

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



August 16, 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.

How To Listen To A Sermon

Listening is a skill that requires one to actively participate with the one who is doing the talking. The listener must pay attention. The listener must concentrate on what the other person is saying. Hearing is one thing. We can hear things without even paying attention. A loud noise can startle us. We weren't expecting it. We weren't listening for it. It just happened and we couldn't help but hear it. Listening is different. To listen is to be deliberate and intentional. It involves inclining our ears and focusing our minds on what is being said. The goal of listening should be to hear every word a person is saying to you, to process those words, and respond to those words in a meaningful way. You will never develop a deep, intimate, and fulfilling relationship without the ability to listen.

Nowhere is listening more crucial than when it comes to God and His word. If God is speaking then our ears, our minds, our hearts, and our Bibles should be open. We should give our utmost undivided attention to what is being said. All too often we're distracted. Sometimes the distraction is something we cannot help, like when we're having to wrestle with our small children in the pew. Many times we are not tuned in because we're too busy daydreaming, focusing on trivial things, or sleeping. Jesus often said, "He who has ears let him hear." He also talked about hearing but not understanding (Mark 4). In Mark 8:18 He spoke about those who have ears but do not hear. 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17 demonstrates for us that every word that God speaks has a purpose. Are we listening?

Virtually all of us could stand to be better listeners. In that vain I would like to offer a few helpful hints as you sit and listen to the word of God this Sunday.

PREPARE TO LISTEN

Worship doesn't just happen. It's not an accident. Worship is a deliberate act. You must participate, and participation includes listening to His word. Nothing we do in worship is unimportant. Every act of worship is vital. To be listless and lifeless is the same thing as telling God, "I'm not interested in worshipping you." Remember why you come to worship. It's not just about being present. Come with a willingness to hear what God is saying because anything God says is worth listening to. Get out your notebook. Get out your Bible. Get plenty of rest the night before. Pray before you come. Enter into worship with an attitude and a spirit that says, "I'm giving God my best!" Because there's no excuse not to.

LISTEN FOR A STRATEGY

I've heard preachers who have mastered the art of open-ended preaching. They have made an art form out of crafting their words in a way that says a whole lot without really saying anything. I can give you some pious platitudes. Like the politicians, I can give you some great one-liners like, "If God had a refrigerator your

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"You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 2:22



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picture would be on it.” Or, “Stop, drop, and roll won’t work in hell.” The preacher can sound all preachy, pour syrup in your ears, or deliver a cotton candy message—one that tastes sweet but has no substance—but the bottom line is that preaching should convey a plan. Preaching is not just about transmitting information. It’s about encouraging transformation.

As a listener, listen for a plan. Listen for the “So what?” Ask yourself, “What does this mean for me?” Listen with an expectation of what God is saying to you personally. Take the message in, process it, apply it, and live it.

BE READY TO RESPOND

Along these same lines I want to encourage you to be ready to act on what you hear. God has always spoken with purpose and He has always expected a response. Sometimes the response was not in accordance with His will—like when Jonah refused to go to Nineveh. Nevertheless when God speaks He expects His children to respond in kind.

When you were younger your mom may have told you to do something and you either forgot or just ignored her command. Perhaps she came back later and scolded you. Maybe you heard her say something like, “I’m not telling you this just to hear myself talk!” My friends, God’s not speaking just because He likes the sound of His own voice. He spoke to Noah, to Moses, to Abraham, to Gideon, to Ezekiel, to Elijah, to Elisha, to Isaiah, to Jeremiah, to the Minor Prophets, and he spoke to so many others for a specific purpose. He expected that purpose to be carried out. He expected the recipients of His message to listen and to respond. Why is it any different for us? He has left His word. When we hear His word proclaimed we should be ready to respond.

What’s being said? What’s the message? What must I do with it? How do I respond? These are the questions we should be asking as we listen. Please don’t just come to hear a sermon. Come with the intent of living a sermon after you’ve heard it!

Chris McCurley (start2finish.org)

Can Our Youth Learn The Bible?

Schools Doesn’t Take it Easy On Them—Why Should We?

Say what you want about the public school system, but you can’t deny the fact that 1) our kids are often bogged down with a lot of homework and 2) many of their classes deal with difficult subject matter.

