

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 26, 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.

Preach in View of the Judgment

We hear the stories of Christianity under attack. Celebrities ridicule those who profess a belief in the Bible. Rallies are held protesting any reference to God in the public arena. Candidates for elected office cannot be too open about their religious beliefs. We also hear reports of religious activity in decline, and that even the Lord's church is shrinking, and, allegedly, individuals do not wish to hear the Bible's teachings, the gospel. In response, some suggest that the church had better become relevant and contemporary if it does not wish to become extinct.

Yes, it is accurate that Christianity, especially if we mean New Testament Christianity, comes under fire, just as it did in the days of the apostles. Yet, I challenge the claim that we must change the church and message to survive. I want to affirm optimistically that the Lord's church cannot only survive, but in fact thrive, if we conduct His business in His way.

Short-sighted thinking demonstrates an outlook typically ignorant, shallow, or fearful. By contrast, long-term planning would demonstrate a sense of identity, purpose, and confidence. It is this latter that the church must have. Religion is to reach deeply into our lives and touch the most significant matters. Real people do not want insipid, foolish teachings—they want answers! When God told Timothy, "Preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2), this task was assigned with eternity in view (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1). It is only by sharing the life-giving message of the New Testament that individuals have hope of eternity in Jehovah's presence; Christ's blood is the key to opening the door to heaven. The emphasis placed upon preaching is really an emphasis on seeing the unlocked, open doorway. Every time that a congregation asks for and then supports biblical preaching, that body of Christians is proclaiming at least two things: first, that it recognizes the need to listen to heaven's instructions for a blessed life and blessed afterlife, and second, that it trusts the Lord's method of reaching people—preaching the gospel—enough to insist that this revolutionary method be made known. This requires a long-term perspective.

Accounts from Acts 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and other chapters as well, stand as silent reminders that proclaiming a message of God's love and hope can find a place even in the most hardened hearts. The admonition of 2 Timothy 4:1-5 reminds readers that while others may wander off into self-satisfying and vapid instruction, the truly insightful child of God will see the value of the gospel and counter error with a meaningful discussion of the Lord's principles. This is a part, though not all, of the Christian ministry that every disciple can support in some fashion. It is with eternity in mind that we are motivated to reach out to those about us and introduce them to the Christ. Without this, no person can change.

When Peter addressed his readers in 1 Peter 4:1-6, it seems many of them were newer or weaker converts. He encouraged them to make a break with their past and

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"Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name YAH, and rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation."

Psalm 68:4,5



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then to tie permanently to the life found in Jesus. In 1 Peter 4:4-6, the apostle reminded the readers that when they turned their lives around to live consistent with God's teachings, many in their lives would think this Christian living was all folly, but not so, says Peter. Rather, those who see the gospel content for what it says have no reasonable option but to listen and respond favorably in light of the judgment day which lies ahead. This requires a long-term perspective.

Every time that we live our Christian convictions in our daily affairs, we profess that we are thinking of God and eternity. Each occasion we invite a friend to worship with us, or to study God's word with us, we profess that we are thinking of God and eternity. Every day when we sing spiritual songs with our babies or read and meditate on God's word, we profess that we are thinking of God and eternity, and every time that we ask for and support a faithful proclamation of the Bible's treasures, we profess that we are thinking of God and eternity.

Historian Thomas Reeves has noted,

Christianity in modern America is, in large part, innocuous. It tends to be easy, upbeat, convenient, and compatible. It does not require self-sacrifice, discipline, humility, an otherworldly outlook, a zeal for souls, a fear as well as love of God. There is little guilt and no punishment, and the payoff in heaven is virtually certain (*The Empty Church: The Suicide of Liberal Christianity*, [New York: The Free Press, 1996], 67).

This epitomizes the "tickling of the ears," also translated as "the preaching of something pleasant or self-gratifying to the ears" mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:3. True Christianity must have an appreciation of the rich, vibrant message of the gospel and the need to share it in view of God and eternity.

Rick Brumback (Christian Worker, June 2015, pp. 1,11)

Zeal and Knowledge

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have zeal for God, but not according to knowledge" (Romans 10:1,2).

A shepherd once strode into the palace of the most powerful man on earth and made a stunning demand: "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'Let my people go.'" Do you remember Pharaoh's dubious response?

"Who is the LORD that I should obey his voice and let Israel go," he wondered derisively, "I do not know the LORD, and moreover I will not let Israel go."

Interestingly, the king of Egypt had a point: The more one knows of God, the more one obeys his voice. The less one knows of God, the less one obeys his voice. It could be argued that the story of the ten plagues was a case of Pharaoh and God getting better acquainted. As successive plagues fell on Egypt, Pharaoh might have been excused for declaring, "I'm sorry I asked who Yahweh was! Please, I do not care to learn any more about him!"

This brings us to the question asked in Paul's passage: In the church, which characteristic do we need most? Zeal, or knowledge? Of course we should already recognize the false dilemma behind the question. The answer is that we need both!

You know, I heard it again just this week. A young person pointed to the "dead" worship and "uninvolved" manner of his older brethren, and used this as the reason for leaving the church. Though we might deplore his judgmental attitude, we need to ask if there is any truth in these charges. Could we do better?

