

# 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 22, 2015

## Contact Us:

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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 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.

## Thankful for...Forgiveness

God gave man a conscience that either approves us or condemns us. When we believe we've done well, our conscience is clear — we feel good. When we believe we've done wrong, our conscience condemns us — we feel bad, stressed, uncomfortable.

While it is good that man has a conscience, it is not always a safe guide. It is possible to have a clear conscience when in fact we've done wrong. It is likewise possible for our conscience to condemn us, when in fact we've done right. Our conscience is determined by what we have learned or perceive to be right or wrong. Therefore, we must educate our conscience. We must make sure it is in harmony with God's Word.

When we feel we've done wrong, our conscience pricks our heart. We are miserable, troubled, afflicted, distressed. We desperately desire for that feeling to go away. The desire to clear our conscience motivates us to do right.

The need of forgiveness is strong within us. Just to know we've been forgiven helps us. Forgiveness, therefore, is one of the sweetest words known to man. Everyone is in desperate need of forgiveness. To die unforgiven is the greatest of all the tragedies man could ever face. How can we have forgiveness? What must be done?

God had a plan from the beginning for man to be forgiven. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began unveiling that plan (Gen. 3:15). A blood sacrifice was required and we find Abel doing as God commanded (Heb. 11:4). *"And Abel...brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering"* (Gen. 4:4). Through the centuries, God required the blood of bulls and goats to be shed, but even then, it was not the full and complete payment for sin. Hebrews 10:4 says, *"...it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."* The New Testament reveals it would take the precious blood of Jesus the Christ, the only begotten Son of God to atone for sin once and for all (cf. Heb. 7:27; 9:12,28; 10:10).

The Bible makes clear that everyone sins — none are exempt. *"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"* (Eccl. 7:20). *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. ... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:10,23).

Both sinners and saints stand in need of forgiveness. God's great love and mercy makes forgiveness possible. God is willing to forgive. *"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee"* (Psa. 86:5; cf. 103:8). *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"* (Isa. 55:7).

Jesus came to die for sinful man. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8).

Jesus had to die in order to make it possible for man to have forgiveness. He said, *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins"* (Matt. 26:28). Paul wrote, *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"* (Col. 1:14).

Jesus was willing to forgive. On the cross, he said *"...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34). Though God is willing to forgive and Jesus went to the cross in order that we might have forgiveness, it is not automatic. Man has to obey the Lord. Forgiveness is conditional.

Forgiveness of sins depends upon one's relationship to God. God has one plan for alien sinners and another plan for Christians.

## God's Plan for Those Who Are Not Christians

Those who are not Christians (having never obeyed the Gospel) must obey God's will/word to become a child of God. A sinner, therefore, is required to **hear** the Gospel. *"It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me"* (John 6:45). Every person on the face of the earth must hear the

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blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the last commands Jesus gave his disciples was to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Men and women everywhere must hear what God's will is for them.

A sinner is required to **believe** the Gospel and what it says about Jesus the divine and only begotten Son of God. Jesus said, *"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins"* (John 8:24). *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* (Mark 16:16). *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Without *"faith,"* it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

A sinner is required to **repent** of their sins. *"...Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"* (Luke 13:3,5). *"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38). *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."* (Acts 3:19). God *"...commandeth all men every where to repent"* (Acts 17:30). Repentance is a "change of mind." When the mind changes, it leads to a "change of life and action." Without this conversion, there is no forgiveness.

A sinner is required to **confess** faith in Jesus —that he is the Son of God and Savior of the world. Philip told the man from Ethiopia that he had to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God before he could be baptized to wash his sins away. The man confessed saying, *"...I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"* (Acts 8:37). Paul wrote, *"...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Rom. 10:9-10). Nothing is said about confessing your sins. For alien sinners, the confession made is that Jesus is the divine Son of God.