Any given day your child learns history, english, math, science, and a number of other subjects. Every day, our children are asked to sit for several hours in various classes, learn the material being presented, apply what they learned that day to their homework, and later regurgitate what they learned on various quizzes and tests. Some of our kids do this and more, adding the weight of athletics, or clubs, or both into the mix.

When these same kids walk into Sunday morning or Wednesday night class they’re often greeted with the same lessons they’ve heard since they were little children. Very rarely do we have discussion on things like the Holy Spirit or the Bible and evolution in our classes. Our children sit in class for forty minutes only to leave never having been challenged to grow or critically think.

If our schools, who teach far less important subjects like math, history, etc., don’t take it easy on children, why should those of us who are teaching them something far greater? Our children can handle deep, challenging subjects, we need to make sure we’re preparing deep, challenging lessons for them.

They are Responsible for Spiritual Growth—What Are We Feeding Them?

This second point is related to those in our classes that are Christians. The New Testament makes it clear time and time again that Christians are responsible for growing spiritually (1 Pet. 1:22-2:3). If we don’t grow spiritually, we can’t have a meaningful relationship with Christ and we can’t reach those that are lost (Col. 1:9-10). Christians are personally responsible for growing in the knowledge of God, yes, but when you take up the mantle of “teacher” you join in their responsibility to grow spiritually (James 3:1).

For many, Sundays and Wednesdays are the only time they study their Bible. Will they have to answer to God for that lack of spiritual discipline? Yes, but we too will have to answer for what we teach them during those times as well. The Hebrew writer ripped into those Christians who hadn’t moved past the elementary teachings of Christianity (Heb. 5:11-6:1). Unfortunately, many of us teachers don’t teach anything other than those elementary princi-

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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

Aug. 16 Jeremiah 32-34

Aug. 17 Jeremiah 35-37

Aug. 18 Jer. 38-40; Psalm 74 & 79

Aug. 19 2 Kgs. 24-25; 2 Chr. 36

Aug. 20 Habakkuk 1-3

Aug. 21 Jeremiah 41-45

Aug. 22 Jeremiah 46-48

Aug. 23 Jeremiah 49-50

“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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ples, thereby contributing to the spiritual atrophy of Lord's church. We must take our teaching more seriously because it is teaching that causes the Lord's church to mature or stagnate.

We Are Judged More Harshly For Our Teachings

This last point is closely related to the one above. Teachers, when you are asked to teach or take up the role of being a teacher you are accepting an incredible responsibility. There's no way around it, teachers are going to be judged more harshly for being teachers (James 3:1). Why? We are judged more harshly because the lessons we present will ultimately help bring others closer or push them farther away from God. James words to teachers in James 3:1 are not meant to deter people from teaching, instead they are meant to warn prospective teachers of the responsibilities and consequences of teaching and encourage them to take that task very seriously. Those who teach become burden-bearers of the souls they're teaching (Ezekiel 33:7-9). This sobering thought shouldn't scare us away from teaching, but it should cause us to be more mindful of what we present on a lesson to lesson basis.

It's about time we stopped treating our Bible class students, from our kids on up, like they are people who can only handle the simple, basic teachings of the Bible. It's good to teach these basic lessons from time to time, but we need to make sure that we're not *only* teaching the basics. If we want to see the church thrive this generation, we must place greater emphasis on our teaching.

Jack Dodgen (start2finish.org)

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (9), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), **Royce Ford (16)**, Anita Alexander (25), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Chipper & Susan Bridges (1), Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), **Terry & Pam Teague (16)**, Don & Darlene Smith (29).



Records

	Aug. 2, 2015	Aug. 9, 2015
Bible Class	42	40
AM Worship	56	54
PM Worship	42	41
Wednesday PM	35	43
Contribution	\$2,275	\$2,053

Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 8/16/15	Next Week: 8/23/15	August 2015	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: Joe Dennis	
Greeters	Fuller / Stultz	John Barnum Family	Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller	Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie	
Communion	James Fuller*, Hank Wheeler Tom Wilcox, Randy Huckaby	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Gene Bannister, John Barnum	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith	September 2015	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceton Evetts	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Prepare Communion: Lisa Greer	
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	Randy Huckaby	Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Hank Wheeler	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Communion	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Bland		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 19 Joe Dennis	August 26 Singing / Tom Wilcox	September 2 Prayer Night	September 9 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 August 16, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 11:1ff
Wednesday Class Ezekiel 16:50ff

