

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



March 1, 2015

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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325-646-7102
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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.

Kernels of Knowledge

 From our Daily Bible Reading

God's Care for His People

After more than two centuries, God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt and into the bleak wilderness of Sinai.

Ideally, the Hebrews should have gone directly into Canaan (150 miles to the northeast), which would have taken about a month. However, due to their lack of faith, they were forced to wander in the harsh desert for 40 years.

According to a census that was taken, there were 603,550 fighting men (Num. 1:46). Based upon this figure, scholars have estimated that the total number of Israelites would have been between 2 and 3 million people. The exodus was thus an enormous undertaking.

The following estimated statistics may alter your mental image of that ancient event.

- ◆ If the Israelites had crossed the Red Sea in double file, the column would have been 800 miles long, and the crossing would have taken about 35 days and nights.
- ◆ As it was, they went over in a single night. The column thus may have been about 5,000 abreast (or 3 miles wide) as they crossed the sea. The nightly camping space would have required an area of about 25 by 30 miles.
- ◆ This mighty throng would have needed about 1,500 tons of food per day. That is about the amount that two trains, each a mile long, could hold.
- ◆ Moreover, they would have required about a million gallons of water each day. That is the equivalent of a train of tank cars about 1,800 miles long.

These astounding figures have led critics to allege that the data presented in the book of Numbers regarding this multitude are much exaggerated. The claim is made that it would have taken **miracles** to sustain the Hebrews under these circumstances.

That is precisely what the Old Testament narrative affirms.

The Israelites could not have sustained their own lives. God supernaturally took care of them, providing them with manna, quail, and water.

More importantly, this vivid pictorial lesson of old speaks to you and me today, if we will listen. Though he provided special help with miracles to the children of Israel, today he provides aid and comfort **through his Son** (Hebrews 1:1-2).

It is by following his word that we are sustained: physically and spiritually. May we be wise enough to listen.

"And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deut. 8:3).

Wayne Jackson
(www.christiancourier.com)

"Caleb...said, 'Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.' Then the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are no able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.'... And the Lord said to Moses, 'How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?'"
Numbers 13:30,31; 14:11

“Church of Christ”: False Advertising?

Several mornings a week, especially in winter, I drive to the office in the pre-dawn darkness. Living in a small town means there’s not much traffic on the main drag through town, and most businesses have not yet opened for business. That’s why one particular building, something that looks a lot like an auto service garage, always grabs my attention. In one of its window blinks a neon orange light reading “OPEN.” Though the rest of the shop will be closed up and dark inside, the establishment still claims to be open. One morning as I drove to work and saw the sign glowing, I realized that I had never seen that place of business open at all. Every time I’ve driven by, it’s been closed.

The thing about signs for business establishments is that they identify the place of business, but it also sets expectations for the consumer. A sign identifies what a business stands for and what a person can expect. When I see golden arches, I know I can expect delicious (if not disastrous for your health) French fries. When I see a green mermaid within a circle, I know I can expect fantastic coffee. When I see an “OPEN” sign, I expect an establishment is ready for my business.

The place where I work also has a sign out front, one that identifies who we are, what we do, what we stand for, and what people can expect. It says, “Church of Christ.” I’ve seen literally hundreds (if not thousands) of such signs in my lifetime. But it was only recently that I thought about what such a claim really means. God forbid the day when such a distinctive sign becomes no more trustworthy than the “OPEN” sign for a closed business a few blocks west of downtown Bowie.

1. BEING A CHURCH OF CHRIST MEANS WE DO WHAT CHRIST SAID.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” A church of Christ is radically committed to doing what Christ said, to being obedient to the words of Jesus. Being a church of Christ means taking his commands concerning personal relationships as seriously as those on religious doctrine, that loving your enemy and believing in the resurrection are equally important.

I know churches, and you do too, that take a very rigid stance on Matt. 19:3-9, but are rather lax in enforcing Jesus’ commands for conflict resolution in Matt. 18:15-17. But Jesus’ commands are not a buffet from which we get to choose. A church of Christ is radically obedient to her Lord, regardless of the circumstances or the cost.

2. BEING A CHURCH OF CHRIST MEANS WE LIVE AS CHRIST LIVED.

In 1 John 2, we are confronted with the incompatibility of someone who claims to know Jesus, but does not live like it. In v. 6, we are told, “Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” Earlier in the NT, Peter says, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

Living as Jesus lived can mean many things. I’m not suggesting we let our hair grow long, wear a blue sash over our shoulders (if my Sunday School coloring sheets can be trusted), and walk everywhere we go. Rather, living like Jesus means we develop an unwavering commitment to accomplishing God’s will for our life (John 17:4), even if it leads us down a path of suffering and affliction. In 1 Pet. 2:21, Peter says “For to this you have been called,” meaning the suffering and affliction that comes from obeying authority figures who are abusive and unjust.

