

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



January 25, 2015

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.

Kernels of Knowledge From our Daily Bible Reading

Isaac's Substitute Lamb

Genesis 22 is a picture of bold faith in action. The supreme test of Abraham resulted in the supreme triumph of faith in God.

The Jewish tradition calls the story in Genesis 22 the "Binding of Isaac," and the writer of Hebrews refers to Abraham's faith that God could raise Isaac, implying Abraham's faith that God could raise the dead.

All of the promises God made to Abraham depended on the survival of the promised son (Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 17:9; 18:10, 14; 21:1-12). The covenant promise was clearly stated to Abraham that "*through Isaac shall your offspring be named*" (v. 12). Isaac was exclusive and unique as far as the covenant was concerned. If Isaac was to die, how could these promises be fulfilled? The extinction of Abraham's seed, Isaac, would be the end of the promise in Genesis 12:1-3. But as we shall see in Genesis 22, Abraham had no doubt that God required the sacrifice of the son of promise. How then could Abraham reconcile the promises of God and the command of God to put him to death? For Abraham, the problem is not really his, but God's, so he decided to trust Him.

Abraham had waited a long time for the son of the promise. When he was finally born, Isaac was nothing short of a miracle. He was born to Abraham and Sarah when it was humanly impossible for them to have children because of their age. Abraham was one hundred years old, and Sarah wasn't too far behind!

Could Abraham's love for that son crowd aside his love for the LORD God? As Isaac grew into manhood, Abraham would have been increasingly attached to this special son. Would he love his son of the promise more than his God?

The "Binding of Isaac"

When Abraham was 115 years old and Isaac was a mature young man, God tested his servant. He said to Abraham, "*Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you*" (22:2).

God's message was specific. There was no doubt as to whom God meant when He said, "*Your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.*" Not Ishmael, but Isaac, is clearly indicated.

I doubt if Abraham slept much that night. He had a personal intimate walk with God. He had claimed by faith the great promises God had made to him. This was an agonizing decision. The Hebrews always considered human sacrifice wrong. Neither Abraham nor his community practiced human sacrifices.

Therefore, how could a holy God ask for a human sacrifice? God was asking Abraham to give a spiritual sacrifice of his promised son. God asked him to give back the gift which He had made possible. The emphasis on the spiritual sacrifice is made clear by the fact that God Himself prevented the completion of the physical sacrifice.

The sacrifice itself places emphasis on complete surrender to God. Abraham is to give Isaac back to the LORD without any reservations.

Abraham responded quickly to God's call for absolute obedience. Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and woke up Isaac and two of his servants. They piled wood on the donkey for a burnt offering and began their slow three-day walk.

When they arrived at the foot of the mountain God had chosen Abraham parted company with the servants. By faith, he told the servants, "*Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you*" (22:5). Then he and Isaac walked on alone. It was a statement of

(Continued on page 2)

"By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Genesis 22:16-18

(Continued from page 1)

faith, "He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead" (Heb. 11:19). He was arguing with himself, literally, "considering" and coming to a definite conclusion. He was saying I will obey regardless of the cost. He believed that God's promise could not fail.

"Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?'" (22:6,7).

God will provide.

Abraham responded, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son" (22:8).

This is the high water-mark of Genesis 22, and the climax of Abraham's life of faith in God.

Abraham is confident that the LORD God knows what He is doing. He will provide His own lamb in due time.

When they arrived at the place for the sacrifice Abraham built the altar, arranged the wood, and bound his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood (v. 9). Note the complete confidence and submission of Isaac to his father. He has confidence in his father, and an understanding of his father's love and faith in Yahweh. It is an act of supreme faith Isaac has in God, too. It echoes with the confidence of another son who prayed, "Not my will, Thy will be done." "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son" must have echoed in the minds and hearts of both father and son.

Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the long sharp knife and raised it slowly above his head. Just as his arm began the downward descent in a swift movement toward Isaac there was an urgent shout from "the angel of the LORD" saying, "Abraham, Abraham!" (vv. 10,11). The urgency restrained him on the spot. There had been complete surrender and submission to the will of God. Abraham was obedient and had walked by faith trusting God completely. Abraham put God first in his life and love. He would let nothing stand between himself and God (Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 6:33).

The angel of the Lord said to him, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son" (v. 12,13). God provided the lamb in place of Isaac.

"So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'" (v. 14).