A sinner is required to be **baptized** in water for the forgiveness of sins. Peter told those on Pentecost, *"...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38). Jesus said, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."* (Mark 16:16). Saul of Tarsus was told, *"...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord"* (Acts 22:16). Just as Noah and his family were saved by water, the inspired Peter wrote, *"the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us..."* (1 Peter 3:21).

Notice what happens when a penitent, confessing sinner is baptized. *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with*

*him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ... But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness"* (Rom. 6:3-6,17-18).

Baptism is not sprinkling or pouring. It is an immersion in water. Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be *"born again"* (John 3:3-5). One is born into the family and household of God.

### God's Plan for Those Who Are Unfaithful Christians

Those who have obeyed the Gospel as stated above, are Christians. When Christians stop obeying God, they fall away. God has a plan for them to be forgiven and restored to faithfulness.

God's forgiveness offered to Christian's who have fallen away is tied to their repentance. God says, *"...I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel"* (Ezek. 33:11)? *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* (Luke 5:32). *"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"* (Luke 13:3).

A Christian, therefore, must repent of their sin(s) and pray for forgiveness. Peter told Simon, who had been converted from sorcery but sinned when he wanted to buy the power to pass on spiritual gifts, *"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ... Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me"* (Acts 8:20-24).

A Christian who sins publicly (a sin that is widely know by others) must repent publicly. How else could brethren know such a one has repented and desires to be counted among the faithful unless it is publicly acknowledged?

A Christian who sins against another person (known only by that person), must repent and ask forgiveness from that person. There is no need for the knowledge of that sin to be made public (cf. Matt. 18:15-17).

A Christian may even sin in their heart (cf. Matt. 5:28). This would

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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

<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>James 1-5</b>
<b>Nov. 23</b>	<b>Acts 15-16</b>
<b>Nov. 24</b>	<b>Galatians 1-3</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Galatians 4-6</b>
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Acts 17:1-18:18</b>
<b>Nov. 27</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians (all)</b>
<b>Nov. 28</b>	<b>Acts 18:19-19:41</b>
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1-4</b>

*"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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be known only to God and therefore must be repented of to God (as all sins). Sins must be repented of as widely or privately as they are known.

### Forgiving One Another

Receiving forgiveness from God is also tied to our forgiveness of one another. If I expect God to forgive me, then I must forgive others. Notice these passages. *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"* (Eph. 4:32). *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye"* (Col. 3:13). *"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy"* (Matt. 5:7). *"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven"* (Matt. 18:21-22). *"...Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven"* (Luke 6:37). *"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses"* (Mark 11:25-26). *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.... For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matt. 6:12-15). *"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him"* (Luke 17:3-4). *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also"* (1 John 4:20-21). See also Matt. 18:23-35.

Another point to be made is that we cannot forgive others unless they repent and desire forgiveness —God can't even do that. Luke 17:3-4 says, *"if he repent, forgive him."* We must, however, be willing to forgive. We must be eager and long for others to repent. Our desire is to extend forgiveness and we are ready to do so when the Biblical conditions have been met. On the cross, Jesus said, *"...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34). This did not automatically forgive everyone involved. They had not met the conditions of forgiveness that the Lord himself had given (cf. Luke 13:3,5). Jesus was showing the willingness to forgive. He died for every man, including those who crucified him (Heb. 2:9). Some of these same people heard the Gospel preached on Pentecost (Acts 2:23). Those who repented and were baptized were forgiven (Acts 2:38,41).

Are you forgiven? Have you forgiven others?