<u>The Bible Class Program of the Church</u>	<u>John 11 – Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead (Part 2: Verses 17-37)</u>
<p>The Bible Class Program of the church is made up of many parts that all need to be functioning together and in unison. Everyone involved in the Bible Class program must respect God's authority and His power.</p> <p>I. The Home has a responsibility to a successful Bible Class program.</p> <p>A. If the homes of a congregation are not right with God – expect many problems. B. Ephesians 6: 1-4. C. Deuteronomy 6:4-9. D. Eli had two sons that he failed to teach properly (1 Samuel 3:13). E. The Bible Class program was never designed to take away the parent's responsibility. F. Children who have been taught to respect God – more than likely will respect their parents in showing them honor.</p> <p>II. The Student has a responsibility to a successful Bible Class program.</p> <p>A. There are some people you cannot teach due to their refusal to learn. B. James 1:21-25. C. Students of whatever age should be required to put into practice what they learn.</p> <p>III. The Teacher has a responsibility to a successful Bible Class program.</p> <p>A. It takes study to rightly divide the Word of God so that you do not have to feel ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). B. A teacher will be held responsible for what he/she teaches (Jas. 3:1). C. There is an art to teaching (2 Timothy 23-26). D. Know that there is a hungry lion at the door of the class desiring to consume your students (1 Peter 5:8).</p> <p>1. Enter the classroom protected by the whole armor of God (Eph. 6). 2. Have the Sword of the Spirit ready (Eph. 6:17).</p> <p>IV. The Elders have a responsibility to a successful Bible Class program.</p> <p>A. The elders are in charge of the Bible Class program.</p> <p>1. Elders have the responsibility to protect the church from false teachers (Titus 1:9,10). 2. Elders must be teachers themselves and be willing to take care of the church (1 Timothy 3:2-5). B. The Bible Class program can make or break a congregation. C. Students should be progressing toward set goals and expectations. The Bible Class program can greatly determine the church of tomorrow.</p>	<p>I. The Wondrous Work by Jesus (1-44).</p> <p>C. The sorrow over Lazarus (17-37).</p> <p>1. <u>The sorrow of the Jews</u> (17-19): Many come from Jerusalem to pay their respects.</p> <p>2. <u>The sorrow of Martha</u> (20-28).</p> <p>a. <u>Martha's meeting with Jesus</u> (20-27): She waits for Him outside of Bethany.</p> <p>1) Her frustration (20,21): "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 2) Her faith (22-27).</p> <p>a) In the word of God (22-24): She believes in the OT promises regarding the resurrection. b) In the Son of God (25-27): She accepts Jesus' statement that He is the resurrection!</p> <p>b. <u>Martha's ministry for Jesus</u> (28): She informs Mary of His presence.</p> <p>3. <u>The sorrow of Mary</u> (29-32): She knows if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died.</p> <p>4. <u>The sorrow of Jesus</u> (33-37).</p> <p>a. <u>He weeps</u> (33-35) b. <u>They wonder</u> (36,37): Those watching this ask why Jesus – who can heal the blind – could not keep His friend from dying.</p> <p>Jesus and the Future Life (v. 27)</p> <p>I. Jesus is the resurrection.</p> <p>A. Jesus has the power to give physical life to those who have died. B. He promises He will raise all who are in the tombs (5:28,29). C. All the powers of Satan, especially seen in death, are so easily crushed by Jesus (cf. Heb. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:54-56). D. We thus have the confirmation of Scripture that death does not end one's existence. We will all be resurrected.</p> <p>II. Jesus is the life</p> <p>A. This refers to more than making one to live again. B. John told us that "In Him was life" (1:4) meaning that He had, as a natural attribute, the ability to bring things to life. C. Jesus said that He was "life in Himself" (5:26). D. This is certainly referring to a future life – the "eternal life" (5:24). Only Jesus can give this everlasting life. No other "lord" or "savior" can do this. Jesus only is the way, the truth and "the life" (14:6). Jesus tells Martha that "he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." Thus He qualifies those to whom He will give this life. One must believe in Jesus. He said, "he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment" (5:24). Will Jesus be the resurrection and the life for us? If we are believing in Him (coming to Him, obeying Him, etc.) then He will be!</p>