Isaac's Substitute

This mountain later became the site of the Temple and the center of Israel's sacrificial worship (2 Chr. 3:1). The very heart of Israel's religion centered in the Temple on Mt. Moriah. However, these animal sacrifices were only a shadow of something to come; they were not the Lamb of God (Heb. 10:4). God commanded animal sacrifices to teach His people the principle of substitution so that in due time He would provide the perfect substitutionary atonement for our sins.

Another son of the promise came to that mountain two thousand years later, but there was no substitute lamb for Him because He was the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

God provided the lamb for the burnt offering. God alone can supply that which will satisfy His holy demands. Nothing on the part of man can meet the Divine requirements of a righteous God. God did what sinful man can never do. God supplied the perfect Lamb for the substitutionary atoning sacrifice for sin (cf. Ex. 12; Isa. 53:6-7). The claims of Divine holiness and justice were perfectly met in the atoning death of Jesus Christ that God "might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26).

The Hebrew scholars Keil and Delitzsch note "in the fullness of time, God the Father gave up His only-begotten Son as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, that by this one true sacrifice the shadows of the typical sacrifices might be rendered both real and true." Moreover, God spared not His only Son, but gave Him up to the real death, which Isaac suffered only in spirit, that we might die with Christ spiritually, and rise with Him to everlasting life (Rom. 8:32; 5:6-8).

God's own Son was also lifted up on "the mount of the LORD" and became our substitute. "So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them" (John 19:16-18).

The only sacrifice God accepts for our sin is the sacrifice that He has provided. Abraham's near sacrifice of his son Isaac was a prophecy of the actual sacrifice by God of His Son, Jesus Christ.

That day the lamb became Isaac's substitute. God rescued Isaac with a substitute ram. Our substitute saved us from the penalty of the wages of sin. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). That is also the way Peter understood it. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pet. 2:24).

Perhaps Abraham understood better than we realize the wonder of the Lord's provision when he said, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided" (Gen. 22:14). Jesus told the Pharisees gathered about him, "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad" (John 8:56). And we are, too!

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

Jan. 25 Genesis 38-40

Jan. 26 Genesis 41-42

Jan. 27 Genesis 43-45

Jan. 28 Genesis 46-47

Jan. 29 Genesis 48-50

Jan. 30 Exodus 1-3

Jan. 31 Exodus 4-6

Feb. 1 Exodus 7-9

"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)



It Pays To Be A Christian

Joel Osteen, improbably youthful looking minister of the Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, is apparently completely unaware of the concept of sin. This is amazing, as he lives in a major metropolitan center where presumably the raw side of life should be apparent, the suffering and victimization that comes from, well, the less than stellar actions taken by people. Victims of abuse, alcoholism and abandonment are evident everywhere. It makes one wonder: Does the “Smiling Evangelist” care about all those who suffer?

It’s not hard to see why his materialistic version of Christianity is popular. Apparently Jesus came to the earth, not so much to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), but to make us prosperous, have a nice house and wear cool clothes.

Osteen and others like him are peddling a false gospel. I’m not suggesting that it is wrong to be wealthy, merely that if wealth is the best that the gospel offers, then it is not good enough.

- ◆ What if Peter had told the lame man at the Gate Beautiful, “Here’s the silver and gold you asked for” (Acts 3:6)?
- ◆ What if Jesus had declared, “I have come that they might have money, and have it more abundantly,” referring to mere material possessions (John 10:10)?
- ◆ What if the son of man came only to put money in our bank accounts and not to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once declared, “When Christ calls a man he bids him come and die” (The Cost of Discipleship).

Osteen says in essence: “It pays to serve Jesus.” However Jesus himself says, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

Words such as “Christian warfare,” “repentance,” “discipleship,” and “submission” suggest that there are demands to this serving Christ business. If your religion offers you rewards only in this life, then it is not the Christian religion. It is an imposter.

Stan Mitchell

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (20), **Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29) and Judie Turner (29).**

January Anniversaries: None

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | Jan. 11, 2015 | Jan. 18, 2015 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bible Class | 42 | 48 |
| AM Worship | 54 | 62 |
| PM Worship | 42 | 47 |
| Wednesday PM | 44 | 41 |
| Contribution | \$2.337 | \$1,969 |

