

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



May 3, 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

David at Hebron (2 Samuel 1:1 – 5:5)

In contrast to the rule of Saul, David's reign was one of unification and development of the kingdom. He brought the tribes together, established an efficient government, organized the priesthood, and maintained an army that scarcely lost a battle. He inherited a divided, war-torn land and, when he died, left an empire. David was not only a strong king in contrast to his predecessor, he was the strongest king Israel ever had. He was the measure of others. To be a king like David came to be the highest accolade a successor could have.

Though Saul was dead, David was still not to rule all twelve tribes for seven years. He was readily accepted as king by Judah, but not by the tribes of the north. They crowned Ishbosheth, a remaining son of Saul. In this division of loyalties, a basic separation among the people was evidenced, which will come to fruition after Solomon. David ruled over Judah for 7½ years and later over all Israel for 33 years, making a total reign of 40½ years (1010-970 B.C.).

David Made King Over Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-4)

At the time of Saul's death, David was better known by the people of Judah than by those of the other ten tribes. His hometown was Bethlehem of Judah, and most of his activity had been south of Saul's capital, Gibeah. This had been true during the time when he had led Saul's army against the Philistines, who lived southwest, and also during his life as a fugitive.

It was logical for him, therefore, as he returned to his own people, to go first to Hebron, a central, principal city of Judah, and for the people located there to proclaim his king. He had been their champion for many years, and his gifts and favors had been distributed among their cities. Moreover, he had proved his ability in leadership, especially warfare, much in contrast to the performance of the prior regime. No doubt a large majority were glad for the opportunity to make him king at last, giving them one in whom they could place confidence. Accordingly, when David arrived at Hebron with his own household – in addition to the households of all his 600 followers (2 Sam. 2:3) – the men of Judah promptly assembled and anointed him "king over the house of Judah."

Ishbosheth Made King of Israel (2 Samuel 2:8-10)

The situation was different for the other tribes, because they did not know David so well. Stories would have circulated among them regarding his prowess against the Philistines, when he was still Saul's army commander; but, after he fled from the king, he probably dropped from their attention.

Consequently, on learning of Saul's death, logic led them to think first of Saul's surviving son, Ishbosheth. Three sons had died with Saul, but this one remained, along with two daughters, Merab and Michal. Abner, who somehow had survived the slaughter on Mount Gilboa, was instrumental in establishing Ishbosheth as king, choosing Mahanaim across the Jordan as the new capital.

This change in location of capital was caused by the Philistine domination of Israel since

(Continued on page 2)

"Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown." **Prov. 4:5-9**



(Continued from page 1)

the Gilboa rout. At Mahanaim the young man was proclaimed king of both sides of the Jordan, though the extent to which people west of the river either benefited or felt responsible is questionable. Their main concern was with the threatening presence of the Philistines.

How did the Philistines react to the crowning of David and Ishbosheth over their respective countries? Did they consider them dangerous enemies, did they view them as helpful vassals, or were they unconcerned? Regarding the Israelite king, they probably were quite unconcerned. His influence at most would be minimal west of the Jordan where they were interested.

Regarding David, it is conceivable that they still thought of him as only a vassal. He had been among them, served well under Achish, and should not be difficult to control as ruler over small Judah. Certainly they were pleased that the nation of Israel was now divided, and they no doubt thought in terms of soon taking over the entire country anyway.

Struggle Between David and Ishbosheth (2 Samuel 2:12-4:12)

Conflict between Judah and Israel was almost inevitable from the beginning. It broke out first in a minor skirmish at Gibeon of Benjamin, six miles NE of Jerusalem (2:12-14). There Abner met David's chief, Joab, by the pool of Gibeon. At first only twelve men of each side fought, but the conflict widened and a small war ensued. Finally David's force emerged victorious. Following the main struggle, Asahel, younger brother of Joab, was killed by Abner as he fled from the battle scene, a deed Joab was not to forget.

As months passed, David continually grew stronger in his rule, while Ishbosheth became weaker. Abner, who had been the true ruling voice in Mahanaim from the first, finally quarreled with his king and decided to offer his services to David (3:7-16). In this, Abner was showing his recognition of inevitable developments. He had gained respect for David's ability long before, when both had been active in Saul's inner circle. Now that David was definitely becoming stronger in his position, Abner could see that any future for him lay with David.

Sending a message to David, he agreed to deliver all Israel into David's hands in return for his own safety and, no doubt, an honored position. David first made him agree, however, to return Michal, David's former wife. She had married one Phaltiel after David became a fugitive, and David now wanted her back.

