

# 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



July 19, 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

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

## The Evil of Gluttony

### (And Why You Might Not Be Guilty Of It)

The "gluttony" card gets played a lot these days. We've all heard, "You don't criticize gluttony enough;" "Gluttony is the most celebrated sin in the church today, especially during high-calorie-count fellowship meals;" "Everyone takes the Bible literally until the subject of gluttony comes up;" "Why do you condemn homosexuality, but not gluttony?"

We should take this charge very seriously. Are we guilty of being of inconsistent? To wink at some sins while disapproving of others is hypocrisy. It is wrong to ignore my own sin while exposing the sins of others (Matt. 7:1-5). We must examine our own lives before removing the "specks" in the lives of others (Rom. 2:1). As Christians, we must hate all sins – not just the sins that are easy for us to hate (Rom. 12:9). All sin – from the seemingly petty to the most egregious – will destroy one's soul.

**Yes, we can all agree that gluttony is bad. But what exactly is gluttony, and what did God actually say about it?**

### Food Isn't Bad

You might have a hard time finding "gluttony" in the Bible. Many are surprised to learn "gluttony" does not appear in any of the Bible's big this-will-keep-you-out-of-heaven lists (cf. Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 1:28-31; Rev. 21:8; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10). In fact, when the Bible speaks about food, it typically speaks of food in a positive way. When God appointed special times for the Israelites to honor Him, He requested feasts (cf. Lev. 23:2). All food now has been made "clean," voiding the Old Law's dietary restrictions (Mark 7:19; cf. Acts 10:15). God intends for His children to enjoy the food He has provided (cf. Gen. 1:29; 9:3; Prov. 24:13; Eccl. 9:7; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim. 4:4-5). The New Testament writers are particularly nonchalant about one's diet and portion control. Food neither commends nor condemns us before God (1 Cor. 8:8). The kingdom of heaven is not defined by food, but by contentment in the Spirit (Rom. 14:17). No one can deny with a straight face that Jesus and His disciples were more concerned about Christians being honest and sexually pure than they were about eating one-too-many Girl Scout cookies.

"Gluttony" is listed among the well-known "Seven Deadly Sins." To the surprise of many, this list isn't found in the Bible. The "Seven Deadly Sins" traces its history back to the fourth century monk Evagrius Ponticus. He actually created a different list, but that list was modified throughout the centuries to eventually be the "Seven Deadly Sins" as it is known today. Evidently, some wish to ignore the Bible by elevating certain sins above others (cf. Rom. 6:23). Evagrius was a known ascetic and monastic, therefore it should come as no surprise that he saw a love for food as a chief evil. Needless to say, the Bible, not some guy in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, should be the litmus test for determining what is sinful.

**Actual references in the Bible to gluttony are fairly obscure.** "Glutton" only appears in the Bible four times (Deut. 21:20; Prov. 23:21; Matt. 11:19; Luke 7:34). The first two instances it appears next to the word "drunkard," and in the other two instances it is used to ridicule Jesus. "Gluttonous" is used only once (Prov. 23:20), and is again used alongside "drunkards." "Gluttons" is used twice; once as a quote from a poet to describe the lazy people of Crete (Titus 1:12); once to describe the type of company that will bring someone

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*"Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice."*

**Proverbs 23:22-25**



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shame (Prov. 28:7).

Sometimes Paul’s statement in Philippians 3:19 (“*their god is their belly*”) is quoted to condemn gluttony. In reality, Paul was criticizing those who bound the Old Testament’s dietary restrictions on Christians today and shaming them for what was on their plate (cf. 1 Tim. 4:3-4). “*Their god is their belly*” is actually in reference to people who had a purely physical view of righteousness before God, rather than a spiritual view of holiness. Sound familiar of those today that are eager to condemn “gluttony”? They are the ones whose god is their belly.

### Gluttony: Worse Than Mere Calories

We must allow the Bible, not culture, to define “gluttony” – otherwise we may become guilty of condemning something God does not (thus making us very Pharisaical). What does Biblical gluttony actually look like?

When we carefully examine Scripture, taking time to weigh the relevant passages, we find that gluttony is more than eating an extra sleeve of Fig Newtons.

When we look at the above passages about gluttony, we see an entirely different picture than what is often presented. **The Bible’s view of gluttony should be better understood as lazy, wanton, riotous living without any concern for tomorrow** (cf. Prov. 23:2; Prov. 28:7; 1 Cor. 6:13; Phil. 3:19). Being overweight does not necessarily equal gluttony; in fact, a person who eats two Double Stuf Oreo cookies could be far more guilty of gluttony than the person who eats ten. In reality, the type of gluttony God is concerned about is that of the man who desires to exhaust his life on the pleasures of this world, saying, “*Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die*” (1 Cor. 15:32), giving no concern for the Kingdom (Matt. 6:33). **Gluttony, in short, is the sin of idolizing pleasure** (cf. 1 Cor. 10:14).

