

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 27, 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

An Open Letter to the Church of Christ

Dear church of Christ,

I've been part of you for most of my life now. What drew me to you was everything the Bible says about you, and what Christ gave up in order to have you. You see – in a way I don't fully understand – in some sense Christ gave up His equality with God the Father so that He could be married *to you* (Phil. 2:6-8). Why? Because your husband, Christ, is so obviously openly in love with you that sometimes, quite frankly, it makes me blush (Eph. 5:25). In this old world full of wickedness and darkness, I was attracted to that beautiful love. I wanted to be a part of that.

Because Christ loves you, I love you. And there are some things I think you should remember because of what your husband was willing to do for you.

Don't give up. He's coming back.

2,000 years since we last saw Him in the flesh with our own eyes seems like a long time to us (2 Pet. 3:8), but Christ could come back at any moment (Matt. 24:44). Don't lose heart (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

He hand-picked you to be His bride long before the "foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4-5). And He picked *you* – not a different church – for reasons that were very dear to Him. He wrote about all the qualities He loves so much about you in those 27 books of His Last Will & Testament.

Just as a man loves the details about his wife – how she dresses, how she does her hair, how she interacts with others, how she treats her family – Christ cares about the details of His church. You see, He didn't pick one of those fancy, highfalutin girls. He picked you because of your simplicity. He expects you to worship Him in a certain simple way (cf. John 4:24; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). He expects you to love His family in a certain simple way (cf. John 13:35). He expects you to arrange yourself in a certain simple way (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). He expects you to simply be loyal to His wishes, not another man's (cf. 1 Cor. 1:12-13; John 17:20-21).

What I'm trying to say is, I know it's been a while since you last saw Him. But don't give up trying to be what He wants you to be. And the only way you can be what He wants is by continuing to mimic everything He says in His New Testament, and only His New Testament. Don't try to be like all the other girls.

Really, that's all He wants. Christ loved you even when you were unlovable. He has patiently endured your shortcomings. And even during the times you have been unfaithful to Him, He has begged you to come back (Rev. 2:5, 21, cf. Mal. 3:7; Hosea).

Keep the faith. Remain loyal to Him. Pursue fidelity to the pattern of the New Testament. And don't settle for anything less, no matter how alluring it may be.

Don't try to be something you're not.

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"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'"
Matthew 16:16-18



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

(Continued from page 1)

To put it bluntly, **you look kind of silly when you try.** When you try to look like all the other girls, you don't do it very well. You're like the boy who ran away from home and drank a few bottles of liquor for the first time; when all the other reprobates in the bar at least know how to handle their drinks, you just look like a stammering fool.

When it comes to "doing what seems right to man" (Prov. 14:12), other churches simply do it better than you. If you try to do things that are not authorized in His New Testament – if your worship becomes about what you want – if you bow to political correctness – if your members stop trying to be holy – if you stop holding on to His Word – at best you are just **second-rate.**

Even when you try to be like them, other churches will still be bigger, have more entertaining services, offer more programs, be more organized, have more influence, and tickle more ears. When you try to be like the world, you're not very good at it. **And you lose all the reasons for people to stick around.**

Hold fast to the New Testament (2 Thess. 2:15). Keep doing what you do best. Con-

tinue being what Christ loves so much about you.

Don't forget how much Christ loves you.

Don't forget what He gave up for you. He died for you (John 3:16). He made Himself submissive to the Father for you (1 Cor. 15:28).

And if you still love him in return, make sure you show it (John 14:15). If you aren't remaining true to Him out of love, you aren't doing it by faith (Gal. 5:6).

Remember this: Christ loves you for *you*. Not the *old you*, but the *new you*. Because you have been baptized in Him (Gal. 2:20), the *old you* is gone. **The new you finds identity in Your Husband** (2 Cor. 5:17). Therefore, to be *you* is to resemble Christ's wishes for *you* in His New Testament.

Don't go back to being your old self. Don't let your love for Him grow cold. Don't try to be like all the other girls. Don't try to be something you're not.

Because He's coming back. And you want Him to recognize you.

