

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 31, 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.

Our Past – Our Present – Our Future

In **Colossians 1:21-23**, Paul focuses on the Christian; specifically, to the timeline of the Christian's spirituality. He starts with the phrase "*although you were,*" speaking of a life before Christ (Col. 1:21). Then, Paul brings us to the present with the phrase "*yet He has now,*" showing again what Christ has blessed His followers (Col. 1:22). Last, he points us to a future that has yet to be realized, with the phrase "*if you indeed continue*" (Col. 1:23). What Paul gives us here is a powerful, miniature three-point sermon that encourages us to reflect on what Christ has rescued us from, while challenging us to press on in the faith.

OUR PAST (COLOSSIANS 1:21)

Although our backgrounds and spiritual upbringings differ, we all have this one thing in common – sin. There was a time when each one of us found ourselves in a condemned state due to our personal rebellion against God's divine expectations. Paul mentions our spiritual pasts in three different descriptions.

1. **We were formerly alienated.** Paul frequently uses the word "*formerly*" to help the Christian understand that there is a marked difference between who we were and who we are to become. Paul will later discuss the sins that we are to put away, saying "*in them you also formerly walked, when you were living in them*" (Col. 3:7). The word for "*alienated*" is *appallotrio*, used here as well as in Paul's discussion in Ephesians of how the Gentiles were separated from God (Eph. 2:12; 4:18). This is a widely known Scriptural truth – we are separate from God with sin in our life (Isa. 59:1-2).
2. **We were hostile in mind.** The word for "*mind*" speaks to the purpose or way of thinking one has. Before coming to Christ, many indulge themselves in all that is in the world (1 Jn. 1:16). Righteousness wasn't an interest of ours. And of course, if one thinks in such a rebellious way, the rebellious actions will soon follow.
3. **We were engaged in evil deeds.** Though "*engaged*" is inserted into the text, this is the idea Paul has when he uses the preposition "*in.*" We were literally in those works of the flesh that separated us from God. Such evil deeds can be found in Colossians 3:5-9.

While Paul is painting a bleak picture of our spiritual past, it is only when we see our sins for what they were can we then fully appreciate and enjoy the salvation found in Christ.

OUR PRESENT (COLOSSIANS 1:22)

Thankfully Paul did not end with Colossians 1:21, so there is good news for the Christian. And it has to do with what our present circumstances are. Paul has already discussed how God has "*qualified*" the Christian, as well as having rescued us from the domain of darkness (Col. 1:12-13). He continues with more blessings for those in Christ.

1. **We are now reconciled.** This is the opposite of "*formerly alienated*" (Col. 1:21). What once separated us from God has been removed by the sacrifice of the Son of God. Those sins are now nailed to the cross so that we can be reunited with our Creator (Col. 2:14).
2. **We are now holy and blameless.** This pairing of "*holy and blameless*" is seen in other Pauline verses (Eph. 1:4; 5:27). We are not holy and blameless because of what we have done, but because Christ has sanctified and cleansed us (Eph. 5:26-27). The sins that made us dirty in God's sight have been washed away.
3. **We are now beyond reproach.** This is absolutely critical for these Colossian Christians to understand, because there are many who are condemning and criticizing their faith. But in Christ there is no condemnation; there is no legitimate spiritual complaint that can be

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"Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' ... And one of the elders said to me, ... 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals'." **Rev. 5:1,2,5**



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charged towards those whom Christ has favored (Rom. 8:1).

OUR FUTURE (COLOSSIANS 1:23)

Paul starts this verse with the conditional word, “if.” Our pasts are condemned, but our present state is righteous – what lies ahead is entirely up to the Christian. These Colossians can become overwhelmed by the negativity of the outsiders, or they can strengthen their faith and push on into their relationship with Christ.

1. **We must be firmly established in our faith.** Later, Paul will say that the Christian should be firmly rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith (Col. 2:7). This reminds us of our Lord’s instruction from the Parable of the Sower, where in times of distress, the word of God will not be firmly rooted enough to keep the persecuted from falling away (Mt. 13:21). We must be strong.
2. **We must be steadfast.** This furthers Paul’s point on the need to be resolved and persevere. Paul mentioned how Christians are “strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness” (Col. 1:11). He tells the Corinthians to “be steadfast, immovable” (1 Cor. 15:58). Followers of Christ must realize that their faith is not something that can be negotiated; we remain in Christ as wholeheartedly as we can.
3. **We must not be easily moved from our hope.** If we lose our hope, it is only a matter of time before we leave our Lord. And the Colossians are slowly losing their hope. They have let the opinions of others affect their faith (Col. 2:8, 16, 18). It is up to the Christian to listen and trust in the powerful assurances of God rather than the discouraging opinions of naysayers.

