

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



October 18, 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.

Have We Lost Sight of the Primary Mission of the Church?

If someone asked you, "What is the primary mission of the church?" what would you say? Would you say it is to multiply and grow our numbers? Would you say it is to bring about moral reform in our nation? Would you say it is simply to worship God every Sunday? Do we know what the primary mission of the church is or have we completely lost sight of it?

The Primary Mission of the Church

I believe the church of Christ in the twenty-first century has the same mission it had in the first century, which is this: **to proclaim the message of reconciliation.**

God created mankind in His own image and for His own glory, but we willfully rebelled against God and brought judgement upon ourselves. We became God's enemies. He, of course, has every right to destroy His enemies at any time. However, His desire is not to destroy, but to bring about reconciliation between Himself and rebellious mankind (1 Timothy 2:4). This is why He gave His only begotten Son, to wash away our sin and reconcile us to Himself (Romans 5:6-11).

Becoming a Christian means being reconciled to God. **It is about being brought into relationship with the Creator of the Universe.** It is about our status being changed from God's enemy to God's child.

This is how the apostle Paul described his God-appointed mission in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20:

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

The primary mission of the church is to carry on the apostles' **ministry of reconciliation.** We must be about the business of imploring people "on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Our Primary Mission is Not Worship on Sunday

If this then is our primary mission, then our primary mission is not worship on Sundays. **We should not see worship as our primary mission, but our primary pleasure.** Because we have been reconciled to God, we have the pleasure of worshiping Him. We have been allowed into His presence to sing His praises, to come before His throne in prayer, to love Him, and to be loved by Him.

This means those who see the church's primary mission as creating an "exciting worship experience" each week AND those who see the church's primary mission as checking "acts of worship" off a checklist each week, have both lost sight of the real mission. Worship is important. It is one of the greatest blessings of being reconciled to God. Therefore, it ought to be a constant reminder to us how truly important our mission is.

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"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." 1 Cor. 13:1-3



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If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8), if we really love Him and enjoy Him, we should want the world to know the same joy we have in Christ.

Our Primary Mission is Not Moral Reform of Our Legal System

The church needs to be preaching against immorality; not primarily to bring about reforms to our country's legal system, but in order to convict the world of sin (see John 16:8). We must help prove to people that they – like us – need saving from a horrible fate. We do not preach against sin in order to bring about the sinner's punishment, but to bring about his or her salvation through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus.

The church is not accomplishing its goal by simply changing laws, or by making the world believe Christians think we are less deserving of death. All of us “deserve to die” (Romans 1:32). This is the message we must consistently preach. It is only when we are convicted of sin that we can experience godly sorrow, repent of our sins, and throw ourselves upon the mercies of God.

If we truly helped bring about repentance and reconciliation, through the preaching of the gospel, we wouldn't have to worry so much about changing the laws of the land.

Our Primary Mission is Not to Grow Our Numbers

We all love to see our congregations grow. We love to see more people in the pews. We love to see

relationships blossom and grow. It's easy to begin thinking this is the primary mission of the church, to create large communities of loving friendships. Though this is a wonderful result of people obeying the gospel, it is not the church's primary mission.

But because many have accepted this as our primary mission, they have set about the work of creating a myriad of church social functions and ministries to appeal to the masses. They believe if we attract enough people to the church building, by offering the right amenities, we will have accomplished our mission. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The church is not a social club. Fellowship is a wonderful blessing of sharing a common salvation, but it is not the primary mission of the church. We could attract a million people to a religious social club, but if our primary message was not, “we implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God,” then we would not be accomplishing our mission.

Conclusion

All of these things (worship, moral reform, growing congregations, and so much more) would happen if we would just focus on our primary mission. We must help the world to see what an amazing opportunity God has set before them, reconciliation with Him through Jesus Christ. But before we can help them to see how wonderful it is, perhaps we need to see it ourselves.

Wes McAdams
radicallychristian.com

What Would Life Be Like Without The Lord?

What a horrible thought! I cannot imagine trying to make it through life without having “*the good Shepherd*” (John 10:11). He is the “*one mediator between God and men*” (1 Tim. 2:5). He is the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (Rev. 19:16). But, what if? What if Jesus had never come into this world “*to give his life as a ransom*” (Mark 10:45)? What if I had refused to believe and obey the Gospel? Or, what if I became a follower of God's Son but later decided “*to turn from the holy commandment*” (2 Peter 2:21)? Friend, what kind of life would it be if we had to live it without the Lord?

It would be A Life Without True Meaning. Jesus came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Aren't we thankful that He did! Jesus once told His apostles, “*...without me ye can do nothing*” (John 15:5). But on the other hand, as the apostle Paul said, we “*can do all things*” through Him (Phil. 4:13). The “*whole*” of man is to fear the Lord and keep His commandments. The Bible says so (Eccl. 12:13). Yes, without the Lord, our life would be a life without true meaning.

It would also be A Life Without A Totally Reliable Pattern Or Model To Imitate. There are a lot of really fine people in this world. Some of them are worthy of imitation because they demonstrate in their lives wonderful behavior, pure speech, and a respectful attitude. Such rare people are a good pattern to follow most of the time. If you have read the Bible, you know that no mere human is perfect. No mere human is a good example in every aspect of living all of the time. Each person makes mistakes. The Bible says that “*all have sinned*” (Rom. 3:23). But not Jesus. He “*did no sin,*” and that is why He, and He alone, is One about Whom we can say to ourselves and others, “*...ye should follow his steps*” (1 Peter 2:21-22). Take Jesus out of the picture and there is no completely reliable model to follow.

