

# 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



April 19, 2015

## 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.

## Kernels of Knowledge From our Daily Bible Reading

### SAUL VS. DAVID:

### THE HEART OF MAN VS. THE HEART OF GOD

Saul was Israel's first king, anointed by Samuel, chosen by God. God warned Israel through Samuel about their demands for a king and how they were not only rejecting Samuel, but ultimately rejecting God as their king. Saul was about to engage in battle with the Philistines after Jonathon had defeated a garrison of Philistine troops in Geba (1 Sam. 13:3). As the tensions mounted and the Philistine troops were amassed, the Israelites found themselves cowering in caves and holes, those with Saul at Gilgal were likewise fearful (13:6,7). Samuel had instructed Saul to wait seven days before taking any actions. Because of his impatience, Saul decided to do what he thought best and offer a sacrifice to God, despite the fact that it was in direct contradiction with what God had commanded him. We hear Saul's explanation for his disobedience, "Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering" (13:12). Therefore I felt compelled.... Think about this for a second. We use this same excuse only worded differently when we sin. Why did you do that? Because I felt like it, because it felt good to me, because I wanted to, because I felt compelled, **therefore I felt compelled**. This is the sinful nature of man. To do what it is that we want to do, when we want to do, no matter the consequences. Just as the Bible says, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25b) and Saul was a perfect and fitting example of this point. This is the world in which we live in today.

But there is hope. For after Saul came Israel's great king. After Saul came a man after God's own heart (13:14). After Saul came King David. David was also chosen by God and anointed by Samuel. But instead of cowering when it came time to assume the throne, David waited on the Lord. Just like Saul, David sinned, but his reaction was far greater. With Saul, we learned that he sinned because he felt like it. With David, we learn what it means to have heartfelt remorse, to pour out ones soul over the pain that we've caused our heavenly Father. God used Nathan to "wake" David up from his sinful slumber. After Nathan's rebuke, David's immediate response was, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:13). Notice the difference when confronted by their sins. Saul said to Samuel that he felt compelled to do it. David said to Nathan that he sinned against the Lord. This is what is meant by being a "man after God's own heart." David recognized his sin and through his heartfelt change, desired to become a better man in the Lord each day. In fact we can read about his changes and about his remorse throughout the Psalms of David. Take **Psalm 25** for example:

*<sup>1</sup>To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. <sup>2</sup>O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.*

(Continued on page 2)

*"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correction his opponents with gentleness."* **2 Timothy 2:22-25a**



(Continued from page 1)

<sup>4</sup>Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. <sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. <sup>9</sup>The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. <sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

<sup>11</sup>For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. <sup>12</sup>Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. <sup>13</sup>He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. <sup>14</sup>The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. <sup>15</sup>My eyes are ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net.

<sup>16</sup>Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am desolate and afflicted. <sup>17</sup>The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! <sup>18</sup>Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins.

<sup>19</sup>Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred. <sup>20</sup>Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. <sup>21</sup>Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

<sup>22</sup>Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

A far cry from, "Therefore I felt compelled." There are far too many people today with the heart of Saul and too few with the heart of David. Whose heart represents yours? One who callously shrugs off their sins, with a passing repentance of words? Or the heart of the Lord, whose heartfelt remorse and repentance leads to a life change and a desire to live more like Christ each day?

Adapted from an article at [voiceoftruthblog.com](http://voiceoftruthblog.com)

## Stop Saying "God Knows My Heart" to Excuse Sin

When confronted with their sins, it's not uncommon to hear people say, "Yeah, but God knows my heart." I usually take this to mean, "What I'm doing might be wrong, but in my heart, I'm a good person. God knows that. So I don't think He will hold me accountable for my actions." These folks obviously believe in God and believe in sin, but they believe that having a "good heart" is justification for their sin. God says that's not true.

### Your Sins Proceed from Your Heart

According to Jesus, no one sins in spite of having a clean heart. On the contrary, our sins are evidence of the impurity of our heart. Jesus said, "What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart...out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander" (Matt. 15:18,19).

You can't use profanity and – when someone calls you on it – say, "Well, God knows my heart." Your heart is the place from which that profanity came. If you're living with someone you're not married to, the excuse that God knows your heart won't cut it. Your sexual immorality is the product of your unclean heart.

You don't sin in spite of having a clean heart; you sin because there is something wrong in your heart.