Apparently his love for her had not waned; and, further, the marriage tied him with the house of Saul, which should help gain the allegiance of the northern tribes.

Abner gave assent and brought about Michal's return, much to the sorrow of her present husband, who followed her weeping as far as Abner would permit. Abner also communicated with elders from the various tribes, urging that they now turn their allegiance to David, apparently with some success.

Before he could really effect this change of allegiance, however, he was killed by Joab (3:17-27). This wanton act by David's leader was committed in retaliation for the death of Asahel, though one wonders how much Joab's fear of a rival for his position may also have contributed. David, desiring to court favor with the northern tribes, now did all he could to disassociate himself from the deed, making a public display of his sorrow that it had happened (3:28-39).

With Abner's control gone, two of the lesser officers of Ishbosheth assassinated their king in his palace and carried his head to David, thinking they would be rewarded (4:1-12). But, as with the messenger of Saul's death, David again reacted in an unexpected way, having both immediately killed.

Probably two reasons accounted for this reaction: first, David's respect for one who had been duly appointed king of Israel (particularly since he was a son of Saul) and, second, David's desire once more to disassociate himself from a deed that could bring disfavor of the northern tribes toward him. The image of one who schemed and killed to attain his goals was undesirable. He wanted to be known as he truly felt, and he did have personal revulsion against such actions. Similar thinking had earlier caused him to extend his appreciation to the inhabitants of Jabish-Gilead for their act in giving Saul and his sons an honorable burial (2:4-7).

David Made King of all Israel (2 Sam. 5:1-5; 1 Chr. 12:23-40)

7½ years of ruling at Hebron (5:5) had passed when David was formally anointed king over all Israel. By this time, people spontaneously desired him. Leaders from all the tribes, accompanied by sizeable armies, came to Hebron to make the formal request and reach an agreement. They needed a king, and they needed a strong one – indeed, one with the kind of ability David had earlier shown as head of Saul's army.

Leon J. Wood, A Survey of Israel's History, pp. 217-220.

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

May 3	Psalm 106-107
May 4	2 Sam. 5:11-6:23; 1 Chr. 13-16
May 5	Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68
May 6	Psalm 89, 96, 100-101, 105, 132
May 7	2 Sam. 7; 1 Chr. 17
May 8	Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
May 9	2 Sam. 8-9; 1 Chr. 18
May 10	Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75

*"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 Real Cause of Our Social Unrest

I doubt the systematic created oppression theory. There are too many African American men who have solid godly values and character who grew up in the same country as the others. What makes the good men different from those who blindly steal and destroy? I know many good and honorable men, worthy of respect, who are also men of color. I have deep admiration for them, and many are my brothers in the Lord. There's a predictability that their sweet children and my children will never grow up and act the way the rioters are acting. These kids will never grow up stealing and throwing rocks at law enforcement, be they black or white. Why not? It has nothing to do with the color of their skin. It's about Godly values, especially as they relate to the home. What you're seeing in these awful riots are a result of the breakdown of the family and the churches. It's about men who have abdicated their roles as father and husband. It's about preachers who live immoral lives with women instead of being role models to the people in the pews. It's about men who grew up believing that you can impregnate various women, never marrying any of them--and that you have no responsibility in those children's lives to provide for them and discipline them and rear them up in the Lord. The Bible, and our own observations, tell us that children NEED fathers who love them, discipline them, and are committed to (and married to) their mothers. People are applauding a mother who chased her teenage son during the rioting. I appreciate her for that, but where was that boy's father? Perhaps this teenager is actually growing up to be like his dad. I know that there are inequities in the world, and I know that there are some police officers (black and white) who break the law. Every profession (even preaching!) has men who shame their profession. Yet, what will we say today to the African-American children--or children of any ethnicity for that matter--as we explain that this life isn't always fair? Riot, pillage, destroy innocent people and their property? (I know that is not what anyone here is advocating.) No, that's going to make problems much worse and not going to end well. Let's work together at fixing the real problem. We must call wrong actions wrong, and build/advocate Christian principles of love, compassion, commitment, and a family structure that rears its children with integrity and right values. These things are right no matter the color of our skin.

A Facebook post by **Glenn Colley**

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), Tori Stewart (7), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Boyd (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), Peggy Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23), Isaac Stewart (28), Gracen Hardy (30).

