

# 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 30, 2014

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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.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.

## Jesus of Nazareth The World's Greatest Character

[Back in 1943, N. B. Hardeman and ten other men preached a series of sermons in Dallas, Texas—brother Hardeman was the featured speaker of the group. There were fifteen sermons with brother Hardeman preaching five of them. The sermons were recorded and printed in a book The Dallas Lectures For 1943, published by Eugene S. Smith. In the sermon "Whom Do Men Say That I AM?" Brother Hardeman said the following:]

The greatest men of the earth acknowledge today the equivalent of Christ's being the Son of God. I want you to indulge me while I read (I know that reading is laborious and tiresome) but I want to read a statement from H.G. Wells, the great historian and writer, who is now living in the city of London. When asked by the *American Magazine* to write a story of six of the greatest men of this earth, in order of their prominence, he accepted the request and hence penned the article, a part of which I am reading tonight. Hear it! And bear in mind now, before I read, that Mr. Wells is not a Christian. He does not accept Christianity, but writes purely as an historian.

Jesus of Nazareth is easily the dominant figure in history. I am speaking of him, of course, as a man; for I concede that the historian must treat him as a man, just as the painter must paint him as a man. We do not know as much about him as we would like to know. The accounts of his life and work as set down in the four gospels, are somewhat obscure and contradictory. But all four of them agree in giving us a picture of a very definite personality. They carry a conviction of reality. To assume that he never lived, that the accounts of his life are inventions, is more difficult and raise more problems in the path of the historian, than to accept the essential elements of the gospel stories as fact.

And of course you and I live in countries where to millions Christ is more than a man; but the historian must disregard that and adhere to the evidence which would pass unchallenged if his book were to be read in any other nation under the sun.

Now it is interesting and significant, isn't it, that a historian, setting forth in that spirit, without any theological bias whatsoever, should find that he simply cannot portray the progress of humanity honestly, without giving a foremost place to a penniless teacher of Nazareth of Galilee?

The old Roman ignored Jesus entirely. They ignored the growth and spread of his teaching. They regarded it as something apart from life, something to be had only on Sunday.

He left no impress on the historical record of his time. Yet more than nineteen hundred years later, a historian like myself who doesn't even call himself a Christian, finds the picture centering irresistible around the life and character of this simple, lovable man.

All sorts of dogma and tradition have been imposed upon his personality. It is the fate of all great religious leaders to be misunderstood by their following. But from underneath this mass of the miraculous and the incredible, the man himself keeps breaking through. We sense the magnetism that induced men that had seen him only once to leave their business and to follow him. He filled them with love and courage. Weak and ailing people were heartened by his presence. He spake with a knowledge and authority that baffled the wise and the subtle. But other teachers have done that. These talents alone would not have given him the permanent place of power which he occupied. That place

(Continued on page 2)



"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."  
1 Peter 2:13-17

(Continued from page 1)

is by virtue of the fact there is a new, simple and profound doctrine which he brought, namely, the universal, loving fatherhood of God and the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

It is one of the most revolutionary doctrines that ever stirred and changed human thought. His followers failed to grasp it. No age has ever partially, even, understood him. Its tremendous challenge to the established institutions of mankind, are as yet not understood. But, the world began to be a different world, on the day that doctrine was preached, and every step toward wider understanding of tolerance and good will, is a step in the direction of universal brotherhood, which he proclaimed.

So then, the historian disregarding the theological significance of his life, writes the name of Jesus of Nazareth at the top of the list of the world's greatest characters. For the historian's test of greatness is not, "What did he accumulate?" It is not, "What did he build up to tumble down on his head?" — not that at all, but this: Was the world different because he lived? Did he start men to think along fresh lines with a vigor and vitality that persisted after him? By this test Jesus stands first.

[H.G. Wells, *American Magazine*].