### Your Heart is Hidden from Man, but Not from God

The realization that God knows our hearts should humble us to repent, not embolden us to sin. You can hide your heart from the world. You can appear righteous and godly to others, even if your heart is rotten to the core, but God knows the truth. He sees your heart.

The Pharisees wanted people to believe they were righteous, when really they were evil. What they were was not evident to the people because the people couldn't see their hearts, but God could. Jesus said they were like cups that were clean on the outside, but filthy on the inside (Matt. 23:25,26). He said they were like, "whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:27).

Jesus could see what others could not. He could see their hearts.

**No Matter How Bad Your Life Is, Your Heart is Worse**  
All of this should teach us that our heart is not better than our life,

(Continued on page 3)

### 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>April 19</b>	<b>1 Samuel 28-31; Psalm 18</b>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Psalm 121, 123-125, 128-130</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>2 Samuel 1-4</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Psalm 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21</b>
<b>April 23</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 1-2</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Psalm 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 3-5</b>
<b>April 26</b>	<b>Psalm 73, 77-78</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)



**The Known Sick:**

**Visitation Meeting**

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **20 contacts** were made.

**Special Announcements**

- ◆ **Friday night** (4/24) @ 6:00 (or when you can get there). Food, games & fellowship at Jessica Stultz's home. Bring snacks, games, etc.
- ◆ **Ladies**—If you plan to attend Ladies Day at Comanche Saturday, let Cindy know today, so she can RSVP.

**Upcoming Events In The Area**

- ◆ 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" (Register at [www.oldhamlanechurch.com/marriage](http://www.oldhamlanechurch.com/marriage))
- ◆ May 2 **Cherokee Day @ Cherokee Home for Children**
- ◆ May 9 **Stronger Marriage Workshop @ Austin Avenue** (preregistration required—see flyer)
- ◆ May 17-20 **Gospel Meeting @ Gordon** w/ Jason Rollo
- ◆ June 28-July 2 **Junior Camp** [4th-7th grade]
- ◆ July 19-24 **Senior Camp** [8th-12th grade] (See Johnny for application for camps)

*(Continued from page 2)*

it is almost always worse. There are things lurking in the darkness of our hearts that have not yet manifested themselves outwardly. But God knows our dirty little secrets. He knows our greed, our lust, our selfishness, our pride, and our bitterness.

He knows our life as well. He knows the things we've said, the people we've hurt, the places we've gone, and the good deeds we've failed to do. He knows all of it.

**The Cross, Not Your Heart,  
Is Where You'll Find Justification**

When I think about the fact that God knows my heart, it drives me to my knees and makes me pray, as David did:

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:1-2,10-12).*

The realization that God knows my heart makes me realize what a wretch I am. It makes me so thankful for the blood of Jesus. It makes me look – not to my heart for justification – but to the cross for justification. I have sinned outwardly and I have sinned inwardly. The only hope I have is Jesus.

So I beg you to realize that God will hold you accountable for the sins of your mouth, the sins of your hands, and the sins of your heart unless you repent and allow Him to wash you clean in the blood of Jesus Christ:

*"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:8-10).*

*Wes McAdams via radicallychristian.com*

**Celebrate**

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

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



**Records**

	Apr. 5, 2015	Apr. 12, 2015
Bible Class	42	40
AM Worship	59	53
PM Worship	39	39
Wednesday PM	35	41
Contribution	\$2,254	\$1,615



	Next Week: 4/19/15	Next Week: 4/26/15		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>April 2015</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghrens <b>Clean Building:</b> Cindy Fuller & Jessica Stultz <b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox  <b>May 2015</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Jack & Judy Turner <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Don Smith Hank Wheeler, Ken Maninger	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis John Barnum, Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceton Evetts	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	James Thomas		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Joe Dennis		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 22 Allen Griffith	April 29 Singing Night	May 6 Prayer	May 13 Tom Wilcox