The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24), who wasted his inheritance on sinful pleasure, was guilty of gluttony. The college student who lives for frat parties, thinking that drinking and “hooking up” is the definition of happiness, is guilty of gluttony. The successful businessman who has sold his soul pursuing more power, is guilty of gluttony. The mom who binge-watches soap operas and devours sleazy books of the 50 Shades of Grey variety, is guilty of gluttony.

Yes, the church must preach against the wicked sin of gluttony. And in my experience, we already do. We preach against riotous living, sexual immorality, illicit alcohol and drug use, laziness, gossip, and impurity. Gluttony is looking to anything else but God to give us true, lasting pleasure. We cheapen God’s Word when we reduce “gluttony” to Super-Sizing our fast-food order.

### It’s About Stewardship

Christians are God’s servants, using our bodies and influence for His glory (1 Cor. 3:9). We should view our bodies as temples of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20; cf. 1 Pet. 2:9). We should therefore take care of our bodies in such a way to maximize our lifespan, living the remainder of our days serving God. Yes, we need to be careful to eat healthy. Yes, there comes a point where over-eating can be sinful. Yes, it is good for Christians to exercise and monitor the portions on their plate. But we must be careful not to call something “sinful” when God has not clearly drawn the line. **It isn’t about the quantity of food; it’s about the heart.**

**Gluttony can be summarized as the loss of self-control.** If we cannot control ourselves (think lust, appetite, anger, covetousness, etc.), then Jesus no longer has Lordship over our lives. The ability to say “no” is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Our appetites shouldn’t control us; rather, we should control our appetite. When our propensity for pleasure controls us, we at that moment become guilty of gluttony.

This meaning of life is about serving Him, not ourselves (Eccl. 12:13). God wants us to enjoy His creation, and we find true pleasure when we live our lives in Christ (John 10:10). Everything was created for our good (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23), but all good things can be used with imbalance, thus bringing us misery (Prov. 25:16).

### Conclusion

Worldly people, when they attempt to hide the shame of sin, love to distort the meaning of words. Society justifies adulterous relationships by redefining the meaning of “love.” Society justifies the murder of innocent human beings by calling it “women’s rights.” And it is no wonder then that sins of homosexuality and fornication are defended by pointing to the ever-elusive so-called sin of “gluttony.” Don’t let people bully you as you seek to live a righteous life before God.

*Ben Giselbach* (plainsimplefaith.com)

#### 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

**July 19** 2 Kgs. 18:1-8; 2 Chr. 29-31; Ps. 48

**July 20** Hosea 1-7

**July 21** Hosea 8-14

**July 22** Isaiah 28-30

**July 23** Isaiah 31-34

**July 24** Isaiah 35-36

**July 25** Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76

**July 26** Isaiah 40-43

*“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)



## In Tribute

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children..." (Proverbs 13:22).*

On the same day that I learned my father was being handed over to the loving care of Hospice, I also learned I would have a grandson.

I cannot possibly make sense of this. One does not make up for the other, of course. But life ebbs away ... and begins anew. One has been a life of distinguished service for the Lord. The other is full of potential. One has a destiny that, as certainly as can be known humanly, is set for glory. The other is a journey with all kinds of uncertainty.

Life is a gift. It was a gift to have seen my father close up. You should know that what you heard in sermons and saw in public is what was present in private with his family, too. He was the real thing. He loved the Lord, and loved the church, and was baffled at attempts to diminish or sully either.

One day someone will tell little Gideon about his grandfather. He will hear of antics – the “cat” that always seemed to turn up when Loy Mitchell was around, the profound ability, sufficient to have preached for a US congregation of a thousand.

Instead, he preached to fifteen tribesmen on a rock, under a tree.

But can we remind ourselves that after decades of mission work, he would preach for congregations of five, six hundred Zimbabweans, congregations he began, led by men he converted and trained, shepherds whom he helped to mature.

The legacy little Gideon will receive will be immense. The trail will still be warm. The people who owed his great grandfather their spiritual lives will still tell of it. The legacy will reach out and provide shade even for this little boy. Will the two ever meet? I hope they do, if not here, well, I hope they meet at their home in heaven.

*"Pay to all what is owed them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed" (Romans 13:7).*

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

## Celebrate

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

**July Birthdays:** Alphone Gressett (4), Jason Warman (6), Laura Huckaby (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (27).