I would like to ask Mr. Wells an explanation of his own article. I know that there are certain things that mark men as great. Sometimes their ancestry puts them out in front ranks. Again, social standing galvanizes them into prominence. Again, financial affairs raise men to lofty heights and up the political ladder men climb to rounds of superiority. By what do you explain the greatness of Christ? Jesus lived but thirty and three years upon the earth, and you scarcely know a man who has reached his zenith short of forty, fifty, or sixty years of age. Here is but a youth that has just come forth into the fruition of manhood. What about his ancestry? I grant you that he could trace his family tree back through forty-two generations to Abraham, and then back twenty more to God himself, but even that did not make an impression upon those with whom he lived.

Was Christ the leader of the social class? Was he the organizer of the various clubs? Absolutely not. Was he noted as a financial wizard of this time? Did he occupy prominent places in political realm? Certainly not. How do you account, Mr. Wells, for the fact that you are forced to place this penniless peasant of Galilee as the greatest man that ever lived upon the earth? By what standard? His only answer could be the result of his life and the influence that followed.

Had you ever stopped to think, friends, that most men are great while they live, and upon their death their cause begins to wane and their prestige declines? I believe truly that the life and the influence of Jesus Christ is the greatest miracle this world has ever known.

He was born in a stable, cradled in a manger, lived in a small village and worked for about thirty years in a carpenter's shop. His was a despised city out of which, it was thought, no good thing could come. He had no worldly possessions. He had to send Peter a fishing to get money enough to pay his taxes. His parents were so poor that when the time came, they had to resort to the cheapest of sacrifices possible to be offered. He never wrote a line except some forgotten words traced with his finger upon the sands of the seashore. He said, "*Foxes have holes; birds have their nests; but the son of man hath not where to lay his head.*" He taught against the denominations of his day and as a result enmity, jealousy, bitterness, and hatred cumulated against him. At last, he died a felon's death and the very instrument of his death has become the symbol of salvation to all mankind. He was carried away by two friends and buried in a borrowed tomb, and while all the enemies of earth rejoiced, the very demons of hell had a jubilee. But on the morning of the third day, he burst the bars of the tomb and came forth triumphant having plucked the rose of immortality from the realm of the dead to plant it upon the bosom of his own grave where it could bloom in grandeur and glory forever more.

In the affairs of the world, the death and even the resurrection of Christ were soon forgot. but somehow his words lived on. Philosophy, with all of its wisdom; priestcraft, with all of its errors; kings wielding the iron power of the world, united to resist and to destroy the strange mysterious power which this dead peasant had left through rivers of blood and seas of fire, that power will sweep on and on until it will make conquest of all the earth and cause every knee to bow and every tongue to confess that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

How do you account for it all, Mr. Wells? I think there is just one sober, sane, sensible answer to be given, and that is, "*No man can do the things that he did except God be with him.*" No wonder, then, when he stood upon the banks of the River Jordan, dripping from the baptismal act, God said, "*This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.*" No wonder John said, "*I saw and bear record that this is the Son of God.*" No wonder the Centurian said, "*No doubt this man was the Son of God.*"

When demons were cast out, they said, "*Hast thou come to torment us before the time, thou Son of God?*" The world recognized his superiority.

### 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

<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 5-8</b>
<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 9-11</b>
<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12-14</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 15-16</b>
<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 1-4</b>
<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5-9</b>
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 10-13</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3</b>

*"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 **31 contacts** were made.

**Special Announcements**

- ◆ No Ladies Bible Class this week.

**In The Area**

- ◆ Dec. 6 **Youth Program @ Lake Shore Drive** (Waco) "Ignite: Living Faithfully" Zane Christian, Tommy Haynes, & Mike Bonner

**Saving Souls Is Much Easier Than You Think**



*"And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery" (Mark 10:12 KJV).*

I suppose if you were a member of the Jesus Seminar, or at least cut from a similar cloth, this is one of the sayings of Jesus you would certainly eliminate from the gospels. Think about it.