## 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)*

<b>Studies for the week of April 19, 2015</b>	Sunday Class ..... Acts 4:29ff
	Wednesday Class ..... Ezekiel 3:22ff
<p><b>Must one be a member of the church of Christ to go to heaven?</b></p> <p><b>I. Jesus Built His Church.</b></p> <p>A. Jesus made a promise to build His church (Matt. 16:13-18).</p> <p>B. That church was established on Pentecost (Acts 2) and is spoken of in the epistles as being not only in existence, but singular in nature (Eph. 1:22,23; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:12).</p> <p><b>II. The church is the saved.</b></p> <p>A. Understanding what the church is and how it should be defined is of great importance.</p> <p>B. The church is the composite of all those who are saved (Acts 2).</p> <p>C. Sinners were told to be baptized "for the forgiveness of sins."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those believers understood that to be saved they had to repent and be baptized (Mk. 16:15,16; Jn. 3:3-5; Acts 8:36-40; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-18; 1 Pet. 3:18-21)</li> <li>Upon being baptized, they became a part of the number (i.e., saved) and were known as the church (1 Cor. 12:27; Col. 1:24).</li> <li>Jesus, and He alone, added them to the saved, His body (2:47).</li> </ol> <p>D. Collectively, these saved people were known as the church.</p> <p><b>III. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-27).</b></p> <p>A. Christ, as a monogamous bridegroom, only has one bride.</p> <p>B. The bride of Christ has certain distinguishing characteristics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bride of Christ wears the name of Christ (Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 4:16).</li> <li>Other distinguishing marks of the church include its organization, its worship, its founding date, its founder, its work, its terms of entrance, its rule of faith, its underdenominational nature, etc.</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. Application:</b></p> <p><b>A. Denominationalism is unscriptural.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the very core of denominationalism is the practice of division.</li> <li>The concept of division, joining the church of your choice and the wearing of unauthorized religious names for either the church of the individual are inventions of men – They are simply not found in the Bible.</li> <li>The concept of unity within the body of Christ is not only stressed – it is demanded (Jn. 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13).</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Denominationalism is anti-scriptural.</b></p> <p><b>C. Denominationalism is narrow-minded.</b></p> <p>There is but one body, and Christ is the Savior of the body – the church. Thus, to be saved one must be in the body – the church.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jesus Knows Man #1 – Nicodemus – John 3:1-16</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Ruler of the Jews - Jewish officials, members of the Sanhedrin.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>Nicodemus states that Jesus is a teacher "come from God."</p> <p>What made him conclude this? "These signs that you do" (cf. 20:30, 31).</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Jesus does not respond to what Nicodemus has said. Instead, he tells Nicodemus what he needs to hear.</p> <p><i>Truly, truly</i> – "Listen! I am about to tell you something important."</p> <p><i>Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.</i></p> <p><i>Born.</i> Compare 1:12,13.</p> <p><i>Again (ἀνωθεν anōthen)</i> – from above. Study passages with <i>anōthen</i>.</p> <p><i>See</i> – compare to "enter" in v. 5. You will not recognize it.</p> <p><sup>4</sup>Nicodemus sees only the physical and not the spiritual.</p> <p><sup>5</sup><i>Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.</i></p> <p>This new birth required two elements:</p> <p>Water – which refers to the waters of baptism.</p> <p>The Spirit – which refers to the guidance &amp; direction of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Jesus now personalizes this to Nicodemus (6-8).</p> <p>Before He said "one" must be born again, now he says "you."</p> <p><i>Must</i> which refers to an absolute, unnegotiable teaching.</p> <p><sup>6</sup><i>Flesh is flesh... Spirit is spirit.</i> Are you fleshly or spiritual?</p> <p>Born of the Spirit = born from above – Jn. 3:3; Born of God – Jn 1:13.</p> <p><sup>8</sup>The wind blows serves as an illustration of the work of the Holy Spirit. You cannot see the new birth in the mind of a person but you can see the effects of the change - cf. Gal 5:22 (fruit of the spirit).</p> <p><sup>9</sup><i>How can these things be?</i> Still thinking physical birth, not spiritual birth.</p> <p><sup>10</sup><i>Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?</i></p> <p><sup>11</sup><i>We</i> – Jesus is speaking, but who is the "we"? Holy Spirit? John? You do not receive. Plural in the Greek.</p> <p><sup>12</sup><i>Earthly things...heavenly things.</i> The thrust of the book of John.</p> <p><sup>13</sup><i>The Son of man</i> – The contact between heavenly and earthly things.</p> <p><sup>14</sup>The brass serpent offers us another look at some of the spiritual applications made by Jesus.</p> <p><i>Lifted up.</i> A prediction of the type of death Jesus will die.</p> <p><sup>15</sup>One must "believe" in Jesus to receive eternal life.</p> <p>Eternal life. Compare to 1:4.</p> <p><sup>16</sup><i>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.</i></p>