**July Anniversaries:** Allen & Karen Bland (27).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	July 5, 2015	July 12, 2015
Bible Class	47	32
AM Worship	65	42
PM Worship	50	31
Wednesday PM	29	36
Contribution	\$2,148	\$1,608

# Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 7/19/15	Next Week: 7/26/15	July 2015	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith	
<b>Greeters</b>	Lisa Greer & Jessica Stultz	Churchwell & Maninger Families	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Ken & Jo Maninger	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	James Fuller	<b>Clean Building:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren	
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Allen Bland	<b>August 2015</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Jaceton Evetts	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Joe Dennis	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger	<b>Clean Building:</b> Dennis Family	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Billy Chism	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	July 22 Tom Wilcox	July 29 Don Smith	August 5 Singing Night	August 12 Prayer Night

## 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 July 19, 2015

Sunday Class ..... Acts 9:20ff  
Wednesday Class ..... Ezekiel 14:1ff

<u>The Causes of Worldliness</u>
I. <b>Love of the world</b> – 1 John 2:15-17. A. Does the world God loved differ from the one we are not to love? B. The prohibition includes "the things in the world." C. We cannot be ignorant concerning the devices of the devil ( <i>lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life</i> ).
II. <b>Friendship with the world</b> – James 4:4. A. James uses the figure of marriage to indicate the relationship of men to God – <i>adulterers &amp; adulteresses</i> . B. The use of the word <i>world</i> carries with it the idea that the people's hearts were alienated from God and centered in things below. C. We all are embraced in James' conclusion; <i>whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God</i> .
III. <b>Conformity to the world</b> – Romans 12:1,2. A. As Christians we should be non-conformists. B. Sadly, it seems as if the world is having a much bigger influence on the church, than the church is having on the world.
IV. <b>Being stained by the world</b> – James 1:26,27. A. True religion is portrayed through the beauty of unpolluted purity. B. The idea of pure religion is twofold: doing right and refusing wrong. C. As children of God, we have been called out from the world, and are forbidden to love the world (1 John 2:15-17) or to have friendship with the world (Jas. 4:4).
V. <b>Worldly wisdom</b> – 1 Corinthians 1:17-21. A. Paul states unequivocally that God's wisdom is supreme – in comparison, man's wisdom is nothing. B. Paul's appeal in 1 Corinthians 3:18,19.
VI. <b>Partaking of the works of the flesh</b> – Galatians 5:19-21. A. The works of the flesh are <i>evident</i> – easily recognizable as fleshly. B. Sins against purity (4), religion (2), disposition (8) and excess (3). C. <i>And the like</i> .
VII. <b>The new morality</b> . A. Everything is based on love. B. There is no moral standard, thus no accountability. C. Moral law and love do not conflict, they complement (Jn. 14:15,21). Christians can live fully in this present world – enjoy rich and rewarding lives - without surrendering to the world or forsaking faithfulness to Christ. <b>God demands that His children be different from the world!</b>

<u>John 9 – A Blind Man Sees &amp; the Seeing are Blind</u>
I. <b>Inconsideration:</b> The Disciples and the Blind Man (1-5). A. <b>They look upon the blind man</b> (1) – They see a helpless beggar. B. <b>They look beyond the blind man</b> (2-5) – They ask a question. 1. What they ask (2): " <i>Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?</i> " 2. How Jesus answers (3-5). " <i>Neither this man nor his parents sinned.</i> "
II. <b>Demonstration:</b> Jesus demonstrates His power (6,7). A. <b>The mud</b> (6) – He spits on the ground, makes mud from the spittle, and puts it on the man's eyes. B. <b>The miracle</b> (7) – The blind man obeys, washes, and sees!
III. <b>Speculation:</b> The neighbors and the blind man (8-12). A. Their confusion (8,9a) – They question whether he is the same man. B. His clarification (9b-12) – He affirms that he is.
IV. <b>Interrogation:</b> Pharisees investigate both the man & his parents (13-23) A. <b>The man</b> (13-17). 1. <b>The day</b> (13,14) – Jesus healed him on the Sabbath. 2. <b>The demand</b> (15). What happened? Jesus healed me. 3. <b>The division</b> (16,17). a. Some of the Pharisees – " <i>This Man is not from God.</i> " b. Others – " <i>How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?</i> " c. The blind man – " <i>He is a prophet.</i> "
A. <b>The parents</b> (18-23) 1. <b>The Pharisees</b> (18,19). Is this your son? Was he born blind? How can he now see? 2. <b>The parents</b> (20-23). Yes; yes; he is of age, ask him!
V. <b>Castigation:</b> The former blind man is again summoned (24-34). A. <b>Jesus is denounced by the Pharisees</b> (24, 26, 28-29). 1. " <i>We know that this Man is a sinner.</i> " 2. " <i>We do not know where He is from.</i> "
B. <b>Jesus is defended by the blind man</b> (25, 27, 30-33). 1. " <i>One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.</i> " 2. " <i>If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.</i> "
C. <b>The former blind man is thrown out of the synagogue</b> (34).
VI. <b>Summation:</b> Jesus has come into the world for two reasons (45-51): A. <b>That the blind might see</b> (39a) – Spiritual sight. 1. <b>The witness by Jesus</b> (35-37) – He is indeed the Son of God! 2. <b>The worship of Jesus</b> (38) – The man worships the Savior. B. <b>That those who think they can see might be blinded</b> (39b-41).