First, from a legal point of view, it's entirely counter-cultural. In Matthew's account – generally speaking, the more heavily favored one among those who discuss this subject – the focus is entirely on a husband putting away his wife. That is natural. In most cultures, and ancient Judaism was no exception, men enjoy legal preeminence. However, in Mark's record, Jesus indicates that the law works both ways (Mark 10:11-12). Surely, the real Jesus wouldn't have said this.

Second, even if we could get over the counter-cultural element, from a moral point of view, there is no way Jesus would ever say such a thing. You mean to tell me that the loving, merciful Jesus would condemn someone who divorced their spouse and married someone else? God forbid it. (By the way, Jesus did offer one exception clause to allow for divorce, see Matthew 19:9).

Don't get lost in the King James vernacular, folks. It's actually quite helpful. The -eth suffix on committeth simply indicates the verb tense in the Greek, which is still preferable, in my opinion, to the modern rendering, "commits." The Greek tense indicates something continual. The literal translation would be, "keeps on committing adultery."

In this way, Jesus essentially defines adultery as both a specific sin, and categorizes the relationship that harbors it, as a sinful way of living. Since so many people practice this (by imagining more exceptions, or by simply ignoring the whole topic), it seems highly unlikely that the real Jesus would have said it. I mean seriously, think of how many people's lives would be terribly uncomfortable if he did!

I read a written debate some years ago where a preacher argued that he couldn't accept Jesus' teaching on divorce and adultery because it didn't give him enough opportunities to offer people grace in their chosen way of life. I guess that settles it. If the limits of Jesus' grace don't appeal to you, you know what to do: just pretend like he didn't say what he said. Live however you want and make up a Jesus that approves of it.

Many more will be saved if we ignore or dismiss Jesus' words, so let's ignore them and claim that the real Jesus didn't say them. We'll call it a fabrication from a later editor of the gospels.

There. We just saved millions of people from eternal torment, and made Jesus much more appealing to the masses. See? Saving souls is easier than you think.

Rick Kelly (via forthright.net)

**Celebrate**

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

**December Birthdays:** Estelle Guthrie (7), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), Joyce Hill (24), John McCaghren (27).

**December Anniversaries:** Allen & Linda Griffith (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



**Records**

	Nov. 16, 2014	Nov. 23, 2014
Bible Class	41	43
AM Worship	58	63
PM Worship	30	45
Wednesday PM	48	36
Contribution	\$2,078	\$2,101

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 11/30/14		Next Week: 12/7/14		November 2014	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		<b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum	
<b>Greeters</b>	Gene & Mike Bannister	Mileen and Ashley Kahlich		<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Gene & Barbara Bannister	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		<b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, John Barnum Hank Wheeler, Gene Bannister	James Thomas*, Allen Griffith Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Billy Chism		<b>December 2014</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		<b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		<b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		<b>Clean Building:</b> Cindy Fuller / Jessica Stultz	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Jack Turner	
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	James Thomas			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Tom Wilcox			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	December 3 Prayer	December 10 Allen Griffith	December 17 Tom Wilcox	December 24 Don Smith	

# 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 30, 2014

Sunday Class ..... Acts 2:4ff  
Wednesday Class ..... Personal Evangelism

### A Look At Leadership

There is a great need for qualified men to serve as leaders in the Lord's church today. Every elder should have as one of his goals the replacement of himself when that time comes.

