

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



December 6, 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.

A Peculiar People

Paul reminded Titus of Jesus "*who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*" (Titus 2:14). The King James Version translation of the word "peculiar" is from the Greek word *periousios*, a word which appears only one time in the entire New Testament.

But what is the significance of the phrase "peculiar people?" The phrase is not used in this particular context to connote something that is strange or odd. Rather this particular phrase is translated in the American Standard Version, "*a people for God's own possession.*" In fact, the Septuagint uses a form of the same word employed in Titus 2:14 in Deuteronomy 14:2, wherein Moses reminded the Jews that their relationship with God was such that they were "*a people for his own possession (ASV).*" Hence, the meaning of Titus 2 is not so much that the people of God are to be peculiar in their manner of living in comparison to the world, but rather that the people of God are a treasured possession of God Almighty. This was true of fleshly Jews under the Old Covenant, and it is true today of Spiritual Israel, the church.

Having said this, we do not wish to leave the impression that God's people are not to be peculiar, i.e., different from the world and its carnal ways. Although such is not the precise meaning of Titus 2:14, there are dozens of passages which show that the people of God are to be different and distinct from the world. Indeed, the world looks at the people of God and considers us to be peculiar, to say the least. And why does the world view God's people as strange and peculiar? There are two major reason: 1) because of what we do, and 2) because of what we don't do.

Because of What We Do

What are some of the things that we do as God's people which cause the world to regard us as strange? In the first place, we "*shew forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (1 Peter 2:9). I am reminded of the story of the young Christian man who was growing weary of the steady stream of profanity he was subjected by his fellow employees in the workplace. One day, when it became too much for him to take, he raised his voice above the voices of those cursing and swearing and said, "Praise the Lord for he is wonderful. He is the Creator and Master of the universe and the one who sent His Son to die for the sins of the world." An eerie silence swept over the workplace and his fellow employees stared at him in amazement. One of them said, "And just what do you think you are doing?" The Christian young man replied, "Well, you all have been speaking so much for the devil that I just decided I would give God equal time."

Of course, there are many other ways to exhibit the praises of God before men, but we should remember that when we let our lights shine before men (Matthew 5:16), evildoers hate us for so doing (John 3:19-21).

In the second place, the world may think us strange for our willingness to submit ourselves to others. Peter exhorted the recipients of his first epistle, "*submit yourselves*"

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"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His won special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

"...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.... Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." Romans 12:1-2



(Continued from page 1)

to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether it be to the king as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well" (I Peter 2:13-14). Hence, the people of God are a people interested in obeying the laws of the land. While others may joke about getting away with breaking the laws of the land, God's people manifest allegiance and obedience to every law which does not call for disobedience to God's law.

Because of What We Don't Do

It is also the case that the people of God are reckoned to be strange because of what they don't do. The apostle Peter exhorted his brethren: "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, reveling, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you" (I Peter 4:3-4).

Please observe that Peter encouraged his fellow Christians not to think it strange that others thought them to be strange. The Christian life is so radically different from the worldly life that those living a worldly life will be amazed at the distinction.

In fact, one of the major problems facing the church today is that the formerly clear line of demarcation between the church member and the ways of the world is now blurred. Romans 12:1-2 is still in the Bible and needs to be heeded: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Who are the people of God? They are the people who will not allow the world to shape them into its mold. They are the people who talk differently, dress differ-

ently, think differently, recreate and entertain themselves differently. Not all who avoid cursing are the people of God, but all people of God will refrain from swearing. Not everyone who dresses modestly is a child of God, but all faithful children of God will adorn themselves with modest apparel (I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3:1-4).

The people of God will, as obedient children, not fashion themselves according to their former lusts in ignorance. Rather, they will be holy in all manner of conduct. They will attempt to be holy because they recognize that they have been called by the Holy One (I Peter 1:14-16).

Who are the people of God? They are the people who do not involve themselves in malice, and guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and evil speakings (I Peter 2:1; 3:9-12). They are the people who do not revile or retaliate when they are reviled against (I Peter 2:23). In short, the people of God are those who, "as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (I Peter 2:11).

Not only is it the case that the people of God are thought strange because of immoral acts they don't engage in, it is also the case that the people of God are considered peculiar for what they won't do in the realm of worship and religion. For example, the people of God won't sing spiritual songs with the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music because there is no New Testament authority for doing so. The religious world may consider this peculiar, and even a bit cranky, but the people of God must refuse to engage in any act of worship for which there is no New Testament authority. Furthermore, the people of God are considered strange for their refusal to fellowship those who teach any doctrine other than the doctrine of Christ. But the people of God must follow the teaching of passages such as Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 6:3-5, and II John 9-11. Peculiar though it may seem, the people of God must be willing to distinguish themselves from both the secular world and the denominational religious world.

B. J. Clarke

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

Dec. 6	2 Corinthians 10-13
Dec. 7	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
Dec. 8	Romans 4-7
Dec. 9	Romans 8-10
Dec. 10	Romans 11-13
Dec. 11	Romans 14-16
Dec. 12	Acts 20:4-23:35
Dec. 13	Acts 24-26

"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)



Transformed by the Gospel

Romans 12:1-2 may be the most important passage about living the Christian life. We're added to the body of Christ (Acts 2:47) as a result of immersion (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27-28).

We enter a new world where we must see, think, act and react differently to the world around us.

