

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



September 6, 2015

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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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.

Book, Chapter and Verse

There was a time when all preachers in the church of Christ were known as "book, chapter and verse" preachers. By this it was meant that they endeavored to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11), and to prove every point they made by the Scriptures. They shunned the religious doctrines and commandments of men, they refused to preach their own opinions, and endeavored instead to set forth the will of God about any and every matter of which they spoke. I am thankful that we still have many such preachers—men who wish to be known simply as gospel preachers, men who can back up what they proclaim by a "thus saith the Lord."

Unfortunately, "book, chapter and verse" preaching has sometimes been wrongly characterized as "proof texting." Proof texting is an abuse and misuse of scripture. It ignores the larger context of a verse and uses the verse to "prove" a preconceived notion or point of doctrine. As someone has observed, a text taken out of context is a pretext. Every passage of scripture must be understood in the light of its larger context, including the total teaching of the Scriptures on a particular subject. For example, all the verses ascribing salvation to faith in Christ must be understood in the light of all that the New Testament teaches with respect to what one does in response to the saving grace of God.

On the other hand, to cite a single verse of scripture in support of gospel truth, facts, commands, promises, threats, and warnings is not wrong. In fact, we have biblical precedent for such. In Romans 3:9-19, the apostle Paul, in establishing the sinfulness of the Jews (in spite of their numerous spiritual advantages), strings together a number of isolated "proof texts"(as some would label them) from widely separated passages in Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Isaiah to prove his point. Often, he uses but part of an Old Testament passage. And he is not averse to even combining parts of various verses in order to drive home his point!

Similarly, one might spend time studying the Book of Hebrews and noting the frequent quotations from the Old Testament found in that "word of exhortation" (Hebrews 13:22). Thus, before one speaks too condescendingly about "proof texts," it might be well to ask, "May gospel preachers today use the New Testament in the way the inspired writers of the New Testament used the Old Testament?" May we cite book, chapter and verse (in context, of course) in support of what we preach?

It is rather apparent why many in contemporary society (even religious society) do not appreciate book, chapter and verse preaching. It condemns their life-style, their religious biases and prejudices, their religious practices and beliefs. Little wonder that they do not want certain texts read or quoted to them!

Those who believe there are many ways to God and to heaven do not like to hear John 14:6 and Acts 4:11-12.

Those who think that one church is as good as another do not want to hear Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 4:4.

Those who believe that one is saved by faith only do not want to hear James 2:24, 26 and Mark 16:15-16.

Those who think that one living since the death of Christ and the inauguration of His last

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"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."
Revelation 12:7-9



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will and testament can be saved without baptism do not like to hear Acts 22:16 and 1 Peter 3:21.

Those who think that sprinkling or pouring constitute acceptable baptism do not want to hear Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12.

Those who profess to be able to be "good Christians" whether they go to church or not do not want to hear Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7 and Hebrews 10:24-25.

Those who advocate for women preachers and women church leaders do not like to hear 1 Corinthians 14:34 and 1 Timothy 2:11-14.

The practicing homosexual does not want to hear Romans 1:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, but how he/she so desperately needs to hear the next verse and the promise of forgiveness that it holds out to all who will repent of their sinful lifestyle.

Those who believe that everybody will ultimately be saved do not like to hear Matthew 7:13-14, 21 and 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.

But make no mistake about it: We need book, chapter and verse preaching! Such is the only way to accurately set forth the true will of God and to proclaim the gospel of Christ, the power of God for salvation to all who will believe and obey it (Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Hugh Fulford
(huford.blogspot.com)

Has American "Christianity" Basically Become Idolatry?

It seems to me that what is commonly called "Christianity" in our culture is not only very *dissimilar* to biblical Christianity, but it actually seems more akin to idolatry than Christianity. I'm not talking about bowing down to a statue; I'm talking about some of the real heart issues behind idolatry. Here are some reasons why many of us may be more guilty of idolatry than we think...

God Has Become a Means to an End

An idolatrous god is simply a means to an end. The ancients would worship a fertility goddess in order to be fertile. They would make sacrifices to the god of war in order to have victory on the battlefield. They would try to please the god of the seas in order to ensure a safe voyage.

