

# 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 26, 2015

## Contact Us:

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## 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

## Kernels of Knowledge From our Daily Bible Reading

### Samuel the Prophet

Toward the end of the period of the judges of Israel, the roughly 300 years between Joshua and King Saul, God began preparing a child who would have profound leadership skills and spiritual steadfastness to judge Israel. After Samuel began serving as judge, he continued in this role *"all the days of his life"* (1 Sam. 7:15). He also served as a teacher and prophet.

#### Samuel's birth: an answered prayer

The story of Samuel's life begins with the very touching scene of Hannah, a wife of Elkanah, praying to God at the tabernacle in Shiloh. She was pleading with God to allow her to bear a son because she was barren. Elkanah was a Levite of the region of Ephraim. His other wife, Peninnah, was able to bear several children, and she made Hannah's life miserable (1:4-6, 10 – all scripture references in 1 Samuel, unless otherwise noted).

Hannah made a vow to God that if He would allow her to bear a son, she would give the boy to the service of God all the days of his life (v. 11). Some time passed and God answered Hannah's prayer. She conceived and bore a son, calling his name Samuel, saying, *"Because I have asked for him from the Lord"* (v. 20).

#### Samuel's first revelation from God

After Samuel was weaned from his mother, he was placed under the care and training of Eli, the priest and judge of Israel at that time (1:9; 4:18). In addition to teaching Samuel about God and His instructions, Eli gave the child Samuel light duties around the tabernacle (2:18; 3:15).

It was during this time when Samuel was still a child that God began to speak to him. Samuel's first message from God was quite sobering and was to be delivered to Eli, the aging leader of Israel. Samuel was to announce God's punishment on Eli's two wayward sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were abusing their priestly authority over the people and desecrating the sacrificial offerings (2:27-34; 3:2-18).

God also severely reprimanded Eli for his tolerance of his sons' behavior. Because of the disrespect shown to God, God told Eli that his descendants would die in *"the flower of their age"* and that He would choose another family to serve in the priestly line (2:33-35).

#### Samuel's role as prophet

As Samuel grew and faithfully conveyed messages from God, it became obvious that God was working through him. *"And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD"* (3:20). Samuel was also referred to as a *"seer"* (1 Chr. 9:22), another name for prophet. A seer meant one who sees, as in one who receives God's revelation.

As Samuel grew and faithfully conveyed messages from God, it became obvious that God was working through him. The people of Israel consulted Samuel on difficult subjects (9:6-10), and the elders trembled before him as the representative of God's authority (12:18; 16:4-5). Yet in his great concern for the nation, at times he would be in deep intercessory prayer for them (7:7-8; 15:11).

#### Samuel's role as teacher

Although the biblical record is scant, it seems that Samuel may have founded a center or school at Ramah to train young men in prophetic service (Pulpit Commentary, 1 Sam. 19:18-19). Later, during the time of Elijah and Elisha, schools existed at Bethel and Jericho (and possibly Gilgal) where these studious men were called *"the sons of the prophets"* (2 Kgs. 2:1-7, 15; 4:38).

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*"Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him."*  
**Isaiah 30:18**

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.



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The training of these religious leaders was to serve as a barrier against corruption and to protect the nation by furnishing it with men qualified to act as leaders and counselors in the fear of God. "Prophets spoke the word of God. They were primarily spokespersons who called His people to obedience" (Holman Bible Dictionary, "Prophet").

At times God had His prophets fulfill additional duties such as anointing future kings and working with them. Samuel was the instrument God used to anoint the first two physical kings of Israel, Saul and then David (9:15-16; 16:1). Samuel cared for Saul and served as an instructor to him in his early years of kingship (9:25; 10:25). Later, when Saul overstepped his kingly authority and disregarded God's commands, God spoke through Samuel to tell Saul that he was rejected as king over Israel (15:26).

God then sent Samuel to anoint young David to be Israel's next king. For a number of years David was close to Samuel, able to learn from his guidance and experience (19:18).

### Samuel's role as judge

Another of Samuel's leadership roles was that of chief judge of Israel after Eli, his predecessor, died.

During the period of the judges, a judge was often a military champion or a deliverer that God would appoint to win victories over Israel's enemies. Some familiar military judges included Joshua, Gideon, Deborah and Samson.

Samuel fulfilled a more general sense of a judge, being a person carefully selected by God for his integrity and skill to decide legal cases for the people. Samuel served as a judge who focused on teaching and administering justice (Holman Bible Dictionary, "Judge").

