

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



November 15, 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.

Excuses, Excuses

When we catch up with Moses in Exodus 3, forty more years have gone by. Moses is now eighty years old and a shepherd for his father-in-law.

Although Moses seems to have forgotten what he already knew, that God would use him to deliver Israel from Egyptian slavery (see Acts 7:24-25), God had not forgotten. God spoke to Moses from a bush that was burning but not burning up. The message God had for Moses was simple: now was the time for him to go and deliver the Israelites from slavery.

It would seem that Moses remembered what had happened forty years earlier when the people refused to follow him, so he started to make excuses to God as to why he wasn't the man to do this.

Excuse 1: "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, or that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (3:11). We might phrase this today as, "Who, me?" or even "Why me?" God's reply was simple: don't worry about it because I'll be with you – I'll even bring you back to this very mountain to worship him.

Excuse 2: "If I go to the Israelites and tell them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' – what should I say to them?" (3:13). This might not seem much of an excuse to us, but Moses was using this to try to get out of going. Notice God's reply: "'I am that I am...You must say this to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you'" (3:14). God further elaborated that he was the same God Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had worshipped. He gave Moses precise instructions as to what to say to the elders of Israel as he prepared them to be led to the Promised Land. But Moses was still not convinced.

Excuse 3: "And if they do not believe me or pay attention to me, but say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you'?" (4:1). This is when God gave Moses his miraculous signs: his rod becoming a snake and then a rod again, and his hand becoming leprous and whole again, and water from the Nile becoming blood when poured out.

Excuse 4: "'O my Lord, I am not an eloquent man, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (4:10). In other words, I'm not a good public speaker. This would seem to go against the education he had received and reflects how he still felt after being rejected forty years earlier. In God's response you can almost hear God becoming weary with these excuses: who gave Moses his mouth anyway? God knew what Moses could and could not do and God would be with Moses' mouth.

Excuse 5: "'O my Lord, please send anyone else whom you wish to send!" (4:13). Send someone else – I don't want to do this! This is when God became angry with Moses and told him in no uncertain terms that he was going and Aaron, his brother, could be his spokesman.

How often are we like Moses? Rather than obeying God immediately (and without question), we try to give excuse after excuse to God, forgetting that God knows all about us. God know what we are capable of doing and what we cannot do. We won't be held accountable for what we can't do – God will hold us to account for not doing what we can.

God has given us abilities – Paul calls them "gifts" in Romans 12:6-8. If we have abilities in an area – or more – God expects us to use what he has given us.

God has equipped us to do his work. What is our excuse?

Jon Galloway (forthright.net)

"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of.... Preach the word!... But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." 2 Tim. 3:13-14a; 4:2a,5



Antinomy of Scripture

In studying the Scriptures it is important to recognize the principle of antinomy. Failure to do so results in warped and one-sided conclusions that have not taken into consideration the total teaching of God's word regarding a matter. The sovereignty of God and the free will of man, God's grace and man's obedience to the gospel, and God's keeping of the saved and the possibility of apostasy are but three areas (among many) in which antinomy must be recognized.

"Antinomy" means: "1. Opposition; contradiction. 2. Contradiction between inferences or principles that seem equally necessary and reasonable." (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language). There are many passages that speak of the sovereignty of God. "For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.' So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy" (Rom. 9:15-16). To read such a passage alone could lead one to falsely assume that man has no will or choice of his own. Those Scriptures which speak of God's work have led some to conclude that man is totally passive insofar as his salvation is concerned. Yet just three chapters earlier Paul had written: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves servants to obey, you are that one's servant whom you obey, whether of sin to death or obedience to righteousness" (Rom. 6:16)? Humans have the power to choose whether they will serve Satan or God! All are invited to come to Christ, and the invitation can be accepted or rejected (Matt. 11:28-30).