The God of the Bible, on the other hand, is not worshiped as a means to an end. God is to be worshiped because He Himself is the end; He is the object of our pursuit. We are told to seek Him in order that we might find Him (see Acts 17:27; Hebrews 11:6). Not in order that we might find all the physical things – or even eternal things – we want.

But many of us have turned God into a means to an end. We are worshiping Him and serving Him in order for Him to give us the things we want. And it isn't just the "health and wealth" preachers who think this way. Even when talking about heaven, many use terms like, "That big fishin' hole in the sky." They worship God because they see Him as the One who can provide the stuff they want, now and for eternity.

But God is not just a gift giver, He Himself is the gift! If you are just seeking the things God can give you, and not God Himself, then you don't understand the God of the Bible. If you don't see that the greatest blessing of Christianity is reconciliation with God (see 2 Corinthians 5), then you really don't understand the Gospel!

A Personal God Has Become a Personalized God

An idol is a man-made thing and the god it

represents is also man-made. Therefore it can be personalized to whatever the idol-worshiper wants it to be. An idol is a personalized god.

The God of the Bible is a personal God, but He is NOT a personalized God. He is a personal God because He knows and loves us personally, knowing every hair on our heads (Matthew 10:30). And He is personal because He cannot be worshiped, served, or obeyed vicariously. In order to be a Christian, a person must personally believe in and follow Christ.

However, many in our culture have tried to personalize God, the way we personalize everything else in our culture. We want to have everything our way. We want to decide the color, shape, and size of everything in our life. We don't want our things to match our neighbor's things; we want our stuff to be personalized.

Likewise, we have tried to personalize our God. Statements like, "Well, I just don't believe in a God like that" pass as legitimate theological arguments in our culture. It seems we actually think we can choose who God is.

Biblically, of course, that's not how it works. God is God and we are not. He doesn't need my permission, or your permission, to be who He is!

The Bible Has Become a Soothsayer

A prophet or soothsayer of an idolatrous god can tell people whatever they want to hear. He can throw bones on the ground, read a palm, or gaze into a crystal ball and say, "The gods are pleased with you and they say you will have a bountiful harvest this season."

There were certainly many false prophets like that in Old Testament times and the apostles warned there would even be false teachers who would wear the name of Christ: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening

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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

Sept. 6 Ezekiel 32-34

Sept. 7 Ezekiel 35-37

Sept. 8 Ezekiel 38-39

Sept. 9 Ezekiel 40-41

Sept. 10 Ezekiel 42-43

Sept. 11 Ezekiel 44-45

Sept. 12 Ezekiel 46-48

Sept. 13 Joel 1-3

"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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to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Not only do we have many false teachers today, but many of us actually do this to ourselves without realizing it. We open the Bible, pull a verse completely out of context, and act as if that verse is our “fortune cookie” for the day.

Consider the popular verse Jeremiah 29:11, “*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*” We act like this is a promise to us, but the verse is actually talking to the Jewish people, letting them know that many of them would suffer and die in Babylonian captivity, but as a people God wasn’t done with them yet.

If we want to get to know the actual God of the Bible, His will for us, and His scheme of redemption, we can’t treat the Bible like a box of fortune cookies. But sadly, many don’t really want to know the God of the Bible; we just want the god we’ve created in our own minds to give us an inspirational quote of the day.

Conclusion

The bottom line is this, it is easy to create your own god without even realizing it. It’s even easy to call His name “Jesus.” But that doesn’t make what you’re doing Christianity.

Christianity is about discovering truth. It is about being brought into fellowship “*with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ*” (1 John 1:3). It is about seeking Him and His will. It is about bringing glory to Him. It is about dying to self and living for Him – and with Him – for eternity.

That is Christianity.