Your loving brother,

Ben Giselbach
(plainsimplefaith.com)

Baptism: only the beginning

In their recent book, *Down to the River to Pray: Revisioning Baptism as God's Transforming Work*, John Mark Hicks and Greg Taylor observe that in baptism it is God who transforms us, not we ourselves. However, they also claim that God has many ways to express his gift of grace, and we ought not to "limit" (in their words) the ways God offers it. Thus their ultimate conclusion is that baptism is not necessary for salvation.

The Blessings of Baptism

What are the blessings of baptism? What does the Bible say baptism does for us? Perhaps we are under the impression that baptism does only one thing — save. Make no mistake, it does, but submitting to baptism does many other things for us, too.

It Enables Us to Enter the Kingdom of God

So you want to have the privileges of citizenship in the kingdom of God? You long to live under God's rule and as one of God's people? You can gain this blessing by being born again. "No one," Jesus declared flatly, "can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5).

Forgiveness of Sins

This is the prime blessing of baptism. On Pentecost the crowd had just been stunned to learn that rather than killing a fraud, they had put to death the son of God himself! This realization caused them to be "cut

to the heart." The one thing they wanted at that moment was forgiveness, and that is what Peter offered: "Repent and be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). They would not have swapped the offer Peter gave for blood or money!

The Holy Spirit as a Gift

The second blessing Peter offered at Pentecost was the Spirit as a gift — living within the Christian (Acts 2:38).

Washes Sins Away

"And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). The imagery of baptism washing away sins is easy to follow if we understand baptism as immersion, a ritual bath that washes away moral filth. For the person who feels the load of his sin, the offer of having our sins simply washed away would be a great relief!

It Allows Us to Live a New Life

So you messed up, got yourself in a predicament from which you cannot extricate yourself? Baptism promises you a "new life" (Romans 6:3), an opportunity to untangle your life and start again.

It Frees Us from Sin's Mastery

"In the same way count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its evil desires" (Romans 6:11, 12). When you think of the hold

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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. 27

Nehemiah 6-7

Sept. 28

Nehemiah 8-10

Sept. 29

Nehemiah 11-13; Psalm 126

Sept. 30

Malachi 1-4

Oct. 1

Luke 1; John 1:1-14

Oct. 2

Matt. 1; Luke 2:1-38

Oct. 3

Matt. 2; Luke 2:39-52

Oct. 4

Matt. 3; Mark 1; Luke 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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that sin has on most people — the addiction, the dependence — you understand the need to have strength to overcome the mastery sin has over them. This is offered at baptism, through Jesus Christ.

It Is a Source of Unity Amongst Christians

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Baptism is a great leveler. It reminds us that we were all in the same boat, sinners in need of God’s grace, and that there is, therefore, no cause to look down on someone else as a greater sinner than we. You were the recipient of grace just as surely as he!

We Are Adopted into God’s Family as Sons (and Daughters!)

According to Galatians 3:26-27, all of us “who were baptized into Christ” have clothed our-

selves “with Christ.” Of course the term “adoption” reminds us that prior to baptism we were orphans. Consider the destiny of an orphan — unloved, without guidance and discipline — and in most countries, for most of history, looking directly into the face of hunger and death!

We Begin to Resemble Christ

Being “clothed with Christ” is the positive side to the negative idea that we needed to get rid of certain characteristics — sin, bad habits and so on (Galatians 3:26-27).

Baptism Saves Us

Baptism saves us. That’s the plain teaching of scripture (1 Peter 3:21). You knew that, of course, but perhaps you hadn’t thought of these other blessings!

Given this, it would be hard to suggest that baptism is not essential, considering all the advantages that are given to the one who submits to it!

Stan Mitchell
(forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Garrett Barnum (9/27), Matthew Howell (9/28), Jimmy Seale (9/29), Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Sarah Evetts (12), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23).

