruel death on a cruel cross (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8). God’s holiness is manifested on the cross. The cross shows us just how despicable sin is to God. However, it also shows us just how great a love He has for sinners.

Here is a biblical truth that cannot be argued: God hates sin, but loves the sinner! Sin is diametrically opposed to a holy God. Because God is holy, sin is a personal offense to His beauty and to His character. A holy God cannot tolerate sin; something that is highly important to remember when considering the justice or wrath of God. Proverbs 3:32 reads, “*For the devious are an abomination to the Lord; but He is intimate with the upright.*” Since a holy God and sin cannot coexist, it necessarily follows that a holy God must punish sin. Holiness demands that whatever is impure and wicked must be purged from it. Sin separates. It creates a chasm between us and God. It magnifies just how unholy and how unlike God we are.

This is not always the most encouraging news to one who is mired in sin. However, there is “good news.” It is called the gospel. Since our sin is against a holy God, and since we are completely helpless to remedy our sin problem on our own, we need atonement. It just makes sense that only God can supply the sacrifice that He Him-

self demands. That is the message of the gospel—that God met His own requirements for us. Only one person can meet the requirements of a savior. Only one person can give us the atonement

It is vitally important that we strike a balance between God’s hatred for sin and His love for the sinner. We must never allow society or political agendas to gloss over the fact that homosexuality is a sin. It is forbidden by God. Marriage is God’s creation. It is a solemn and binding covenant between a man and a woman (Gen. 1-2; 2:18f; 2:24; Matt. 19:1f; 1 Cor. 3:18f; Eph. 5:22f; 1 Pet. 3:1f). Homosexuality is condemned in the Old Testament (Lev. 18:22, 29). In fact, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God because of the sin of homosexuality (Gen. 19; 2 Pet. 2:6-8; Jude 5-7). The sin of homosexuality is also condemned in the New

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

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

Nov. 16	Acts 1-3
Nov. 17	Acts 4-6
Nov. 18	Acts 7-8
Nov. 19	Acts 9-10
Nov. 20	Acts 11-12
Nov. 21	Acts 13-14
Nov. 22	James 1-5
Nov. 23	Acts 15-16

“*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 **30 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

In The Area

Today:

- ◆ Nov. 15-16 **1st Annual TheGospelRadioNetwork.org Lectureship @ Mt. Vernon & via Internet**—“*The Good News...*”

Upcoming:

- ◆ Nov. 21-22 **Marriage Seminar @ Dripping Springs**—“*Put Your House in Order*” David & Tracie Shannon (Preregistration required at <http://dschurchofchrist.com/marriage-seminar/>)
- ◆ Dec. 6 **Youth Program @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco)** “*Ignite: Living Faithfully*” Loy Mitchell, Zane Christian, Tommy Haynes, & Mike Bonner

Testament (Rom. 1:26-28; 1 Tim. 1:9-11). Despite what some scientists and psychologists say, homosexuality is a free-will choice (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Studies have failed to prove that there is a “homosexual gene.” When the biblical facts are weighed, there is simply no denying that God’s word strictly prohibits homosexuality and same sex marriage. There is no gray matter on this issue.

It is not wrong to side with God on the issue of homosexuality, or any other issue for that matter. In fact, we should always stand convicted for the truth of God’s holy Word. However, may we bear in mind that homosexuality is not the only sin spelled out in the Bible. There are a host of other sins that our world falls prey to. Let us not exploit this one sin at the expense of our own, or elevate this sin above all others. Take special note of 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Notice that “homosexuals” is mentioned alongside “the covetous” and “swindlers.” In Romans 1:28-32, Paul gives a rather extensive list of sins grouping greed, arrogance, gossip and disobedience to parents with murder and “inventors of evil.” Sin is sin. Christians should take a strong stance against all sin, not just the sins that repulse us the most.

Another point that warrants our consideration is this: opposition to sin does not mean hatred of the sinner. Those who oppose homosexuality are often referred to as “homophobic.” Christians oppose homosexuality and same sex marriage because it is against God’s will, not because they are afraid of the homosexual. Sadly, there are Christians who have been mean-spirited or hateful when debating this issue. Without a doubt, both camps have been guilty of being highly uncivil at times. But for the sincere Christian who seeks to display the character of Christ, he is not dispensing “hate speech” when he delivers God’s message. Quite the contrary, it is our goal to lovingly change the heart of an individual with the truth. The goal is salvation, or at least it should be. There are those individuals who sincerely struggle with an attraction to someone of the same sex. As a result, they feel like an outcast. They suffer emotionally, often in silence. They are hurting. They need help. The answer is not to verbally butcher them. The answer is not to berate them with hate speech. However, the answer is not to assure them that they are right when they are not. The answer, for anyone who is a victim of any sin, is Jesus Christ.