Wes McAdams (www.radicallychristian.com)

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: Jean Hamann (3), **James Fuller (6), Emily Ochoa (11)**, Gene Bannister (16), Billie Ford (17), Frank Alexander (19), Matthew Ochoa (20), Allen Bland (23), Cindy Proud (26), Garret Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28), Jimmy Seal (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 23, 2015	Aug. 30, 2015
Bible Class	53	45
AM Worship	68	62
PM Worship	47	49
Wednesday PM	39	48
Contribution	\$1,778	\$1,685

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 9/6/15	Next Week: 9/13/15		September 2015 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Lisa Greer Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group October 2015 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz / Bridges Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith		Maninger & Churchwell Families			
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		Allen Griffith			
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Bland, Hank Wheeler		Tom Wilcox*, Don Smith Randy Huckaby, Gene Bannister			
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith		James Fuller			
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis		Jaceton Evetts			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller		James Thomas			
Scripture Reading	Don Smith		John Barnum			
Communion	Ken Maninger		Tom Wilcox			
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism		Hank Wheeler			
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 9 Don Smith		September 16 Joe Dennis		September 23 Allen Griffith	
					September 30 Singing 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 September 6, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 12:12ff
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 19:1ff

<u>Satan – the Devil</u>
Satan is real: John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8 Who is the Devil? "A created but superhuman, personal, evil, world-power, represented in scripture as the adversary of both God and man" (ISBE) Satan's mission: The complete destruction of all humanity in hell.
I. The Origin of Satan. A. Satan is a created being (1 John 1:1-3). B. All creation was at one time good (Genesis 1:31) – thus, Satan was at one time good. C. Satan is not all powerful (Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:10) – this, he is not deity. He is a created – disobedient – being.
II. The Devil's Power of Days Gone By. A. Against Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 11:3). B. Against Peter (Luke 22:31). C. Against Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7). D. Against Judas Iscariot (John 13:2,27; 6:70). E. Against Ananias (Acts 5:3,4). F. Our hope and confidence (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7).
III. The Devil's Power Is Limited. A. His power to afflict is limited (Job 1:12). B. When rebuked he had to remain silent (Zechariah 3:1,2). C. His authority over the world was delivered to him (Luke 4:5,6). D. He had to ask for the apostles (Luke 22:31). E. He can snatch no one out of the Lord's hand (John 10:28). F. When resisted, he flees (James 4:7). G. When cast into hell he cannot resist (Revelation 20:10). H. God is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4).
IV. How Does Satan Work Today? A. By blinding people (2 Corinthians 4:3,4). B. He deceives by acting like a minister of light (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). C. He takes the word from peoples heart (Luke 8:12). D. He is full of trickery (1 Tim. 3:7).
V. What Happens When One is Converted? (Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13; 1 John 3:8,9)
VI. What Should Be Our View Of The Devil? A. We should be aware of his wiles (Eph. 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11). B. We want to be mindful of his evil devices, but we do not want to think of him too highly (Romans 8:37-39; 16:20; 1 John 4:4; Genesis 3:15) C. We must take the Devil on the way the Lord did (Matthew 4:4,7,10; Psalm 119:11).

<u>John Chapter 12 – Part 1 – Verses 1-19</u>
I. JESUS IS ANOINTED IN BETHANY (1-11). A. The purpose (1-2a): A dinner is given to honor Jesus. B. The people (2b). Among those attending are Lazarus and his sisters. C. The perfume (3): Mary anoints Jesus with some expensive perfume. D. The protest (4-8). 1. <u>The denouncing of Mary</u> (4-6): Judas Iscariot rebukes Mary for this. a. <i>What he says</i> (4-5): "Why was this fragrant oil not sold...and given to the poor?" b. <i>Why he said it</i> (6): He wants to keep some of that money for himself. 2. <u>The defending of Mary</u> (7-8): Jesus says she has done this in preparation for His burial. E. The popularity (9): Many Jews now come to see both Lazarus and Jesus. F. The plot (10-11): The godless Jewish leaders lay plans to kill both Lazarus and Jesus!
II. JESUS IS ACCLAIMED IN JERUSALEM (12-50). A. Events during the Triumphal Entry (12-19). 1. <u>The parade</u> (12): The people line the roadside to welcome Jesus. 2. <u>The praise</u> (13): "Hosanna!...The King of Israel!" 3. <u>The prophecy</u> (14-16): This event was predicted by the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 9:9). 4. <u>The popularity</u> (17-18): Again, people flock to Jesus because of the Lazarus miracle. 5. <u>The protest</u> (19): The Pharisees are furious over Jesus' popularity.