Garland Robinson (*Seek The Old Paths*, Nov. 2015)

## 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. 8, 2015	Nov. 15, 2015
Bible Class	46	40
AM Worship	58	67
PM Worship	49	51
Wednesday PM	53	55
Contribution	\$1,991	\$1,995



# Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 11/22/15		Next Week: 11/29/15		<b>November 2015</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> M. & P. Bannister / L. Greer <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Laura Huckaby's group  <b>December 2015</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Joe Dennis <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Churchwell Family <b>Clean Building:</b> J. & T. Barnum / J. Barnum <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Cindy McCaghren's group
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	J. Stultz / H. Wheeler / L. Greer		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller		Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		Tom Wilcox*, Hank Wheeler Allen Bland, Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts		Chase Churchwell		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas		Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum		Joe Dennis		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis		Tom Wilcox		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith		Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 25 Allen Griffith	December 2 Prayer Night	December 9 Tom Wilcox	December 16 Garrett Barnum	

## 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 22, 2015

Sunday Class ..... Acts 16:11ff: Second Evangelistic Journey  
Wednesday Class ..... Ezekiel 29-32: Judgment of Egypt

#### Jesus Is Lord! - What Does That Mean To Me?

We have created a distinction between what we are willing to acknowledge verbally, and what we are willing to acknowledge behaviorally - our words and our actions are inconsistent.

Obedience is the true acknowledgment of Christ's Lordship.

#### I. Jesus is Lord! - The Source of His Authority.

A. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Mt. 7:21).

B. Jesus promised to make the truth - the fullness of God's will - known by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

1. He did this through the apostles and prophets - we have that truth fully in written form.

2. Since we have the complete word of God - we can know the complete will of God to which we must live.

C. Respect for the Lordship of Jesus must include respect for the word through which that authoritative message comes to mankind.

#### II. Jesus is Lord! - Obey His Words.

A. Words matter - divine words matter more.

B. Divine words carry the message of everlasting life!

C. To reject the words - is to reject the Lordship of Jesus.

#### III. Jesus is Lord! - Obey His Pattern.

A. The concept of "pattern theology" appears consistently throughout Scriptures.

B. A pattern is something to be followed.

#### IV. Jesus is Lord! - Obey His Implications (John 8).

1. This whole discussion depended upon both Jesus and the Jews using implication in what they said and inferring what the other had implied.

2. Jesus expected the Jews to understand the implications of His words.

3. He requires the same of us - to think and to reason about the words.

#### V. Jesus is Lord! - Accept His Lordship.

A. The Jews rejected the message because they rejected the Messenger.

B. Their commitment to Jesus was incomplete because their acceptance of His authority was incomplete.

C. The lordship of Jesus Christ and the truth of the gospel does not depend upon our acceptance of His lordship - but our salvation does!

#### John 17 - The Real Lord's Prayer - Lesson 2 of 2

#### I. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (1-5).

#### II. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS APOSTLES (6-19).

A. Jesus' report (6-10,12,14,18-19): He reviews his ministry for the apostles.

B. Jesus' requests (11,13,15-17): He previews the Father's future ministry for the disciples.

##### 1. He asks that the Father unify them (11).

a. These are left behind to preach the gospel, establish His kingdom, and manifest His glory.

b. Jesus especially pleads that they may be kept *one* - united as the Father and the Son.

##### 2. He asks that the Father impart joy to them (13).

##### 3. He asks that the Father protect them (15-16).

a. The world had hated Jesus and was about to kill Him - it would do the same to them.

b. Jesus does not pray that they be taken out of the world.

##### 4. He asks that the Father sanctify them (17).

a. To sanctify is to render holy - to consecrate.

b. Lest there be any misunderstanding, Jesus adds - *Your word is truth.*

#### III. JESUS PRAYS FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS (20-26).

##### A. He asks that the Father unify the believers (20-21a,22).

1. *I do not pray for these alone...for those who will believe in Me through their word.*

2. *That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You.*

a. God gave Christ the glory of Sonship and this resulted in their unity.

b. This glory ought to affect us that we be *one just as We are one.*

##### B. He asks that the believers influence the world (21b).

##### C. He asks that the believers display God's love (23).

1. Further proof of unity - *loved them as You have loved Me.*

2. *Made perfect in one* - complete - by love and unity.

3. *That the world may know that You have sent Me.*

##### D. He asks that the believers experience God's love (25-26).

E. He asks that the believers enjoy Christ's glory in heaven forever (24).