In many places, the church has become synonymous with law-abiding citizens who nonetheless show an unholy scorn and disdain for those different from them. If the early church was called to honor an emperor as immoral as Nero (1 Pet 2:17), then perhaps Christians can and should do better about respecting the Oval Office while at the same time bearing the prophetic mantle and calling for repentance.

This is just one of the many ways we can perhaps do a better job of living as Jesus lived. In a more general sense, the church is obligated to bear up under mistreatment with a profound, other-worldly spirit of grace instead of screaming about “rights” or whining about persecution. “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly” (1 Pet 2:23). As did Christ, so must his church do.

3. BEING A CHURCH OF CHRIST MEANS WE MAKE MUCH OF CHRIST.

If she is not careful, a church of Christ can become of a church that promotes everything and everyone else but Christ. These do not have to be bad things, but good things that are emphasized to an unhealthy degree. Some churches with a sign out front that reads “Church of Christ” are more well-known in their communities for things other than Jesus. They are the “You’re the only ones going to heaven” church, or the “You have to be baptized to be saved” church, or the “Democrats and Gays are evil and the

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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

Mar. 1 Numbers 14-15; Psalm 90

Mar. 2 Numbers 16-17

Mar. 3 Numbers 18-20

Mar. 4 Numbers 21-22

Mar. 5 Numbers 23-25

Mar. 6 Numbers 26-27

Mar. 7 Numbers 28-30

Mar. 8 Numbers 31-32

“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)



(Continued from page 2)

U.S. needs to get out of the U.N.” church, or the “You can’t read anything but the King James Version of the Bible” church, or the “You have to wear a nice suit and tie to worship or they won’t talk to you” church, or the “You’re going to hell if you worship with instruments” church, or the “You can’t eat in the church building or support orphans’ homes” church...

I could go on and on, but I think you get my point. Some of the things in that list are not inherently bad. They are, in fact, good things to which we must be faithful. But churches can major in minors; I’ve seen churches become consumed with one or two pet issues that all else was eclipsed, and Jesus was forgotten about. A blistering political ideology was espoused from the pulpit or echoed in public prayers, a particular doctrine was taught over and over and over, but Jesus got little billing and, usually, personal holiness fell apart in that congregation because Jesus wasn’t glorified.

When a church makes it her primary pursuit to make much of Jesus, she will still speak of baptism and proper worship and will articulate a biblical worldview and morality, but it will always be under the banner of “This is what our Jesus has asked of us, and we glorify and love him by doing just that.” Christian doctrine and living divorced from Christ becomes a toxic, ghastly shell of its former glory.

4. BEING A CHURCH OF CHRIST MEANS WE LOOK FORWARD TO CHRIST’S RETURN.

While researching and writing “Living & Longing for the Lord,” I was convicted of my personal failure (as well as the church’s) to live expectantly of Jesus’ imminent return. Repeatedly in the NT, Jesus’ return is likened to the coming of a nighttime thief. In 1 Thess. 5, Paul pleads with his readers to remain sober and awake. Even Jesus himself once told a story about five foolish virgins who were unprepared for the arrival of the bridegroom.

A church that has identified itself with Christ will live in eager anticipation of his imminent return. Not to the degree that she fails to plan for the future, but neither to the degree that she carries on as if the future is guaranteed. Show me a church that has grown lethargic in its missionary activity or lazy in its quest to root out sin in the camp lest a little yeast leaven the whole lump, and I will show you a church that doesn’t really believe that Jesus could return at any moment.

One of the saddest things that can happen is for a church in a community to earn the reputation of “playing church in Jesus’ name,” but not living as if they are a true church of Christ. May God help us to live and work and speak as the church of Christ, not in a petty sectarian way, but in a way that magnifies the King of kings in our communities until he returns for his bride.

Michael Whitworth

(www.start2finish.org/church-christ-false-advertising/)

Celebrate

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

February Birthdays: Ken Maninger (4), Aila Stewart (5), John Greer (7), Wayne Kahlich (9), Daphne Escamilla (12), Brian Leftwich (14), Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29).

February Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Feb. 15, 2015	Feb. 22, 2015
Bible Class	36	36
AM Worship	49	49
PM Worship	39	31
Wednesday PM	42	39
Contribution	\$2,139	\$1,797

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 3/1/15	Next Week: 3/8/15	March 2015	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller	Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller	Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Communion	Don Smith*, James Thomas Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Gene Bannister*, Hank Wheeler John Barnum, Allen Griffith	Keep Grounds: James Fuller	
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism	April 2015	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceton Evetts, Chase Churchwell	Make Announcements: Gene Bannister	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith	Clean Building: Cindy Fuller & Jessica Stultz	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox	Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Communion	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 4 Prayer	March 11 Allen Griffith	March 18 Tom Wilcox	March 25 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 March 1, 2015	Sunday Class Acts 2:46ff
<p>The Four Parts of Salvation: Grace, Faith, Law and Works</p> <p>Salvation is the great theme of the Bible – there is no topic of Christian faith more important</p> <p>Salvation from sin for man has four parts: Grace, Faith, Law, and Works.</p> <p>I. Grace</p> <p>A. "For by grace you have been saved..." (Eph. 2:8).</p> <p>B. God's amazing grace is shown by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some have called grace – "God's Riches At Christ's Expense." By grace – salvation is provided for all and offered to all mankind. <p>II. Faith.</p> <p>A. Man is saved "by grace...through faith" (Eph. 2:8).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> But it must be an obedient faith – not "faith alone" (Jas. 2:24). The Bible is filled with examples of faith expressed by obedience to God's will. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham (Gen. 22; Jas. 2:20-24). "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days" (Heb. 11:30). Naaman the leper [somewhat reluctantly] (2 Kings 5:1-14). The blind man (Jn. 9:1-7). Man's part is to take God at His Word and do what He commands! <p>III. Law.</p> <p>A. The law of the Lord teaches that one must: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized (Rom. 10:17; Luke 13:3; Acts 8:37; Rom. 6:3,4).</p> <p>B. If one fails to meet these conditions of obedience to be saved by the grace of God – he cannot be saved.</p> <p>C. God is not going to alter terms of salvation for anyone.</p> <p>IV. Works.</p> <p>A. Man is not saved as "a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:9) – but by a working, obedient faith in the Lord.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is a difference between "works of merit" and "works of obedience" (Mt. 7:24,25; Jn. 3:36). The faith that saves is the faith that obeys! <p>B. Our faith in the Lord must be an active, obedient faith.</p> <p>C. Some today have an obedient, working faith – others have a disobedient faith.</p> <p>One must do something to be saved – we are not saved by grace alone and/or by faith alone.</p> <p>One must trust and obey.</p>	<p>Jude 12-25</p> <p>II. WARNINGS 5-19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hidden reefs [spots]: Hidden until the damage is done. <i>Feast with you:</i> To fatten, to indulge. <i>Without fear:</i> Fearless, without respect. <i>Waterless clouds:</i> Promise of rain... but no rain. cf: Prov. 25:14. <i>Trees...twice dead:</i> Absolutely without fruit and are worthless. <i>Pulled up by the roots:</i> An Old Testament metaphor of judgment. <i>Waves...casting up the foam:</i> the most worthless part! <i>Wandering stars:</i> Stars which disappear into outer darkness. <i>It was...about these that Enoch...prophesied:</i> <i>Ten thousands [myriads]:</i> Myriads of angels. <i>To execute judgment:</i> Not grace! Not mercy! Only judgment! <i>Ungodliness...ungodly...ungodly:</i> Godless, irreverent. <i>Deeds...committed...harsh things...spoken:</i> Evil deeds & evil words. <i>Grumblers [murmurers]:</i> Complainers. "<i>providence is against me.</i>" <i>Malcontents [complainers]:</i> Constantly expressing their bad lot in life. <i>Following their own sinful desires:</i> A course of their own making. <i>Loud-mouthed boasters:</i> Arrogant speech without any substance. <i>Showing favoritism to gain advantage [showing respect of persons]:</i> <i>But:</i> adversative – opposed to what has just been written. <i>Remember...predictions [words]...spoken...apostles:</i> The old paths! <i>Scoffers [mockers]:</i> Ones who make fun of others by mocking. <i>Who cause divisions [separate themselves]:</i> To work a division. <i>Worldly [sensual]:</i> Worldly minded. <i>Devoid of the Spirit:</i> God will not dwell in the worldly! <p>III. EXHORTATIONS 20-25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Building yourselves up:</i> To build up, to edify. <i>Your most holy faith:</i> Most holy, holiest, very holy. <i>Praying in the Holy Spirit:</i> By His direction in the written word. <i>Keep yourselves in the love of God:</i> This is a command. <i>Waiting [looking] for:</i> Waiting for, looking forward too, expecting. <i>Have mercy [compassion]:</i> Put yourself in his place. cf: Gal 6:1. <i>Those who doubt:</i> Honest doubters are to be shown mercy. Taught. <i>Others:</i> those deeper into the snare of the error being taught. <i>Fear:</i> True fear, for their souls and yours. <i>Snatching them out:</i> To seize, to snatch. There is urgency here! <i>Hating even the garment stained by the flesh:</i> <i>Able:</i> The One who has the power. <i>Keep you from stumbling [falling]:</i> Guard you from falling. <i>To present you blameless [faultless]:</i> only Christ can do this! <i>With great [exceeding] joy:</i> <i>God, our Savior:</i> Jesus Christ!