### Samuel calls the nation to repentance

A principle that is repeated time and again in the period of the judges can be found when Samuel explains to the people of Israel that they must put away their false idols and faithfully turn their hearts back to God. The ancient Israelites generally forsook their one true Protector and Provider until they faced a crisis.

On one occasion, the Philistines attacked Israel, and 30,000 of Israel's foot soldiers died (4:10). Then God allowed the most holy object in all of Israel, the ark of the covenant, to be taken by the Philistines (4:11).

Samuel then advised them: *"If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve*

*Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines"* (7:3). Only then would God secure their land and give them protection from their enemies.

Samuel gathered the people, and they fasted that day, repenting of their sins. Then Samuel prayed on behalf of all the people.

The outcome was that God gave them a great victory over the enemy (7:5-6, 9-10).

### Samuel's example

Samuel labored throughout his life for the welfare of his people and served as Israel's last judge before the people asked for a monarchy. The biblical record shows that although there were battles and some losses by Israel's armies, overall, the nation survived and flourished under the leadership of Samuel.

Eventually, order was established, godliness was promoted, and the nation was at peace and prospered. *"So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites"* (7:13-14).

Samuel's life serves as an example for believers today. Key principles include his obedience to God, his faith (Heb. 11:32) and his willingness to intercede for others (Jer. 15:1).

*Adapted from an article at lifehopeandtruth.com*

## Bible Class – Pass or Fail?

Churches of Christ have been known through the years as "people of the Book." Part of that description was surely a result of great Bible classes. However, I have been troubled about Bible classes among our fellowship for some time now. I know my observations will not be accurate of every congregation, but I do believe if one is honest, my observations will be true of many. Interestingly, in most schools that teach secular education there is a paradigm that is strictly enforced.

Firstly, there is **certification**. Every teacher that steps into a secular classroom is certified in his or her particular field of expertise. Usually this certification has been preceded by no less than four years, often more, of intense study in that field. Even with the intense study, each teacher is required to shadow a seasoned teacher (i.e., student teaching). Sadly, this paradigm is grossly lacking when it comes to religious education. **Often the only require-**

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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

**April 26** Psalm 73, 77-78

**April 27** 1 Chronicles 6

**April 28** Psalm 81, 88, 92-93

**April 29** 1 Chronicles 7-10

**April 30** Psalm 102-104

**May 1** 2 Sam. 5:1-10; 1 Chr. 11-12

**May 2** Psalm 133

**May 3** Psalm 106-107

*"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)*



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**ment of a Bible class teacher is a pulse!** The idea of certification is a biblical principle. Paul reminded Timothy, “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2). We need to become serious about training every Bible class teacher who steps into a classroom! Simply putting in a willing (or often not so willing) volunteer will never make our students “people of the Book.”

Secondly, there is **expectation**. In a secular setting, teachers are expected to perform their designated tasks, and likewise, students are compelled to do their parts. Teachers are expected to cover a certain amount of material regarding any given subject. Teachers cannot spend too much time on math to the neglect of English. There is a **balanced curriculum**. Students also are expected to complete all of their assigned tasks. If they fail to do so, negative consequences result. Sadly, in far too many Bible classes, there is little expectation on the part of either the teacher or the student. Often times the traditional narratives (Jonah, Daniel, David, etc.) are rehearsed without ever going beyond the basics. While these narratives are important, we must not emphasize these to the neglect of other parts of the Bible. If you were to ask half of the Bible class teachers in most congregations, could they tell you who Habakkuk was and the gist of his prophecy? What about Obadiah? On and on we could go. God expects us to know His Word (2 Timothy 2:15)! **Bible class teachers cannot teach that which they do not know!**

Thirdly, there is **evaluation**. There is continual evaluation in secular schools. Daily quizzes, weekly tests and yearly state achievement tests may be required. These are all done to evaluate the education, the curriculum, teachers and students. Sadly, many of our congregations never evaluate any part of their Bible class program. Far too often when a Bible class becomes available there is a sign-up sheet posted in hopes that someone will volunteer. If no one signs, we employ that “guilt announcement” to try to persuade someone, **anyone!** When we finally find our “teacher,” someone will tell her or him to pick the curriculum and we will “get it ordered.” Sunday comes and the vicious cycle continues.

**Brethren, we must do better!** Are Bible classes more important than secular classes? Most would agree that they are. If religious training is more important than secular training, why do we often take our Bible classes so lightly? Surely God requires more of those who teach His Word (James 3:1). It is my diligent prayer that this article will help to wake us to our responsibility and encourage us to get serious about our Bible class program. What would God say; in most congregations, how serious is the Bible class program? How would God grade us?

