

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 29, 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.

Thanksgiving and the Giving of Thanks

Even though we do not observe Thanksgiving as a holy day or a religious holiday, it is a time when most Americans are thankful for the blessings they have received.

Such an expression of gratitude is proper. But rather than expressing it just one day each year, we ought to be thankful every day. We receive blessings on a daily basis, therefore we should be thankful daily. In the model prayer of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:11, Jesus taught us to pray to God so that He might, "Give us this day our daily bread." 1 Timothy 4:3 states that God created foods which are "to be received with thanksgiving." Verse four continues the thought by saying, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving."

Our thanksgiving should be directed to God for the blessings we have because He is the source of all good things. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things" (Acts 17:24-25). Many of the people who will be thankful on Thanksgiving Day, will fail to be thankful to God. Since "all things" we receive are from God, we should thank Him for all things -- all the physical blessings and privileges we enjoy.

After Jesus had cleansed ten lepers, only one of them thanked Him for it. Jesus asked, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:17-18). Those who receive blessings from God, must be thankful to Him.

Christians ought to be even more expressive and fervent in their expressions of thanksgiving to God because not only are they blessed with those material blessings that sustain physical life but also receive all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3) which sustain them spiritually and enable them to overcome sin and death in order to live eternally.

Those spiritual blessings, if you are not receiving them now, are available to you if you will submit to the gospel for the salvation of your soul. There is no better way to show gratitude to God for that which He has graciously given to us than by living in submission to His will, loving, acknowledging, and thanking Him as obedient children. Thanksgiving Day, and every day, let us give thanks to God.

Gene Taylor (centervilleroad.com)

"Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the Great God, and the great King above all gods.... Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand."

Psalm 95:2-3,6-7a



Be Positive Preacher

“Be positive preacher!” Now there is a good suggestion. The person who dwells wholly on the negative and presents a message absent of joy and cheerfulness and optimism, should re-examine his Christianity. Certainly we preachers need to proclaim the “good news” of the Gospel and hold forth the promise of hope that can be found in Christ. A steady diet of the consequences of sin, horrors of hell, or the wrath of God, would be quite discouraging to those who have to listen to us preach week after week.

Faithful, dedicated, committed, and hard working brethren need to be reassured that they can obtain the crown of life, and that the battle against our adversary can be successfully fought and won (2 Tim. 4:7-8). Did not John tell us, *“These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God”* (1 John 5:13). So, let’s preach that message, and shout it from the roof tops. But at the same time, let us not abuse the call for positive preaching. Let us make sure that our definition of “positive preaching” is true to Biblical principles. The general attitude toward a “positive ministry” has come to mean toleration, avoidance of judgmental statements, and ministering to the felt-needs of those with whom we come in contact. The end result is a “market based” message that appeals to the wishes of the masses rather than the demands of the Almighty God.

The present emphasis upon those things noted above has produced a search for a church that is exciting, progressive, non-judgmental, and loving (to name only a few of the glowing “adjectives” which some think ought to characterize our preaching). Doubtless, most of us would say that our Lord conducted a “positive” ministry while upon this earth. Would any dare suggest that our Lord was “negative” and “hyper-critical?” Certainly not. But while Jesus held forth forgiveness and hope, He likewise dealt with sin in a most forceful manner (take a close look at Matthew 23). I have even heard that our approach to those lost in sin should be some sort of “back-door” strategy.

“Let’s be careful lest we offend.” “Preaching of that nature will drive people away.” “Too much scripture will make people angry.” Sound familiar? Now take a close look at God’s approach! When Israel was in decline, morality at an all time low, religion false and hypocritical from priest down to the people, it was then that God sent the fiery, outspoken prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos would not have lasted two weeks in some congregations now crying for positive, pleasing, and palatable preaching.

God, give us preachers like the prophets, men who are not afraid to convict us of our sins and point the way to heaven, rather than coddle us and leave us drowning in our sin and separated from the Almighty.

In what little bit of mission work that I have been privileged to do, it seems that the plain preaching that is so neglected in our country, is welcomed elsewhere. Souls in Russia, starving for the Living Word, want a plain spoken message. Like two ships passing in the night, those who have lived in the darkness of Communism welcome the light, while those of us who have enjoyed more than 200 years of freedom and easy access to the Bible, run from the light.