Privileged To Serve

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

| This Week: 1/25/15 | | Next Week: 2/1/15 | | January 2015 | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday AM: | | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | | |
| Greeters | Gene & Mike Bannister | | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | | Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: James Fuller | |
| Opening Prayer | Gene Bannister | | Allen Griffith | | | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith*, Tom Wilcox Hank Wheeler, Joe Dennis | | James Thomas*, Don Smith John Barnum, Ken Maninger | | | |
| Closing Prayer | James Fuller | | Gene Bannister | | | |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell | | Caleb Dennis | | | |
| Sunday PM: | | Song Leader: John McCaghren | | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | | February 2015 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Peggy Moore Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox |
| Opening Prayer | Don Smith | | James Fuller | | | |
| Scripture Reading | John Barnum | | Hank Wheeler | | | |
| Communion | Allen Griffith | | James Thomas | | | |
| Closing Prayer | Mike Bannister | | Billy Chism | | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | January 28 Allen Griffith | February 4 Tom Wilcox | February 11 Prayer | February 18 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 January 25, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 2:38ff
 Wednesday Class Back to the Bible: Lesson 3

| <u>Plant / Water / God Gives the Growth – 1 Corinthians 3:1-11</u> |
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| I. God Provides the Seed. A. The planter, and the work that he does, is of extreme importance – but he is not the one that provides life. B. Spiritually speaking, no man has ever once saved a soul. C. The power of life is within the seed – the word of God – not the one who does the planting (Rom. 1:16,17; Heb. 4:12). II. God Provides the Soil. A. It is the ultimate desire that every soul be saved (2 Pet. 3:9). B. God is providing the soil (Mk. 16:15). III. God Provides the Satisfaction. A. Paul was careful to point out that just because the ones who plant and water are not the ones who give life – does not mean there is not a great reward in the work they are doing (8). IV. Hindering the Increase of God A. It is one thing when drought or insects ruin a harvest – it is something else when one hinders his own harvest by neglect or indecision. B. This was the case with the church at Corinth. C. 2,000 years has not changed some things – the lost are still dying, and many times the church hinders her own work. V. What are the greatest hindrances to souls winning today? A. Unbelief (Heb. 3:12,13). 1. Many in the church do not truly believe those outside of the church are truly lost. 2. Many in the church do not believe that the fields are white unto harvest (Jn. 4:35) – that God has provided fertile soil for the seed. 3. Many members of the church do not believe that God is depending on them to plant and water. 4. Many congregations do not believe in the power of the Gospel to save souls. B. Unmotivated. 1. It is difficult to accomplish great things unless one is motivated – this is certainly true with evangelism. 2. We should be motivated because of what we know. 3. We should be motivated because we understand that our own souls depend on it. 4. We should be motivated because of the Golden Rule (Mt. 7:12). If we will plant and water – God WILL give the growth. |

| <u>2 John</u> |
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| I. Introduction 1:1-3 1. <i>The elder.</i> Probably a reference to John's age – rather than position. <i>Elect lady.</i> Probably a congregation or group of Christians. <i>In truth.</i> Based and rooted in God's love. 2. <i>Because of the truth that abides in us.</i> <i>Forever.</i> Into the ages. 3. <i>Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us.</i> Notice the progression. <i>From God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son.</i> <i>Truth.</i> This word occurs five times in 2 John and six times in 3 John. II. Walking in The Truth 4-6 4. <i>I rejoiced.</i> To be glad, to rejoice. <i>Walking in the truth.</i> Habitual action which progresses toward its goal. 5. <i>I ask [implore, plead with, beseech] you.</i> <i>The one we have had...that we love.</i> Notice the plural, "we." <i>New commandment...we have had from the beginning.</i> 6. <i>This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.</i> <i>You should walk in it.</i> III. False Teachers 7-9 7. <i>Deceivers.</i> Ones who lead others into wrong actions. <i>Such a one is the [a] deceiver and the [an] antichrist.</i> 8. <i>Watch yourselves.</i> <i>That you...may win [receive] a full reward.</i> 9. <i>Everyone who goes on ahead [goeth onward; transgresses].</i> <i>And does not abide in the teaching [doctrine].</i> <i>Teaching [doctrine] of Christ.</i> How are we to understand this phrase? <i>Has both the Father and the Son.</i> The "full reward" of verse 8. IV. Deny Hospitality 10,11 10. <i>If anyone comes to you.</i> "When anyone comes to you" a. <i>Do not receive him into your house.</i> b. <i>Or give him any greeting [neither bid him God speed].</i> 11. <i>Takes part [shares; partaker].</i> To have fellowship with, to share in. V. Close 12,13 12. <i>I have much to write to you.</i> <i>I would rather not use paper and ink.</i> <i>Face to face.</i> Mouth to mouth. The value of personal contact. <i>That our [your] joy may be complete.</i> 13. <i>Your elect sister.</i> Probably the church where John is when writing. |