"We walk in the light as He is in the light...and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

The transformation process is a result of God's mercy. The privilege, the honor exists because God is great and loving. How else could we enter his house and enjoy his blessings (Ephesians 1:3; 2:19)?

We present our bodies a *"living sacrifice"* knowing that a sacrifice must die to be useful. Dying to our stubborn will, we become useful to God (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:1).

We live so as to be a *"sweet smelling savor"* to the Lord (Leviticus 2:2,9,12; Numbers 28). Our Lord could ask nothing less of us. We present ourselves as Hannah presented Samuel. We give ourselves completely, dedicating our lives to his mission.

Once transformed from darkness to light, we prove that Christ is the Savior and that his way is superior (Matthew 5:13-16; John 8:12). We become full-time servants and laborers in his kingdom; always on the job and on task.

The Word is able to make us complete (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We learn as much as we can, so it becomes natural to us. As a basketball player, we practice our plays countless times so that in the heat of battle, we can perform them without thinking about it.

A recruit goes into basic training so they can be broken and re-shaped into a soldier that can be depended upon in battle. Likewise, we allow Christ to make us better than we could ever be on our own.

Richard Mansel (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 Manning (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 22, 2015	Nov. 29, 2015
Bible Class	48	41
AM Worship	66	50
PM Worship	49	37
Wednesday PM	42	47
Contribution	\$2,409	\$1,726

Next Week: 12/6/15		Next Week: 12/13/15		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	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Communion	James Thomas*, Randy Huckaby Gene Bannister, Don Smith	Tom Wilcox*, Ryan Rudloff Allen Bland, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger		
Communion	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 9 Tom Wilcox	December 16 Garrett Barnum	December 23 Don Smith	December 30 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 December 6, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 17:16ff: Second Evangelistic Journey
Wed. Class Ezekiel 34: Judgment Against the Shepherds of Israel

A Peculiar People?

- 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) But ye are...a peculiar people.**
Peter uses four designations to describe the church in this text – a *chosen generation*, a *royal priesthood*, a *holy nation*, and *His own special people*. Christians should be "peculiar," "special," different. Our worldview, our outlook, our behavior, and our hope are better. We belong to God!
- I. In Christ you are...**A New Creation.** (Rom. 6:1-4)
A. The gospel is not just about salvation from sin – it is also about personal transformation.
B. The resurrection of Christ illustrates the new quality of life a Christian should strive to live each day.
C. When we obeyed the gospel – we agreed with Christ that our old life in sin was **not** right and **not** the answer.
- II. In Christ you are...**Morally Distinct.**
A. We live in an "I'm okay, you're okay," "everything goes," world – where *the message of the cross is foolishness* (1 Cor. 1:18).
1. Christians have every opportunity to stand out from the crowd.
B. At the heart of holiness is a dedication to moral distinctiveness.
C. No doubt the world will criticize us. (Jn. 3:18-21)
1. Their criticism is no reason to fear or conform – it is an opportunity to let our light shine for Christ.
2. As the world grows darker – we should stand out even more!
- III. In Christ you are...**To Take a Stand.**
A. Everyone must face pressure from their peers at some point.
B. Peer pressure takes many forms – but its heart is always directed toward conformity to please men, based on the standards of men.
C. It is not easy to be the only one in a crowd standing up for the truth – and even harder when other Christians present will not stand with you.
- IV. In Christ you are...**To Find New Friends.** (1 Cor. 15:33)
A. For some – evil companions are the only friends they have.
B. Having the faith to stand up for Christ when having to stand alone is difficult for any Christian – it can be overwhelming for the new Christian.
- V. In Christ we...**Support One Another.**
A. Everyone needs support.
B. The church is the perfect support group. It consists of people who admit their imperfections – while also having strengths to offer one another.

John Chapter 18 – Lesson 2 of 2

- II. **EVENTS AFTER THE GARDEN** (12-40): Denials and trials.
B. **The trials** (12-14, 19-24, 28-40): Jesus endures three trials.
1. **First trial, before Annas, former high priest** (12-14, 19-23). [John only]
a. *Jesus is bound* (12-14).
b. *Jesus is bullied* (19-21).
1) Annas (19): Annas asks Jesus about his followers and about his teachings.
2) Jesus (20-21): Jesus replies that his teachings are widely known because he has always spoken openly in the Temple and synagogues.
c. *Jesus is buffeted* (22-23): An official now strikes him in the face.
2. **Second trial, before Caiaphas, current high priest** (24): The Gospel of John does not record what transpired at this trial.
3. **Third trial, before Pilate, the Roman governor** (28-40).
a. *Pilate and the Jews — first encounter* (28-32). (Outside/public)
1) Pilate (28-29): *What accusation do you bring against this Man?*
2) The Jews (30): *If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.*
3) Pilate (31a): *You take Him and judge Him according to your law.*
4) The Jews (31b-32): *It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.*
b. *Pilate and Jesus* (33-38a). (Inside/private)
1) Pilate (33): *Are You the King of the Jews?*
2) Jesus (34): *Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?*
3) Pilate (35): *Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?*
4) Jesus (36): *My kingdom is not of this world.*
5) Pilate (37a): *Are You a king then?*
6) Jesus (37b): *You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.*
7) Pilate (38a): *What is truth?*
c. *Pilate and the Jews — second encounter* (38b-40). (Outside)
1) Pilate (38b-39): *I find no fault in Him at all... Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?*
2) The Jews (40): *Not this Man, but Barabbas!*