Is it not interesting that the Gospel is flourishing and the church growing in those areas where fundamental truth is forcefully preached, while “positive preaching” is filling our buildings with half-hearted, unconverted numbers? Let us listen to the words of Jesus: *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”*(John 3:19-21).

Let us preach a positive message, but make sure it is positively Biblical.

Tom Wacaster (Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2015)

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. 29 | 1 Corinthians 1-4 |
| Nov. 30 | 1 Corinthians 5-8 |
| Dec. 1 | 1 Corinthians 9-11 |
| Dec. 2 | 1 Corinthians 12-14 |
| Dec. 3 | 1 Corinthians 15-16 |
| Dec. 4 | 2 Corinthians 1-4 |
| Dec. 5 | 2 Corinthians 5-9 |
| Dec. 6 | 2 Corinthians 10-13 |

“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)



Preacher Jokes

“Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16).

You know the one about the boy who gave a dollar to the preacher? The preacher, surprised, asks: “What’s this for?” The boy responds, “It’s for you,” he responds. “My father says you’re the poorest preacher he’s ever known.

“Preachers,” we are reminded, “should talk about eternity, not for eternity.”

An exasperated work mate growls: “Don’t you preach to me.” Apparently this is a bad thing.

Why has preaching come upon such hard times? How is it that we can have as many “preacher jokes” as we do lawyer jokes, or congressmen jokes? When did we become the Rodney Dangerfield of church work?

I knew a young man who was in the race to become valedictorian of his high school class (in the end, he was the salutatorian). He expressed a desire to preach. His parents and grandparents were aghast. “What a waste of such intelligence and talent,” they said. I wondered why his great talents could not appropriately be devoted to preaching. Why should the church and the Lord not benefit from his ability? I guess I was outvoted. He went to college and declared himself premed.

Three years later, however, he announced that medical school would be really hard, and perhaps he would become a preacher after all.

I was against it.

As you might expect, he wondered why. “First you stand up for my desire to preach, even against my family, and now you’re against it?”

I guess I’m against this notion that anybody can preach. Preaching is not on the same level of used car salesmanship. We’re not peddling a product; we’re representing the Almighty!

Preaching, at least preaching done properly, taxes the spirit, wears the body down. It requires patience and courage, diplomacy at times and directness at others. When preachers make mistakes, it affects hundreds, maybe thousands. Every skeptic knows a preacher who “was a hypocrite.” Presidential candidates have speechwriters and handlers; a preacher writes his own messages, and is his own spokesman.

False preaching is no joke; it ought to be bitterly opposed. Neither is biblical preaching a joke. It ought to be thoroughly supported by mature, faithful listeners. I take preaching very seriously indeed. That is not to mean a funny illustration could never be used to make a serious point, simply that preparation, prayer and urgency should be a vital part of preaching.

I actually don’t mind good natured ribbing about preachers, as long as we all understand the importance, the world-wide, eternal reach of the sermon. A school teacher, they say, influences a child for life; a preacher influences his hearers for eternal life.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: Estelle Guthrie (7), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), John McCaghren (27).

December Anniversaries: Allen & Linda Griffith (20), Ken & Jo Manger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | Nov. 15, 2015 | Nov. 22, 2015 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bible Class | 40 | 48 |
| AM Worship | 67 | 66 |
| PM Worship | 51 | 49 |
| Wednesday PM | 55 | 42 |
| Contribution | \$1,995 | \$2,409 |

| | Next Week: 11/29/15 | Next Week: 12/6/15 | November 2015 | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Sunday AM: | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | Make Announcements: Don Smith | |
| Greeters | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | John Barnum Family | Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family | |
| Opening Prayer | Allen Griffith | John Barnum | Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / L. Greer | |
| Communion | Tom Wilcox*, Hank Wheeler Allen Bland, Ryan Rudloff | James Thomas*, Randy Huckaby Gene Bannister, Don Smith | Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group | |
| Closing Prayer | James Fuller | Ken Maninger | December 2015 | |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell | Caleb Dennis | Make Announcements: Joe Dennis | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: Ken Maninger | Song Leader: Joe Dennis | Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family | |
| Opening Prayer | Gene Bannister | James Fuller | Clean Building: J. & T. Barnum / J. Barnum | |
| Scripture Reading | Joe Dennis | Hank Wheeler | Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group | |
| Communion | Tom Wilcox | James Thomas | | |
| Closing Prayer | Randy Huckaby | Allen Griffith | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | December 2 Prayer Night | December 9 Tom Wilcox | December 16 Garrett Barnum | December 23 Don Smith |