October Anniversaries: Stormy & Juanita Barnum (25), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Sept. 13, 2015	Sept. 20, 2015
Bible Class	45	38
AM Worship	58	52
PM Worship	43	43
Wednesday PM	46	40
Contribution	\$1,626	\$1,852

This Week: 9/27/15		Next Week: 10/4/15		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	Dennis Family		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich				
Opening Prayer	James Fuller		Joe Dennis				
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Randy Huckaby, Tom Wilcox		Gene Bannister*, John Barnum Hank Wheeler, Don Smith				
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister		Allen Bland				
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis		Jaceten Evetts				
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		Song Leader: Joe Dennis			
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Tom Wilcox				
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler		Allen Griffith				
Communion	Joe Dennis		Gene Bannister				
Closing Prayer	James Thomas		Mike Bannister				
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 30 Singing Night	October 7 Prayer Night	October 14 Gospel Meeting	October 21 Tom Wilcox			

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 27, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 13:38ff
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 22

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound!</u></p> <p>Most would agree that "Amazing Grace," written by a former slave trader turned preacher, is the most popular, well-known hymn ever written. It has blessed the lives of all the redeemed in Christ.</p> <p>I. We need to see grace as Paul saw grace.</p> <p>A. He is preeminently the "apostle of grace."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Of 155 references to grace in the NT, 130 are in Paul's writings. 2. Grace was the secret of his vibrant life. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paul worked from grace. b. Grace motivated him (1 Cor. 15:10; Rom. 5:20; Eph. 3:8). <p>B. Our life – like Paul's – is a monument of grace (Acts 20:24).</p> <p>C. No word in the NT better represents the "good news" of Jesus Christ than the word <i>grace</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The "good news" (gospel) concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The person of the Lord Jesus Christ. b. The message proclaimed and received. 2. The focus of our study is upon – salvation by grace through faith. <p>II. What Is Grace?</p> <p>A. Grace is the quality of graciousness in the giver that results in a quality of gratitude in the receiver, which in turn makes the receiver gracious to those about him.</p> <p>B. Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense.</p> <p>C. Grace is the "unmerited favor of God."</p> <p>III. What Grace Does.</p> <p>A. It brought salvation.</p> <p>B. But, is salvation by "grace alone"?</p> <p>IV. How Is Grace Accessed?</p> <p>A. Christians "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered," thus "having been set free from sin" (Rom. 6:17,18).</p> <p>B. An obedient faith is essential to appropriate the grace of God (Rom. 5:1,2).</p> <p>C. The fundamental importance of faith can be seen in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is imperative to pleasing God (Heb. 11:6). 2. It is the means of accessing the grace of God (Eph. 2:8). 3. It is the manner of the Christian's conduct (2 Cor. 5:7). 4. It is the root – the underlying principle of our lives (Gal. 2:20). 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>John 14:1-15</u></p> <p>The events of chapter 13 have no doubt left the apostles quite shaken: Judas has departed, Jesus is going away and even Peter would deny Jesus. They are in desperate need of assurance.</p> <p>I. THE CONSOLATION JESUS GIVES TO HIS APOSTLES (1-4).</p> <p>A. "I Go to Prepare a Place for You" (1-2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Let not your heart be troubled</i> (1) – the theme of the chapter (repeated in v. 27). Two reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. He is going to prepare a place for them (2), and b. Another Helper will come (16). 2. <i>Believe in God, believe also in Me</i> – the message of the book. 3. <i>I go to prepare a place for you.</i> <p>B. "I Will Come Again and Receive You to Myself; That Where I Am, There You May Be Also" (3-4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>If I go...I will come again.</i> 2. <i>Where I am, there you may be also.</i> <p>II. THE CONVERSATION JESUS HAD WITH HIS APOSTLES (5-31).</p> <p>A. Thomas & Jesus (5-7).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thomas's question: "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" (5). 2. Jesus' answer (6-7). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (6a). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jesus is <i>the way</i> – the only way – there is no other. 2) Jesus is <i>the truth</i> – the only truth – there is no other. 3) Jesus is <i>the life</i> – the only life – there is no other. b. "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (6b-7). <p>B. Phillip & Jesus (8-21).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phillip's question (8): "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 2. Jesus' answer (9-21). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (9). b. "I am in the Father, and the Father in Me" (10). c. "Greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (11-14). d. "He will give you another Helper...the Spirit of truth" (15-21).
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