In the same vein, those passages which speak of the grace of God have led some to erroneously conclude that salvation is unconditional. Yet, we need to read further. With reference to the sins of one who has not yet become a Christian we might examine the case of Saul of Tarsus. When Christ appeared to him on the Damascus road, Saul asked: "Lord, what do you want me to do" (Acts 9:6). Christ did not respond by saying: "Nothing, Saul; there is not anything you can do to be saved." Rather, the Lord said: "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Unless the Bible communicates a contradictory message (which it does not), it is very clear that the sinner must do something to be saved!

As to the security of the believer, Christians can bask in the promise of Christ: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" (John 10:27-29). Yet, the child of God must "beware lest anyone take you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Col. 2:8). Christians are exhorted: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12). One cannot depart from God if he has never been in fellowship with God.

What we see at work in all of these passages is the principle of antinomy. Some statements of Scripture give emphasis to God's side of a matter, with no intent or purpose of saying anything about man's side. Other passages speak of the human side of that same matter with nothing being said about God's involvement in the situation. Separating them and stressing one to the exclusion of the other creates a warped and unbalanced view of the matter, leading to confusion. Looking at the complete array of Biblical teaching on the subject shows both sides to be valid, reasonable, and necessary.

Antinomy is like the two sides of a single coin. Look at one side and you see one thing; look at the other side and you see something else. Yet the two sides are all one coin. So it is with the things of God. Some passages speak of God's gracious activity in salvation; others speak of the conditions with which humans must comply in order to receive that salvation. For a sinner to repent and be baptized "for" (*eis* = in order to) the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) in no wise nullifies the fact that one is saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

Understanding and basking in God's wondrous activities is the antidote to any and all legalistic and Pharisaic attitudes among the people of God. Recognizing the conditional nature of a right relationship with God serves as a needed reminder that Christ is "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9).

Hugh Fulford

Gospel Advocate, March, 2004

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

Nov. 15 Luke 24; John 20-21

Nov. 16 Acts 1-3

Nov. 17 Acts 4-6

Nov. 18 Acts 7-8

Nov. 19 Acts 9-10

Nov. 20 Acts 11-12

Nov. 21 Acts 13-14

Nov. 22 James 1-5

"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)



“And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (Rev. 17:6)

She was the mother of scores of orphans, a single woman on the mission field for decades. She fed and clothed generations of young people, introducing them to Christ and shaping their characters for good. She directed lives toward eternity.

One dark night she was brutally murdered.

That was over thirty years ago. Her name was **Elaine Britell**, a native of California, and a missionary to southern Zambia. She ran an orphanage, fed the hungry, taught them to read and write, and led them to Christ. She was stabbed to death in her bed by an unknown assailant.

There is no calculating the difference she made in that central African region!

If this seems familiar, it should.

Another magnificent Christian woman was murdered recently in Haiti. She was **Roberta Edwards**, and she ran an orphanage, fed the hungry, and raised young people who now lead the church, lights in that otherwise sad country.

When a young woman asks me if she can make a difference for the Lord’s cause, I usually cite these two inspiring Christians. They did more than talk about the need to make a difference; they acted. They were as strong as any man, sweet-spirited as any Christian woman. Each could easily have taken it easy in her home country, enjoying the luxury of reliable electrical service, good health services and large, established church buildings in which to sit on a Sunday morning. Instead, they chose to work in the dust and suffering of third world countries.

There is no shortage of needs in our world; there is no shortage of opportunities to serve; the only shortage that exists is people of faith, men and women, who will step out and do something in Christ’s name.

You don’t have to work for thirty years on the mission field; commit to two, then evaluate. Perhaps two more? That’s how it’s done, wiping away the tears of a child, combating their abandoned psyches with the truth that the Lord will never leave them nor forsake them (Hebrews 13:5).

Most of the good done in the Lord’s name is done quietly and consistently, but make no mistake, it is worthwhile work.

“Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs 31:31).