- Every elder should consider – "Will I be replaced by a sound, faithful man?"
  - Through prayer, encouragement and training, this can be accomplished.
- I. Leadership is a tremendous opportunity to change the lives of individuals!
  - II. Leadership is the characteristic of one who provides guidance, who shows the way, and who gives direction.
  - III. Church leadership is ordained of God – it would be almost impossible to give it the respect needed without knowledge of the greatness of Christ and His church.
  - IV. The apostle Paul emphasized the need for elders on several occasions (Acts 14:23, 20:17), as well as the purposes for placing elders in the church (Acts 20:28-30).
  - V. The need is emphasized in the fact that there is a crisis in the Lord's church – some have said there has always been a crisis. Why?
    - A. There is an absence of men qualified to serve.
    - B. There are men serving as elders who should not be.
    - C. There are men that should be elders who are not.
    - D. If this crisis is not given our full attention, even more congregations of God's people will turn away from the NT standard that the Lord commands us to follow.
  - VI. The church needs faithful, spiritual man to serve as elders who are wise, have courage to stand for the truth, and vision to lead into the future.
  - VII. God often raised up the right person for leadership at the needed time in the OT.
    - A. We have the example of Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah and others.
    - B. Nehemiah: A Model Leader
      1. He was a leader who was concerned for his people (Nehemiah 1:3).
      2. He was a leader who had compassion (1:4-11).
      3. He was a leader who studied God's Word (1:4-11).
      4. He was a leader who believed in the power of prayer (1:4-11).
      5. He was a leader with vision [he had a plan] (2:6-8).
      6. He was a leader who was wise enough to survey the situation (2:11-16).
      7. He was a leader who communicated the need for helpers (2:17-18).
      8. He was a leader who did not allow opposition to stop a good work (2:19; 4:1-9).
      9. He was a leader who kept God in his plans (2:20).
      10. He was a leader who led the way by example (4:13-23).
      11. He was a leader who refused to compromise (6:2-4).
      12. He was a leader who continued to encourage (2:20; 4:20).
  - VIII. Mature men and younger men must prepare themselves to lead through spiritual growth and the desire to serve the church.
    - A. The time is now to grow in the faith and to develop that passion to study God's word (2 Tim. 2:15) that you might be prepared for future service.
    - B. Men today must heed the example set forth by Isaiah, who heard God's call and said, "Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8).

### 1 John – Lesson 2 – 1:8-2:8

- I. God Is Light ..... 1:5-2:9
- B. Sin And Forgiveness ..... 1:8-10
  8. No sin...deceive ourselves  
*The truth is not in us.*
  9. Confess – to say the same thing, to speak together, to confess.  
The picture here is of a conversation between God and the sinner.  
This is present, subjunctive, active – "If we keep on confessing our sins."  
*Faithful and just.*  
God promises mercy for the soul which comes to Him with a penitent heart  
If we truly confess our sins, He will forgive!  
*And*: God wipes the entire slate clean!
  10. *If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar.*  
*His word is not in us.* (1 Jn. 5:10; Jn. 5:38; 8:37)
- C. Jesus Our Advocate ..... 2:1-2
  1. *My little children* – a tender term, no reference to age is intended.  
*That you may not sin.*  
*We have* – "We keep on having."  
*An advocate* – an attorney or lawyer.  
*The righteous*
  2. *He [He Himself] is*. Emphatic! (constantly, always)  
*Propitiation* – to satisfy, render favorable, to cover, to appease.  
Jesus has satisfied the wrath of God by being the covering *for our sins*.  
*The whole world* – a free offer BUT conditional! (Heb. 2:9; 5:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- D. Tests Of The Christian ..... 2:3-6
  3. Notice the close tie between this verse and 1:7:  
*"If we walk in the light" (1:7) – "If we keep his commandments" (2:3)*  
*"We have fellowship" (1:7) – "We know that we have come to know him"*  
*"Blood cleanses" (1:7) – "He is the propitiation" (2:2).*  
*If we keep* – to guard, or to keep for oneself.  
To know the Father you must know the Son!  
Knowledge of God could prove it only by their obedience to Christ.
  4. *Whoever says*. This beginning phrase is also used in verses 6 and 9.  
They all stress the importance of matching the profession with practice.  
John shows the only way we can show we love God is by our obedience.  
Intellectual effort and emotional experience must come together in works  
in order to make our faith complete.
  5. *Word*. This is used here as a synonym for "commandments."  
*Perfected* – to bring to a goal, to perfect.  
True love for God is not expressed in special knowledge, sentimental language or mystical experience but in obedience.
  6. *Abides in Him*. This is dealt with in greater detail in Jn 15:1-17.  
*Ought* – morally obligated, must. This is no "option" but a "necessity"!