I think of worship services I have witnessed in Zim-

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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

July 26 Isaiah 40-43

July 27 Isaiah 44-48

July 28 2 Kgs. 18:9-19:37; Ps. 46, 80, 135

July 29 Isaiah 49-53

July 30 Isaiah 54-58

July 31 Isaiah 59-63

Aug. 1 Isaiah 64-66

Aug. 2 2 Kgs. 20-21

"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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babwe: To hear the matchless harmony of Shona voices raised in song still brings tears to my eyes. Even those American congregations that sing very well could hardly be expected to compare. It breaks my heart to see row upon row of God's people sitting like bumps on a log during a song service, consulting iPhones or balancing their checkbooks when they should be worshipping an incomparable God. This is *not* the way God envisioned it. The Psalmist calls on us to offer the praise that God deserves:

*“Ascribe to the Lord, O families of peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord **the glory due his name**, bring an offering and come into his courts!” (Psalm 96:7,8).*

We might respect many people – magistrates and rulers – but we can only properly worship one individual. That is why the twenty-four elders fell before God's throne and cried: *“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created”* (Revelation 4:11).

To praise anyone less would be “over the top,” mere flattery. For God it is right and proper, for he is indeed worthy.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

July Birthdays: Alphen 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 12, 2015	July 19, 2015
Bible Class	32	62
AM Worship	42	71
PM Worship	31	41
Wednesday PM	36	36
Contribution	\$1,608	\$2,469

Next Week: 7/26/15		Next Week: 8/2/15		July 2015 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Ken & Jo Maninger Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Keep Grounds: James Fuller August 2015 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Churchwell & Maninger Families	Stormy & Juanita Barnum		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Communion	Gene Bannister*, John Barnum Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Don Smith*, James Thomas Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Allen Bland	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Jaceton Evetts	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 29 Don Smith	August 5 Singing Night	August 12 Prayer Night	August 19 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 July 26, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 10:1ff
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 15:1ff

Worship & Faithfulness

I. **Importance & necessity of worship.**
 A. One of the first things mentioned in the Bible – Cain & Abel (Gen. 4).
 B. After the flood Noah worshiped (Gen. 8).
 C. The wise men said that they had "...come to worship him." (Mt. 2:2)
 D. Jesus left us an example (Lk. 4:16) "as was his custom"
 E. Must be a worshiper and do God's will to be able to pray (Jn. 9:31).

II. **The Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10) is a special day.**
 A. The day Christ arose from the dead (Mk. 16:2).
 B. The day the early Christians gathered together (Acts 20:7).
 C. Every week has a "first day".

III. **We preach a sermon by our absence.**

IV. **We preach a sermon by our presence.**

V. **Text – Hebrews 10:24-31.**
 A. *Not neglecting...as is the habit of some* (25).
 B. We are to *encourage one another*.
 C. Note: *sinning deliberately* – plan to miss.
 D. Note: *but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire...*
 E. What we do when we deliberately miss worship:
 1. We have *trampled underfoot the Son of God* (29).
 2. We have *profaned the blood of the covenant*.
 3. We have *outraged the Spirit of grace*.
 F. Furthermore: *The Lord will judge his people*.

VI. **What does "faithful" mean?**
 A. Worship is not the only gauge of faithfulness – but it is a good one.
 B. What does "faithful" really mean?
 1. God is faithful (1 Cor. 1:9-10,13; 1 Jn. 1:9).
 2. Abraham was faithful (Gal. 3:9).
 3. Godly men are faithful – loyal to God (2 Tim. 2:2).
 C. Are you willing to face God with your excuses?
 D. Our elders are to feed the flock (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17).
 1. The elders, under the authority of Christ, have appointed times for us to assemble as the local church to be fed.
 2. When those times come – God expects each of us to assemble.
 E. It comes down to our attitude – toward God and toward worship.

VII. **Are our priorities where they should be?**
 Heaven will be a place where the saved will worship God forever. Do you still want to go?

John 10:1-21 – Jesus: The Door & The Good Shepherd

I. **The Message of Jesus (1-21)**

A. **The metaphor (1-6):** Jesus illustrates His mission on earth by describing two different ways to enter a sheepfold.
 1. *The wrong way – climbing over a wall* (1): This is the method of thieves and robbers.
 2. *The right way – entering through the gate* (2-6): This is the method of a true shepherd.

B. **The meaning (7-18):** Jesus explains His illustration by giving the characteristics of three kinds of individuals.
 1. *Characteristics of the Good Shepherd* (7,9,10b-11,14-18): Here Jesus describes Himself.
 a. His relationship with the sheep.
 1) He is the entrance to their salvation (7).
 2) He allows them to go in and out, and find green pasture (9).
 3) He gives them life in all its fullness (10b).
 4) He lays down his own life for them (11).
 5) He knows His sheep and they know Him (14).
 b. His relationship with the Father.
 1) He knows His Father, and the Father knows Him (15,16).
 2) He is loved by His Father (17).
 3) He is given power by the Father to lay down His life and take it up again (18).
 2. *Characteristics of thieves and robbers* (8,10a): Their purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy!
 3. *Characteristics of a hired hand* (12,13).
 a. He forsakes the sheep in time of danger (12).
 b. He cares nothing for the sheep (13).

C. **The mixed views (19-21):** There is much confusion concerning Jesus after He speaks these words.
 1. Some say He is insane (19,20b).
 2. Some say He is demon-possessed (20a).
 3. Some question whether He would be able to heal if He were in fact demon-possessed (21).