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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

- Oct. 18** John 6
- Oct. 19** Matthew 15; Mark 7
- Oct. 20** Mt. 16; Mk. 8; Lk. 9:18-27
- Oct. 21** Mt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9:28-62
- Oct. 22** Matthew 18
- Oct. 23** John 7-8
- Oct. 24** John 9:1—10:21
- Oct. 25** Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42

“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)



(Continued from page 2)

Life without the Lord would be A Life Without Direction. Where am I going in my life? Where should I be heading in life? Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12). Following Jesus is the path of light. Through His word, the Lord provides a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105). Jesus has *“the words of eternal life”* (John 6:68). Without Him we would have no clue about where and how we should walk.

Life without the Lord would be A Life Without Forgiveness / Salvation. The wages of sin is death because sin separates a person from God (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:1-2). We could never devise a plan by which we could save ourselves. Thank God that He loved us so much that He sent Jesus *“into the world to save sinners”* (1 Tim. 1:15). The Bible says that in Jesus *“we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”* (Eph. 1:7). Because Jesus is the only Savior, His is the only *“name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Without Him we could never enjoy the forgiveness of sins. Without forgiveness, we would always carry the burden and guilt of sin in our heart. How horrible it would be to have to face life without the Lord and His marvelous salvation. We should continually express our gratitude for all the Lord has done to provide us with the remission of sins.

A life without the Lord would be a Life Without Hope. People that live without hope are miserable indeed. Jesus is the hope of the world (1 Tim. 1:1). Through Jesus we can live *“in hope of eternal life”* (Titus 1:2). Christians have been begotten by God to possess a lively hope. That hope is to obtain the inheritance that the Lord has prepared — *“an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven”* (1 Peter 1:3-4). That is the only hope that is really worthy of man’s interest and effort.

What would my life be like without the Lord? It would be a life without true meaning, a life without a totally reliable model to imitate, a life without direction, a life without forgiveness, and a life without hope. The great thing is that none of us has to live such an empty and vain life without the Lord and His blessings. The choice is ours: we can either live life with Him, or live life without Him. Let us choose wisely, for this choice will determine our eternal destiny. To live with Him, of course, means to live according to His will. Are you doing that?

Roger D. Campbell

Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2015, p. 79.

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Sarah Evetts (12), Jo Manger (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

	Oct. 4, 2015	Oct. 11, 2015
Bible Class	50	59
AM Worship	68	72
PM Worship	51	57
Wednesday PM	43	55
Contribution	\$2,659	\$1,899

	Next Week: 10/18/15	Next Week: 10/25/15	October 2015	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith	Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister	Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz / Bridges	
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Allen Bland Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	James Thomas*, Hank Wheeler Tom Wilcox, John Barnum	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith	November 2015	
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Caleb Dennis	Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family	
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller	Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / L. Greer	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Joe Dennis	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Communion	Randy Huckaby	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 21 Tom Wilcox	October 28 Don Smith	November 4 Prayer Night	November 11 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 October 18, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 14:11ff
Wednesday Class Ezekiel 23

A 1 Corinthian 13 Love

Life without love is not only unnatural – it is unbiblical.

1 Thess 3:12 And may the Lord make you **increase** and **abound in love to one another** and **to all**, just as we do to you,

With this lesson we begin a study of what is called the "Love Chapter" of the Bible – 1 Corinthians 13.

I. Love is an "Exceptional" Way of Life.

"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31).

- A. Love is a **badge** (Jn. 13:34-35).
- B. Love is a **boundary** (Jn. 15:9-10; Eph. 5:2; 3:17).
- C. Love is a **blockade** (Rom. 13:10; 14:13-15).
- D. Love is a **buffer** (1 Cor. 13-14).
- E. Love is a **bond** (Col. 3:12-14).
- F. Love is a **breastplate** (1 Thess. 5:8).

II. Love is "Essential" to the Christian's Way of Life.

- A. Three declarations.
 - 1. Without love, Paul said, **"I am nothing"** (13:1).
 - 2. Without love, Paul says, **"I have nothing"** (13:2).
 - 3. Without love, Paul says, **"What I do means nothing"** (13:3).
- B. Three lessons of application.
 - 1. Love is more important than anything we **say** – because loved **"dictates"** our speech.
 - 2. Love is more important than anything we **have** – because love **"facilitates"** a proper use of what we have.
 - 3. Love is more important than anything we **do** – because love **"motivates"** us to do what we are commanded to do.

Basic Outline Borrowed from Dan Winkler

John 15:1-12

The words of chapter 14 were designed to console the troubled apostles in view of Jesus' coming death and departure.

In this chapter He gives instruction and directs attention to truths He would have them remember when He was no longer with them. The setting is the same.

I. FRUIT BEARING (1-8).

A. The Symbols (1,5ab).

- 1. Jesus is the true vine (1a,5a).
 - a. This is the 7th & final **"I Am"** statement recorded by John.
 - b. There are "vines" and "true vines", just as there is "bread" and "true bread".
- 2. The Father is the vinedresser (1b).
- 3. The apostles (by extension all Christians) are the branches (5b).
 - a. The Lord is not talking about branch churches (denominations) – but about individual disciples who are His faithful followers.

B. The Steps (2-4,5c-6).

- 1. We must submit to pruning by the Father (2-3).
- 2. We must abide in Jesus (4,5c-6).

C. The Success (7-8).

- 1. It results in bountiful fruit (7,8b).
- 2. It results in glorifying the Father (8a).

II. LOVING (9-17).

A. The Priority (9-12).

- 1. The Father loves Jesus (9a,10b).
- 2. Jesus loves the apostles (and all believers) (9b,10a,11).
- 3. The apostles (and all believers) are to love each other (12).

B. The Proof (13-15).

C. The Promises (16-17).

III. SUFFERING (18-25).

IV. WITNESSING (26-27): Jesus speaks of a twofold witness.