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)



Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), **Juanita Barnum (15), Randy Huckaby (15)**, Marcia Turnbull (24), Kevin Wilcox (27).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), **Jack and Judie Turner (18)**.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 1, 2015	Nov. 8, 2015
Bible Class	48	46
AM Worship	64	58
PM Worship	54	49
Wednesday PM	55	53
Contribution	\$1,832	\$1,891

Next Week: 11/15/15		Next Week: 11/22/15		November 2015 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / L. Greer Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group December 2015 Make Announcements: Joe Dennis Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: J. & T. Barnum / J. Barnum Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	J. Stultz / H. Wheeler / L. Greer		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Communion	Don Smith*, Ryan Rudloff Hank Wheeler, Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	James Thomas		
Scripture Reading	Allen Bland	John Barnum		
Communion	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 18 Joe Dennis	November 25 Allen Griffith	December 2 Prayer Night	December 9 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 November 15, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 15:36ff: Second Evangelistic Journey
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 26-28: Judgment of Tyre

<p><u>The Message We Live & Preach (2 Timothy 3:14-4:5)</u> Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the truth and preach the word.</p> <p>I. The Command to Continue [Abide].</p> <p>A. Paul urges Timothy regarding the ongoing need to <i>continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of</i>.</p> <p>B. Paul strengthens his command to <i>continue</i> by identifying three supporting realities from which Timothy could gain strength.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider his teachers – his grandmother, his mother, and Paul. 2. Recall how long he has understood these spiritual realities. 3. The source of his learning had been the <i>Holy Scriptures</i>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Given by inspiration of God.</i> b. <i>Profitable for doctrine.</i> c. <i>Profitable...for reproof.</i> d. <i>Profitable...for correction.</i> e. <i>Profitable...for instruction in righteousness.</i> f. <i>Profitable...that the man of God may be complete.</i> <p>II. The Charge to Preach.</p> <p>A. Timothy's responsibilities went beyond his personal need – Paul charged him with the noble responsibility to preach the word.</p> <p>B. Paul amplifies this charge through a series of associated imperatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Necessitates urgency – the soul's needs are met by the word. 2. Consistency – <i>in season and out of season</i>. 3. The Holy Scriptures of God can: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Convince</i> the mind of sin and falsehood. b. <i>Rebuke</i> – denounce sin and reprimand the impenitent. c. <i>Exhort</i> - provide edification and direction – which inspires hope. d. <i>With all longsuffering</i> – compassionate patience for the hearer. C. Rejection of <i>the word</i> by many is expected – even from brethren. D. Timothy must maintain clear thinking – his work will not be easy. <p>III. Application.</p> <p>A. The command to <i>continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of</i> applies to every Christian.</p> <p>B. The charge to preach reminds us of the universal needs for which the word of God is perfectly suited.</p> <p>The same guidance given to Timothy can help strengthen our resolve to remain firm in our convictions and proclaim the word of God.</p>	<p><u>John Chapter 17 – The Real Lord's Prayer – Lesson 1 of 2</u></p> <p>I. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (1-5).</p> <p>A. The faithful Son (1,5).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What he asks (1a,5): <i>Glorify Your Son</i>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Father, the hour has come (1) – the hour of the great sacrifice.</i> b. <i>Glorify Your Son.</i> c. <i>And now, O Father, glorify Me (5).</i> 2. Why he asks (1b): <i>That Your Son also may glorify You.</i> <p>B. The fruitful Son (2-4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He has given eternal life to those the Father has given Him (2-3): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Given</i> – a key concept in this chapter. b. <i>You have given Him authority over all flesh.</i> c. <i>To as many as You have given Him.</i> d. <i>This is eternal life, that they may know You. The key to the entire gospel – defines eternal life – to know the only true God and Christ! – 20:30,31</i> 2. He has completed his assignment (4). <p>II. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS APOSTLES (6-19).</p> <p>A. Jesus had many positive things to say about them in His prayer.</p> <p>B. Jesus' report (6-10,12,14,18-19): Reviews his ministry for apostles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He has revealed the Father to them (6-7). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me – Jesus had shown God the Father to the apostles.</i> b. <i>They have kept Your word</i> – these men were faithful. c. <i>They have known that all things ...given Me are from You.</i> 2. He has given the Father's words to them (8,14). 3. He has prayed for them (9-10). 4. He has kept them safe, with the exception of Judas (12). 5. He has set himself apart for their sanctification (19). 6. He has sent them into the world (18).
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