In these three verses, Paul wants us to appreciate what Christ has brought us out of, which was a life of sin and condemnation. But now, we must realize that such condemnation is in our past and no longer in our lives. However, this will only remain to be true if the Christian fights to be firmly rooted in his Christianity.

James Coker, “Firmly Rooted”
(www.start2finish.org)

How Do I Know If Money Is My Master?

We live in a time when many celebrate great wealth and an excessive lifestyle while unfairly blurring the line between the two. It’s not a sin for you to have money; but it is sinful for money to have you.

How can we live in a “big money” age and know whether or not money is our master? Here are few questions to start examining our hearts.

How Much Anxiety Do Money Issues Cause? (Mt. 6:25-34)

I’ve often overlooked the connection between Mt. 6:19-24 and 25-34 where Jesus tells his followers not to be anxious or worrisome about clothing or food. God is the ultimate provider and he will provide for his children.

Have you noticed the “therefore” that joins the two passages? We can’t “seek first the kingdom and his righteousness” and “not worry about tomorrow” if money is our master.

So the question is, “How much anxiety do money issues cause?” Does your family have regular conflicts about money? Or worse, do you ignore financial warnings because of the fear of conflict?

If money and stress are tied together in our hearts, the numbers, budgets, debt, and receipts are only the symptoms of larger problems. If our anxieties about money affect our relationships with others, our physical health, or our quality of life, we need to be courageous to get help.

If we have regular stress and anxiety because of money—or more often a lack of money—then money is probably our master.

How Do You View Rich People?

It seems that everyone wants more money, but we seem to respect few people who have more than we do. Whether it’s questioning their motives, how they obtained it, how they spend it, how they don’t spend it, how much they give away, or what will happen to it when they’re gone, we can get opinionated when it comes to other people’s money. Where are those opinions coming from?

If jealousy, envy, greed, or anger are common feelings toward other people and their stuff, money is probably our master (cf. Jas. 4:1-10).

How Do You See Poor People?

Here’s the other side of the same question. Not only is it important we evaluate how we view those who have more than we have, but it’s important we test how we view and treat those with less than we have. It’s true we are to help and serve the poor, and it’s also true we all are expected to work and accept responsibility in our lives. But beyond that discussion, how do we think about and how do we treat those who would be considered poor?

If we’re prone to judging, condescension, and skepticism, and maybe most notably, we treat the poor differently than the rich, then money is probably our master (cf. Jas. 2:1-13).

Do You Give Generously?

Though Jesus does not seem to directly address giving in Mt. 6, there is a connection. The word “good” in most translations in vs 22-23 has a connotation of “generous.” It’s more than just what we consider good and wholesome, but also healthy and willing and sacrificial. The heart of the question has little to do with percentages and figures, but with

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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

May 31	1 Kgs. 3-4; 2 Chr. 1; Ps. 72
June 1	Psalms 119:89-176
June 2	Song 1-8
June 3	Prov. 1-3
June 4	Prov. 4-6
June 5	Prov. 7-9
June 6	Prov. 10-12
June 7	Prov. 13-15

“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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our generosity compared to our lifestyle. Are we able to keep up all the appearances we want while giving? Do we give to the degree that it impacts our lives somehow?

Again, it's not sinful to have money and to have nice things bought with money. But if our attitude toward generosity (on Sundays and throughout the week) is to give as long as it doesn't hurt, then money is probably our master (2 Cor. 8:1-9).

How Much More Money (Stuff) Would It Take To Make You Happy? Or Comfortable?

Contentment is at the heart of this question. It's difficult to answer, but it is ultimately a "yes" or "no" question. "Is Jesus enough?"

If we need more, or the latest, or an upgrade, or a new to feel better about ourselves, then Jesus clearly isn't enough. If we think "just a little bit more" is all we need, then we actually need more than "just a little bit more."

If there's an amount of money or something we can buy with money that will make us complete, then money is probably our master (cf. Phil. 4:10-13).

Are You Willing To Let Others Borrow Your Possessions?

This is a powerful question. On the surface, it's practical and realistic, but beneath it reveals our emotional connections to our stuff. If we're not careful, we'll also use the "I must be a good steward" angle to avoid the heart of the question. The root of the question determines which we value more, people or possessions.

If there's a little skepticism and push-back on this one, know that I'm right there with you at times. But I also think it's something I need to ask myself more often than I do. I've heard of guys who ask themselves before making a large purchase, "Am I willing to let someone else use or borrow this?" and won't buy it if they can't say "Yes."

If we're unwilling to let the people to borrow and use our stuff, then money is probably our master (cf. Acts 2:44-47).

There are other ways we can diagnose the condition of our hearts. Perhaps it is most important we evaluate regularly and allow the Lord do to the work on our hearts. Questions such as these allow his word to work in our hearts and grow our lives in his word.