Fred C. Nowell, Jr., ([www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com))

## Celebrate

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

**April Birthdays:** Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), Darlene Smith (10), **Caroline Dennis (30)**.

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	Apr. 12, 2015	Apr. 19, 2015
Bible Class	40	45
AM Worship	53	66
PM Worship	39	49
Wednesday PM	41	40
Contribution	\$1,615	\$2,362



Next Week: 4/26/15		Next Week: 5/3/15		<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 & Judie Turner <b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Maninger Family	Hank Wheeler / Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis John Barnum, Don Smith	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Thomas	Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Mike Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 29 Singing Night	May 6 Tom Wilcox	May 13 Prayer	May 20 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 April 26, 2015

Sunday Class ..... Acts 5:4ff  
 Wednesday Class ..... Ezekiel 5:1ff

**The Justice of God**

There are numerous attributes of God: omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, love, holy, righteous, etc. – but none are greater than **justice**.

**I. God's Attributes.**

A. With respect of His nature – God is **holy**.

B. With respect to His activity – God is **righteous**.

C. With respect to His rule and the administration of government – God is **just**.

1. He rules heaven and earth from the basic principle of justice.
2. In His absolute justice – He reveals His hatred and intolerance of sin. (Deut. 32:3,4; Ps. 18:20,25,26; 97:2; 89:14; etc.)
3. From scripture we conclude: "Justice is the giving to every person that – and all of that, and only that – to which he is entitled, and that without partiality or favor, whether good or bad."

D. Justice is in reality a form of God's holiness.

E. God cannot contradict Himself.

1. He is morally capable of expressing or taking only those actions which are in keeping with His character.
2. He cannot clear the guilty – he will not clear the guilty.

**II. The Character of Justice.**

A. Justice is **punitive**. The principle of law must be maintained – the violated public must be avenged – the violator must be subjected to punishment.

B. Justice is **impartial**. We cannot plea our case before God based on the goodness of our father or grandfather – mother or grandmother.

C. Justice is a **process** of "reaping what you sow."

1. The example of King David (2 Sam. 12:10-12,14).
2. The example of Abraham (Gen. 22).

D. Justice is a **process of soul building** (Jas. 1:2-4).

**III. Did God fail in his ultimate aim to promote righteousness?**

A. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

B. Did God fail in his purpose? No – and here is why.

1. Only the members of the Godhead are infinite beings – we are finite and, thus, fallible.
2. God faced a real dilemma with respect to our creation – He knew we would sin and that His holy nature would require justice.
3. God covered the dilemma by making a plan for us before creation. The death of Christ met and requited every demand of violated justice.

**John 3:16-21**

**Special Study – John 3:16**

**For** – Gives the reason for the statement in v. 15.  
**God** – Is the subject of the sentence.  
**So** - (Gk. *outou*) - Means "in this manner" or "in this way."  
**Loved** - (Gk. *agapa* – is a key word in John, occurring 43X times).  
**The World** - Is the direct object of God's love.  
**That** – Because He loved, He did something about it.  
**He Gave** - This is love in action (1 Jn 3:16; 4:9,10).  
**His Only Son** - The only one of His kind; unique (1:14,18; 8:31,32).  
**That** - The reason God loved and gave.  
**Whoever** - This word means all men everywhere.  
**Believes** - This word describes a way of life.  
**In Him** - In Jesus, the Son.  
**Should Not Perish** - to be separated from God and His salvation.  
**But** - contrast between "should not perish" and "have eternal life."  
**Have** - To possess or own.  
**Eternal Life** - Abundant and unending life in fellowship with God.

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<sup>11</sup>Did not send – past tense.  
**World** – 3X – key passage.  
**Not...to condemn [judge] (krine)** = judged, or condemned.  
<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes...is not condemned = Jn 3:16; Jn 5:24.  
**Whoever does not believe is condemned.**  
<sup>19</sup>Light has come into the world. Compare 1:4,5,8,9.  
**People loved the darkness.** Some chose to remain ignorant (Rom1:28).  
 They loved the darkness *because their works were evil*.  
<sup>20</sup>Does: Keeps on doing evil. How they demonstrate that they hate the light.  
**Wicked (phaula)** = rotten things. Evil in the light looks very evil.  
<sup>21</sup>Does (poion), present participle – the one who is doing.  
 Truth is not just something you know, but something you do.  
**Light** occurs 23X and represents good, purity, holiness and knowledge.  
**Darkness** occurs 9X times, and represents evil, wickedness and ignorance.  
 As the light, Jesus came for the purpose of exposing the darkness.