

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 29, 2015

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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.

Kernels of Knowledge From our Daily Bible Reading More Jesus, Less Doctrine = Less Jesus

It is not unusual, during a Biblical discussion for someone to raise his/her hand in frustration and remark, "Can't we talk more about Jesus, and less about doctrine?"

At face value, it is hard to disagree with this sentiment. "Yes, more Jesus, less doctrine!" others may quickly chime in. And whatever Biblical discussion you had will come screeching to a halt.

Behold, the "more-Jesus-less-doctrine" person has arrived! He is a brave new explorer in the world of holiness. He is discovering new heights of righteousness by rising above those silly, immature older Christians who care about the 'details.' "These people talk too much about issues I have risen above," this brave pioneer thinks to himself, condescendingly.

Well, what do you propose Christians talk about instead of "doctrine"?

"Let's talk about Jesus." So you want to talk about *Christology* (the study of what the Bible says about Christ)? That's all doctrine.

"Well, let's talk about God's grace." So you want to talk about *Soteriology* (the study of what the Bible says about salvation)? That's more doctrine.

"Let's talk about making the church more welcoming." So you want to talk about *Ecclesiology* (the study of what the Bible says about the church)? Any discussion about the church is going to be about doctrine.

"Let's talk about heaven." Oh, that's *Eschatology* (the study of what the Bible says about the hereafter). No way around doctrine here!

There's no escaping "doctrine."

You can't discuss things like *grace, salvation, faith, hope, belief, worship, heaven, or hell* without it. And you certainly can't have Jesus without doctrine.

Jesus said no one could come to Him unless they were drawn by hearing and learning what was taught by God (John 6:44-45). He rebuked those who "know not the scriptures" (Matt.

22:29) and challenged people to separate man's doctrines from God's doctrines (Matt. 15:9; Mark 7:7-9). The crowds were astonished at His doctrine (Matt. 7:28), and He warned Christians about following false doctrine (Rev. 2:14, 24).

May I be blunt for a moment? **You don't love Jesus if you don't love His doctrine.** I'm only repeating what Jesus said in John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

In fact, I would venture to say **you measure how much you love Jesus by how eager you are to keep His commandments.**

You can't love Jesus without caring about what He taught.

Try having a substantive conversation about Jesus without His "doctrine." You'll have more luck putting out a forest fire by yodeling at it.

You simply can't be a Christian without knowing what He said in His New Testament. How would you even know what a faithful disciple of Jesus looked like without knowing the teachings of Jesus through the writings of His apostles? Where would you start?

Newborn Christians continued in the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42) and they filled whatever city they were in with that doctrine (Acts 5:28). They were saved from sin by obeying doctrine (Rom. 6:17) and were told to avoid teachers who altered that doctrine (Rom. 16:17). It was possible for Christians to be carried away by strange doctrines (Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9). They were to avoid the doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1), and they were warned that some would not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim. 2:1).

Because of this, young preacher Timothy was commanded to devote himself to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:13) and to labor in preaching and teaching doctrine (1 Tim. 5:17). It was important for Timothy to get that doctrine right; otherwise it would be blasphemy (1 Tim. 6:1) and would result in ungodliness (1 Tim. 6:3).

(Continued on page 3)

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.... If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:12,31-32



Welcome To Our Spring 2015 Gospel Meeting

We Are Glad You Are Here!

CHRIS MCCURLEY

IN A SERIES OF GOSPEL LESSONS

MARCH 29—APRIL 1, 2015

Spiritual Mythbusters Commonly Believed Myths That Contradict Biblical Truth



Service Times & Topics

Sunday	9:45am	Being Good Means Being Saved
	10:40am	God Will Never Give You More Than You Can Handle
	6:00pm	God Only Helps Those Who Help Themselves
Monday	7:00pm	Christians Shouldn't Judge
Tuesday	7:00pm	Godly Parenting Guarantees Godly Kids
Wednesday	7:00pm	Everything Happens For A Reason

Lunch will be provided after services Sunday Morning.
Snacks and fellowship after Monday & Tuesday evening services.