Christ McCurley, “Life In The Light” (via start2finish.org)

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), Linda Jimenez (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Juanita Barnum (15), **Terry Teague (17)**, Marcia Turnbull (24), Kevin Wilcox (27).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), **Jack & Judie Turner (18)**.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 2, 2014	Nov. 9, 2014
Bible Class	42	39
AM Worship	60	60
PM Worship	45	45
Wednesday PM	45	40
Contribution	\$2,135	\$2,037

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 11/16/14	Next Week: 11/23/14		
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
Greeters	Hank Wheeler & James Fuller		Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox		James Thomas		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Don Smith, Hank Wheeler		James Fuller*, Allen Griffith Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism		Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis		Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: James Fuller		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Mike Bannister		James Thomas		
Communion	Joe Dennis		James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum		Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 19 Joe Dennis	November 26 Allen Griffith	December 3 Prayer	December 10 Tom Wilcox	

November 2014
Make Announcements:
 John Barnum
Prepare Communion:
 Gene & Barbara Bannister
Clean Building:
 John Barnum Family
Keep Grounds:
 James Fuller

December 2014
Make Announcements:
 James Fuller
Prepare Communion:
 John Barnum Family
Clean Building:
 Cindy Fuller / Jessica Stultz
Keep Grounds:
 Jack Turner

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 November 16, 2014

Sunday Class Acts 1:23ff
 Wednesday Class Personal Evangelism

Jesus the Master Teacher

Teaching was a prominent feature of the ministry of Jesus.
 The reaction of the people to Jesus' teaching show that He was the Master Teacher:

I. What is teaching?

A. There are 6 Greek words in the NT for "teaching" – plus 7 more for synonyms of "teaching"

B. Considering all of these words, we can define teaching as – The communicative process by which a teacher leads students to obedience and maturity in Christ by proclaiming, examining, demonstrating, explaining, modeling, nourishing and training the eternal truths of God's word.

II. Why Jesus is the Master Teacher

A. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because He knew what was in man.

- Why secular systems fail – they hold to incorrect views concerning the nature of man.
- Man's nature:
 - Physical
 - Spiritual

B. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because He taught People, not lessons.

- Jesus noticed the individual.
- Teachers – do we see the needs of individuals?

C. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because of His faith in the Word of God

- Jesus placed great emphasis on the Scriptures.
- Teachers – we need to emphasize the Scriptures.

D. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because He taught people in their everyday situations.

- Religion was not separated from daily life for Jesus.
 - He taught the common people in parables and stories drawn from daily life.
 - He demonstrated the impact of Scripture on daily life.
 - He taught in contrast to the Pharisees.
- Teachers – are we teaching for life?
 - Christianity concerns the whole of life.
 - Christ should make a difference in our everyday living.

E. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because He taught to reform men according to the will of God.

- The importance of the will in the teaching of Jesus.
- Teachers – are we calling for a submission of the will of man to the will of God?
 - Giving information that leads to a response – a decision.
 - There is a need to lead Bible studies and classes which are directed to the decision making process.

F. Jesus is the Master Teacher – because He modeled what He taught.

- Jesus is our model in everything – including obedience.
- The goal of our teaching is obedience.

1 John – Lesson 1 – 1:1-7

I. Introduction 1:1-4

A. Proof of the Manifestation of the Word 1:1-3

- From the beginning.
Heard, Seen, Looked upon, Touched. John refutes those who believed that Jesus never had a flesh and blood body but was only a phantom.
We have heard. An act in the past with lasting results.
We have seen.
We looked upon. A calm, continuous contemplation of an object.
Touched with our hands.
- This is a parenthetical statement explaining verse 1.
The eternal life. The life, the eternal one. This is Jesus Christ!
- Fellowship. True believers are those who dwell in Christ and in His fellowship which embraces all the members of the body of Christ. It involves:
 - Obedience to the commands of Christ, and
 - Faithfulness to His teaching communicated through His apostles.
 Those who abandon the apostolic teaching and fellowship sever themselves from fellowship with the Father and the Son!

B. Purpose In Writing 1:4

- Joy. This joy can be full only when Jesus and His gospel are shared: 1:5-2:29

II. God Is Light 1:5-7

A. Conditions of Fellowship With God 1:5-7

- God is light. This describes God's essence. This is one of His attributes. The key to this is light always stands for something good and positive, never for something evil. This phrase tells us:
 - Of God's splendor and glory.
 - That God is self-revealing.
 - Of God's purity and holiness.
 - Of God's guidance.
 - Of the revealing quality in the presence of God.In Him is no darkness.
 Darkness stands for the exact opposite of the Christian life.
- If This is the first of five third class conditional sentences (vv. 6,7,8,9,10).
Walk. To walk about, to conduct one's life.
We lie. To deceive, speak falsely, speak deceitfully.
Do not practice the truth.
- Walk. The same as verse 6. The emphasis is on where we walk.
With one another. The fellowship of Christians is the visible sign and proof of fellowship with God Himself.
The blood of Jesus his Son.
Cleanses. This is a continual process which matches our continual "walking about" in the light.
All sin. Not merely the conscience, but all sin!