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 16:35ff: Second Evangelistic Journey
Wednesday Class Ezekiel 33: Responsibilities of a Prophet

Barriers To Thanksgiving

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20; Hebrews 13:15
We often take for granted things for which we should be grateful. Consider some barriers to thanksgiving – let's break down those barriers.
- I. Barrier #1 – **Thoughtlessness.**
- A. Oftentimes we are not grateful simply because we do not think.
B. Many of the Psalms are beautiful songs of thanksgiving (30:1-12; 103:1-5; 105:1-3; 106:1-3).
1. The Psalmist enumerates the ways in which he had been blessed.
2. In what ways are we blessed?
- II. Barrier #2 – **Faithlessness.**
- A. Giving thanks is the spontaneous expression of those who have a genuine faith in God.
B. People who refuse to believe can never really be thankful (Rom. 1:20,21).
C. All good gifts come from God (Jas. 1:17).
1. If you don't give thanks, do you really believe all things come from God?
- III. Barrier #3 – **Discontentment.**
- A. Before we can genuinely be thankful, we must develop contentment (Phil. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 6:6-8).
B. Too many suffer from the "thanks...but" syndrome.
C. Consider how the early pilgrims were grateful (5 kernels of corn).
D. Instead of complaining about our hardships and problems, let us enumerate the things for which we can be thankful.
- IV. Barrier #4 – **Selfishness.**
- A. Those who have been blessed by God must learn to be a blessing (Matt. 18:23-35).
1. The servant owed his master 10,000 talents (about \$16 million).
2. His fellow servant owed him 100 denarii (100 days pay).
3. Not showing mercy to others indicates that we are not thankful for the mercy God has shown to us (v. 35).
B. Selfishness says....
- V. Barrier #5 – **Failure through Neglect** (Luke 17:11-19).
A. No doubt the nine were thankful – but neglected to show appreciation.
B. No doubt we are thankful for God's blessings – do we show it?
Let's resolve to be thankful people.

John 18 – Lesson 1 of 2

- The hour of darkness has come. John 18 & 19 record the darkest deeds ever committed by man for all men to feel their shame for all time.
- I. **EVENTS IN THE GARDEN** (1-11).
- A. **Jesus' confrontation with His foes** (1-7).
1. The traitor (1-2): Judas arrives in the garden, prepared to betray his master.
2. The Temple guard (3-7).
a. *What they carry* (3): *Lanterns, torches, and weapons.*
b. *Why they have come* (4-7).
1) The Savior (4): *Whom are you seeking?*
2) The soldiers (5-7): *Jesus of Nazareth!*
a) *I am He.*
b) *They drew back and fell to the ground.*
- B. **Jesus' concern for His friends** (8-11).
1. The request (8-9): He agrees to go with the soldiers and asks that they let the disciples leave.
2. The rebuke (10-11): He chastens Peter for cutting off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant.
- II. **EVENTS AFTER THE GARDEN** (12-40): Two words aptly describe this passage: denials and trials.
- A. **The denials** (15-18, 25-27): On three separate occasions, Peter denies his Lord.
1. First denial (15-18).
a. *The accusation* (15-17a): *"You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?"*
b. *The answer* (17b-18): *"I am not."*
2. Second denial (25).
a. *The accusation* (25a): *"You are not also one of His disciples, are you?"*
b. *The answer* (25b): *"I am not!"*
3. Third denial (26-27).
a. *The accusation* (26): *"Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"*
b. *The answer* (27): *Peter then denied again.*
1) *And immediately a rooster crowed.*
- B. **The trails** (12-14, 19-24, 28-40): Jesus endures three trails.