Joey Sparks (www.start2finish.org)

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), Tiffany McCaghren (22), Donnie Evetts (24), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 17, 2015	May 24, 2015
Bible Class	56	39
AM Worship	76	54
PM Worship	61	45
Wednesday PM	39	34
Contribution	\$2,215	\$1,903

Privileged To Serve

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

Next Week: 5/31/15		Next Week: 6/7/15		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: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum*, Joe Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	James Fuller*, Don Smith Allen Griffith, Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Billy Chism		
Attendance Cards	Jaceton Evetts	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 3 Prayer	June 10 Allen Griffith	June 17 Tom Wilcox	June 24 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 May 31, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 7:41ff
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 8:12ff

Jesus Christ: The Lamb of God & The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
 Who is Jesus? Do you know who Jesus is?

I. **Jesus – The Lamb of God.**
 A. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
 B. "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth" (Acts 8:32; Isa. 53:7).
 C. A lamb was killed and eaten during the time of the Passover to commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 12:3-11).
 D. A lamb was offered every morning and every evening as a part of the daily worship (Ex. 29:38,39).
 E. The lamb was an emblem of patience, meekness, and gentleness.

II. **Jesus – The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.**
 A. "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered" (Rev. 5:4,5).
 B. The word "lion" was employed in Bible times to describe the noblest son ("Judah is a lion's cub" – Gen 49:9,10).
 C. In nature, the lion is the king of beasts and the ruling monarch of the forest – an emblem of one of kingly authority and power.

III. **Jesus – The Lamb & The Lion.**
 A. The disposition of a lion differs greatly from that of a lamb – and yet, the Master is described in inspired language that incorporates both.
 B. Jesus as a Lamb is seen when men attacked Him personally (1 Pet. 2:22,23; Mt:27:12-14; etc.).
 C. On the other hand, Jesus is seen as the Lion when attacks were made upon His teaching – His doctrine – the Word (Mt. 23:15,25,27,28; the cleansing of the temple [twice]; etc.).

IV. **What does This All Mean to Us?**
 A. There are times when it is appropriate to display the lamb disposition of Christ – and other times when it is appropriate to display the lion disposition of Christ.
 1. Don't confuse the two!
 2. Know when to be which.

V. **Examples of the Lamb Disposition** (Mt. 7:12; 5:44; Jn. 13:34; 14:14; Rom. 12:17,18; Eph. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:17; Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 5:6).

VI. **Examples of the Lion Disposition** (Rom. 12:19; Phil. 1:16; Eph. 6:13; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Cor. 6:17,14; Gal. 1:8).

Some days are "lamb days," others will be "lion days," but always "contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Jesus Knows Man #4 – The Paralyzed Man – 5:1-15
¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews – the 2nd Passover?
² Now there is in Jerusalem...a pool...called Bethesda – house of grace.
³ In these lay a multitude of invalids – helplessness, nowhere else to go.
^{3b-4} The best and oldest manuscripts do not have these verses (probably inserted to explain why "multitudes" came and the "stirring up" of the water.
⁵ One man...had been an invalid for [38] years – hopelessness, persistence.
⁶ Jesus saw him...and knew – Jesus knows man.
 Do you want to be healed? – The Great Physician – healthy, sound.
^{6,9} Get up, take up your bed, and walk.... at once the man was healed.
 The man does not know Jesus and Jesus does not require faith on his part.
 Notice how simply, how easily Jesus can cure that which bound for so long.

Special Study – Do You Want To Be Healed? – John 5:1-9
 This question, asked to the paralyzed man, is a critical question in the Gospel of John. There are some important truths that are relevant today:
 I. Many today do not really know they are sick.
 II. Many today do not really want to get well.
 III. Many today do not know that only Jesus can make people well.
 IV. Many today do not realize the value of persistence.
 V. Many today do not realize the responsibilities that comes with being healed.

9b-15: Open hostility begins, since Jesus healed on the Sabbath.
¹⁰ It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed – the only law that had been broken was their traditions (Mishna) – not God's law.
¹¹ The man who healed me, that man said to me, "Take up your bed, and walk." – The man did not know who Jesus was, but he knew He healed him! – A miracle.
¹² Who is the man who said to you, "Take up your bed and walk"? - Notice the Jews did not care about the miracle – all they wanted to do was find fault.
¹⁴ Jesus found him in the temple – possibly to give thanks for his healing (?)
 See, you are well! – healed, whole – the Great Physician heals both physically and spiritually.
 Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.
¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.
 There is nothing to indicate the man told the Jews to try to get Jesus in trouble - He was probably ignorant of the Jew's evil intentions.
 The scene is now set for the conflict following conflict between Jesus and the Jews concerning the Sabbath, and untimely, Jesus' authority.