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. 29 Joshua 22-24

Mar. 30 Judges 1-2

Mar. 31 Judges 3-5

Apr. 1 Judges 6-7

Apr. 2 Judges 8-9

Apr. 3 Judges 10-12

Apr. 4 Judges 13-15

Apr. 5 Judges 16-18

*"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 **26 contacts** were made.

Gospel Meeting Notes

- ◆ **Fellowship Meal** following worship this morning.
- ◆ **We will meet for a meal together before services on Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 5:00pm.**
 - Tues.—Section Hand Steak House (4412 Hwy 377 S)
 - Wed.—Skilletts (500 E Commerce)
- ◆ **Song Leaders**
 - Monday—Joe Dennis
 - Tuesday—Johnny McCaghren
 - Wednesday—Mike Bannister
- ◆ **Remember snacks** for Monday & Tuesday evenings.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting Flyers**—they expire Wednesday! Use them before they go bad!

Special Announcements

- ◆ Next Sunday will be our monthly fellowship meal and elders/deacons/preacher’s meeting.

Upcoming Events In The Area

- ◆ April 5-8 **Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton** w/ Foy Forehand
- ◆ April 5-8 **Gospel Meeting @ Deleon** w/ Phil McIntosh
- ◆ April 5-8 **Gospel Meeting @ Granbury Road** (Cleburne) w/ Rick Popejoy
- ◆ April 11 **Ladies Day @ Hwy 36** (Abilene)
- ◆ April 19-22 **Gospel Meeting @ Windmill Road** (Weatherford). Various speakers.
- ◆ April 24-25 **Heart of Texas Ladies Retreat @ Brady**. Preregistration required. (See Cindy for registration)
- ◆ April 25 **Ladies Day @ Comanche**, “Footprints of Jesus”
- ◆ April 25 **Marriage Seminar @ Oldham Lane** (Abilene), “His Shoes, Her Shoes”
- ◆ May 17-20 **Gospel Meeting @ Gordon** w/ Jason Rollo

We are very pleased to have Chris McCurley with us this week for our Gospel Meeting.

Chris works with the Oldham Lane Church of Christ in Abilene. He has previously worked with the North Heights Church of Christ in Batesville, AR and the Mill Street Church of Christ in Cassville, MO. Prior to ministry, Chris was a teacher and head basketball and baseball coach in the Cord-Charlotte School system.

Chris and his wife Libby have three wonderful children: Keely (18), Zoe (15) and Zane (14). Both Chris and Libby grew up in Paragould, AR, where their families still reside.

Chris preaches annually in a number of Gospel meetings, lectureships and seminars. He has written for *Think Magazine* and *The Gospel Advocate*, and has done mission work in El Salvador and Mexico City. He is editor and co-author of the books *Fit for the Pulpit: The Preacher & His Challenges* and *Preach Better: 10 Ways to Communicate the Gospel More Effectively*. He directs Oldham Lane’s annual Preacher Training Camp, which trains young men how to be effective preachers of the gospel. He has a weekly television program entitled *Life in the Light* which airs each Sunday morning at 10:30am on KTAB, and a blog about Christianity and life at www.start2finish.org. He is a member of the *Wylie Lions Club*, on the board of directors for *Pregnancy Resources of Abilene*, and is currently running for a position on the *Wylie School Board*.

We look forward to hearing Chris proclaim God’s Word this week. Please remember to express your gratitude to him for a job well done.

(Continued from page 1)

Trying to say something else?

To be fair, maybe our “more-Jesus-less-doctrine” friends understand that you can’t actually talk about Jesus without talking about doctrine. Maybe they just aren’t articulating what they are actually trying to communicate. Maybe they are on to something – we just have to figure out what that *something* is.