April Anniversaries: Joe & Lasha Dennis (6).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Apr. 19, 2015	Apr. 26, 2015
Bible Class	45	47
AM Worship	66	61
PM Worship	49	36
Wednesday PM	40	39
Contribution	\$2,362	\$1,606

Privileged To Serve

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

Next Week: 5/3/15		Next Week: 5/10/15		May 2015 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: James Fuller June 2015 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Hank Wheeler / Tom Wilcox	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Griffith, Hank Wheeler	Garrett Barnum*, James Thomas Don Smith, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceton Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Garrett Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 6 Tom Wilcox	May 13 Prayer	May 20 Don Smith	May 27 Joe Dennis

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 May 3, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 5:17ff
 Wednesday Class Video or Singing

Family Priorities

If you only had one day to live, what would spend the day doing?
 On the last day of Joshua's life, he challenged and encouraged his brethren to faithfulness, ending his challenge with these words: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

- I. **Family Priorities Must Be Established.**
 - A. Jesus deserves preeminence in all things, including our homes.
 - B. The reason many homes hurt and families fracture is because of a lack of loving leadership establishing proper priorities.
 - C. Parents, what priorities have you established for your families?
- II. **Family Priorities Need To Be Examined.**
 - A. Just because we have established our priorities does not mean that they are still appropriate.
 - B. God challenged Israel to examine their priorities (Hag. 1:2-9).
 - C. Jesus challenged Martha to examine her priorities (Lk. 10:38-42).
 - D. If we do not examine our priorities, then we will end up being misled by the mundane.
- III. **Family Priorities Ought To Be Enjoyed.**
 - A. The family that establishes priorities based upon the word of God can enjoy the precious fruit of their labor together in the kingdom.
- IV. **Priorities That Hinder Your Family.**
 - A. Not making God our first and foremost priority in our homes.
 - B. Defining our family success by what we possess.
 - C. When our priorities mirror those of Martha instead of Mary.
 - D. When we are not proper stewards of our time.
 - E. Failing to help our children exalt and appreciate the spiritual realm above every other realm.
- V. **Priorities That Help Your Family.**
 - A. Let Jesus have preeminence in your heart and your home.
 - B. Seek His spiritual kingdom first with your entire family.
 - C. Help your spouse grow and mature spiritually.
 - D. Together teach and train your children in the Lord's way.
 - E. Learn as a family to love, respect, and serve each other.

We will all agree that Joshua chose correctly for himself and his family. In this life we will either choose what pleased God, or those things in which God has no delight.

May we ever give our God the very best we have in all things.

Make God and His ways our #1 priority!

The Gospel of John – 3:22-36

²² **After this** indicates a break (the end of the discourse with Nicodemus). **He...was baptizing.** A logical follow-up to the discussion of the **new birth**. **Why** was Jesus baptizing?
 1. He is joining in with John in preparing people for the kingdom.
 2. It was commanded by God (1:33; Mt. 3:15).
 3. It was God's way of purifying his people.

²³ **John also was baptizing.**
Water was plentiful. Baptism requires much water.

²⁵ **Discussion...over purification.** The Jews understood that purification involved immersion in water.

²⁶ **He...to whom you bore witness.** John bore witness to Jesus.

²⁷ **I said, "I am not the Christ"** – 1:8,20,23.
I have been sent before him. The "Messenger" of Malachi.

²⁹ John is not jealous of Jesus, but joyous – his desires all men go to Jesus.

The bride – compare to Rev 21:2,9 where it refers to the church.
The bridegroom = Jesus cf. Rev 19:6,7.
The friend of the bridegroom = John.

³⁰ **He must increase...I must decrease.** Cf. Jn 1:34.
 Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29). Any glory John might receive, takes away from Him to whom it belongs.

³¹ **He who is of the earth** = John.
He who comes from above...from heaven = Jesus.

³² **He is Jesus** – the witness bringing the knowledge of God.

³³ **Sets his seal** = one is agreeing with God - **God is true.**

³⁴ **Words.** The Logos speaks the words of God...the things God speaks.
He whom God has sent = Jesus.
He = God.
 NOTE: This explains v. 33.

³⁶ **Whoever believes.** 3:15,16 – the one continuing to believe in the Son.
Has – present tense. He now has eternal life (as long as he believes).
Does not obey = disobey. Disobeying is the opposite of believing.
Shall not see life – future tense.
 The one who believes **has** (present tense) eternal life, but the one who disobeys **shall not see** (future) life.
The wrath of God remains on him
Has eternal life as long as he keeps on believing.
"Eternal life" means life in fellowship with God (5:24; 11:25).