(Continued on page 4)

Celebrate

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



Records

	Mar. 15, 2015	Mar. 22, 2015
Bible Class	47	45
AM Worship	55	66
PM Worship	48	44
Wednesday PM	48	42
Contribution	\$1,753	\$2,399

	This Week: 3/29/15	Next Week: 4/5/15	March 2015 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller April 2015 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Cindy Fuller & Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, James Thomas Hank Wheeler, Caleb Dennis	Joe Dennis*, Don Smith Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Johnny McCaghren	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	NA	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Billy Chism		

Wednesday Devotionals:	April 1 Gospel Meeting	April 8 Prayer	April 15 Joe Dennis	April 22 Allen Griffith
-------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

(Continued from page 3)

“More-Jesus-less-doctrine”-ers are right, if they actually mean the following:

Don’t neglect the weightier matters of the law.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. (Matt. 23:23)

It is important to talk about ‘peripheral’ issues. As much as I may dislike talking about issues like *how to dress for worship, fellowship and denominationalism, discipline, the gift of the Holy Spirit, or homosexuality*, Christians need to have conversations about these things. If Christians can divide over these things – and if the Bible talks about these things (or principles that relate to these things) – we need to talk about them.

However, if you talk about peripheral issues without your ultimate focus being on Christ and Him crucified, then you are neglecting the weightier matters of the law, just as the scribes & Pharisees did in Jesus’ day. Every Biblical discussion must be in the context of holiness and faithfulness to God. **Peripheral matters are not an end to themselves, but a means to becoming a better disciple of Jesus.**

Don’t confuse man-made traditions with God-given doctrine.

“Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” gets on Jesus’ nerves (Matt. 15:9), and can you blame Him? I’ve met more than one Christian who was unable to separate *traditions* from the actual teachings of the New Testament. **Have we become so intellectually lazy that we are unable to think critically in our pursuit to restore New Testament Christianity?**

We must remember the phrase **“Jesus unites; doctrine divides” is theological nonsense. Jesus & His New Testament unites** (cf. John 17:20-21); it is *preference* confused as *doctrine* that actually divides.

Make sure your attitude is right.

Sometimes people clumsily associate doctrinal discussions with bad attitudes. They might think this because they have seen too many people with bad attitudes take part in doctrinal discussions in the past. We can sympathize with this.

I know a guy who nearly always demonizes anyone who disagrees with him over doctrinal matters. If you highlight inconsistency in his logic, he will simply spew poison at you. He’s a bitter, unpleasant man. He has an attitude problem, not a too-much-doctrine problem.

It’s hard to blame people for having a knee-jerk reaction to this kind of person and assuming the “less doctrine” posture. But we need to remain level-headed and not make “more-Jesus-less-doctrine” a chip on our shoulder.

As we engage in doctrinal discussions, we must humble ourselves before the Lord (Jas. 4:10), understanding that it is possible to interpret His Word incorrectly sometimes. Just as a loving attitude covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8), so does a humble attitude (cf. Luke 18:9-14). We must always recognize there is room for all of us to grow as we walk in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (2 Pet. 3:18).

Conclusion

Tired of hobby riders, hypocritical Christians, religious jargon spouters? Me too! But “more Jesus, less doctrine”? I can imagine a doctrine-less conversation about Jesus sounds a lot like the kind of conversations many New-Agers and Millennials had in their apartments the week pot was legalized in Colorado.

Why can’t we have both more Jesus *and* more doctrine?

Perhaps our “more-Jesus-less-doctrine” friends mean something else. If they mean, “How does this doctrinal matter fit in the context of pleasing Christ?” They are right to ask the question. If they mean, “Are we adequately separating tradition from God’s Word?” They are right to ask the question. If they mean, “Are our attitudes right as we discuss doctrine?” They are right to ask the question. **But we must never minimize doctrine itself. To minimize doctrine is to minimize Jesus.**

Let’s get doctrine right, so we can get Jesus right.