

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



January 24, 2016

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.

How will Martin Luther King's dream be fulfilled?

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King stood in Washington D.C. and said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

If this glorious dream is attained, it will be accomplished by righteousness instead of legislation. The heart can not be moved to goodness by force. An inherent human problem must be corrected by something greater than humanity.

Sin is common to man (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). "There is none righteous, no not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God" (Romans 3:10-11).

God sent Jesus to die for all of us (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). His blood is our salvation and we can only approach God when it is on our soul (Romans 5:9; 1 John 1:7). In so doing, we are added to the Lord's church and the growth process begins (Acts 2:47).

Transformation through the gospel makes us better than we can ever be on our own (Romans 12:1-2). Only through Christ can we reach beyond our squalor to stand on more sacred ground.

King's dream will be fulfilled when we all see people through spiritual eyes and realize everyone is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26).

To the Lord we are all souls. Race, nationality, physical, intellectual, financial and emotional differences will always exist, but they must be secondary.

Seeing people first as souls allows us to heed the call of God to think like Him. "For the Lord doesn't see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Physical attributes have absolutely nothing to do with one's spiritual value. We are all judged based on our "works" (Revelation 20:11-15; Ezekiel 18:19-24).

King's dream of owning our character has a price, though. We can not allow our appearance to determine our value. Someone is not inherently superior or inferior based on their race, nationality, etc.

We can not escape responsibility because of our race or be condemned by it, either. A person is not inherently a racist, a criminal or a terrorist because of their race or nationality.

Consequences can not be avoided because of our appearance. We can not hide behind our classification, because behavior and mindset stands alone.

Dr. King's dream is more expansive than many realize and would change everything about our world. But that is what Christ does.

Richard Mansel (forthright.net)

"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."
Philippians 2:14-16



What Was the Church Like When They Didn't Have the New Testament?

I received a very thought-provoking e-mail recently from a blog reader who asked about a subject which doesn't receive much consideration. He asked, "How does the church of Christ claim (or at least imply) to be something like the first century church, when the first century church didn't really have the New Testament like we do today?" That's a great question and there was certainly a period of time when no one had access to all 27 books of the New Testament, so let's consider what the church was like then.

The Church of Christ

Sometimes we talk about being **the church of the New Testament** or we talk about being like **the first century church**. We certainly don't mean we want to repeat the sins of the church in Corinth or accept a false gospel like some of the churches in Galatia. We don't think the churches of the first century were perfect.

When we say we want to be like the church of the first century, we're saying that over the last 2,000 years, **paganism, Catholicism, denominationalism, and countless other influences have caused Christian theology and practice to evolve into something that is not the same as the Christianity practiced in the first century**. When we say we want to be like the church of the first century, we're saying we want to go back to the New Testament to find out what Christians are supposed to do and believe.

But, as this recent e-mail pointed out, **the church of the New Testament didn't actually have the New Testament yet**. The church in Corinth, for instance, had the letters Paul wrote to them and they may have even had a couple of other letters that had been copied and shared with them, but they probably didn't have access to all 27 books of the New Testament during the first century.

So, if our authority comes from the New Testament, from where did their authority come? How did they determine what they were supposed to be doing?

Apostles and Prophets

From the very beginning of the church, Christians understood that if they wanted to know the will of Jesus they must **devote themselves to the apostles' teaching** (Acts 2:42). The apostles were Jesus' official representatives. They were guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit brought to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught them (John 14:26). **They had the mind of Christ** (1 Corinthians 2:16). When we say we want to be like the first century – New Testament – church, we're

saying we want to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:11-12, "[Jesus] gave the **apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.**" This is an important list.

In addition to the apostles, who were miraculously carried along by the Holy Spirit, there were also **other prophets through whom the Lord spoke**. But the apostle Paul warned the Corinthian church that these miraculous gifts would soon pass away. He wrote, "As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away" (1 Corinthians 13:8). I believe these gifts passed away when God's entire will had been revealed through the apostles and they had written all 27 books of the New Testament.

But while these gifts lasted, the first century church was able to hear prophetic messages from the Lord.

Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers

But it wasn't just apostles and prophets that taught the first century church what to do and what to believe. The apostles trained evangelists, men like Timothy and Titus. They sent these evangelists to congregations to teach what had been taught to them by the apostles.

- These men were to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort" the church (2 Timothy 4:2).
- They were to appoint elders in every congregation (Titus 1:5).
- And they were to take what they had heard from the apostles and "entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

Today's evangelists, who devote themselves to learning the apostles' doctrines and passing them on to others, are following in the footsteps of these first century evangelists. We no longer have the apostles, but we have their teachings in the pages of the New Testament and we still need evangelists who will share their message, the message of Christ.

So the first century church had evangelists who taught the apostles' doctrine as well as appointed mature Christian men to serve as shepherds and teachers over each congregation. These shep-

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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

Jan. 24 Luke 22-24

Jan. 25 John 1-3

Jan. 26 John 4-6

Jan. 27 John 7-9

Jan. 28 John 10-12

Jan. 29 John 13-15

Jan. 30 John 16-18

Jan. 31 John 19-21

"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)

herds were given oversight of the congregation and were responsible for their spiritual well-being. **Christians in first century church had to listen to their shepherds.** The writer of Hebrews wrote: *“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you”* (Hebrews 13:17).

Evangelists and shepherds still play an important role in the church, but they especially played an important role in an age when the New Testament was still in its formation. But just because we all have a copy of the New Testament, does not give any of us the right to ignore the God-appointed authority structure of the church.

Old Testament Scripture

And we cannot forget that the first century church wasn't completely without Scripture. They still had the Old Testament Scripture. They would read the Old Testament publicly in their assemblies (1 Timothy 4:13). They would preach from it and teach from it. They would teach Christians how Jesus was their high priest, how He was the atoning sacrifice for their sins, how the church was the new Israel, and how they ought to imitate the faith of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, and others (Hebrews 11).

It was concerning these Scriptures that the apostle Paul wrote, *“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”* (Romans 15:4).

New Testament Scripture

Finally, the church also had New Testament Scripture. They may not have had the entire New Testament, but when you consider everything else they had at their disposal, one or two books would have been a great blessing. I imagine when a church – like the church in Ephesus – received Paul's letter, they not only copied it and sent it on to other churches, but they also read the letter over and over again, cherishing every word.

The apostle Peter wrote and encouraged Christians to listen to the apostle Paul's letters. He wrote: *“And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures”* (2 Peter 3:15-16).

We are so blessed to have the entire 27 books of the New Testament together with such great availability today. And if we want to be the church that belongs to Jesus, we must do what they did after Pentecost, devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (20), **Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).**

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Jan. 10, 2016	Jan. 17, 2016
Bible Class	42	46
AM Worship	66	60
PM Worship	42	48
Wednesday PM	52	58
Contribution	\$2,319	\$2,276

Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 1/24/16	Next Week: 1/31/16	January 2016	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: Ken Maninger	
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family	Prepare Communion: McCaghrens	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith	Clean Building: McCaghren / Bridges	
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Hank Wheeler Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Allen Griffith*, Tom Wilcox Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister	February 2016	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell	Make Announcements: Gene Bannister	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister	
Opening Prayer	Allen Bland	James Fuller	Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie	
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis	Hank Wheeler	Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Communion	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 27 Don Smith	February 3 Prayer Night	February 10 Joe Dennis	February 17 Allen Griffith

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 January 24, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 20:13ff: Third Evangelistic Journey
Wednesday Class Ezekiel 45-48: New Land and a New People

Blameless ~ Children of God ~ Shine as Lights in the World (Phil. 2:15)

I. Blameless and Harmless.

- Our everyday walk should be such that we could be called *blameless*.
- Why are we required to be *blameless and harmless*? Christianity must be seen working in us before any would desire to be like us!
- Each member of the church must be *blameless and harmless*.
 - The entire church needs to be markedly different from the world.
 - Our Lord would have us to show a disposition of life that one could not rebuke.

II. Children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

- "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).
- We live in a wonderful, yet fearful time!
- We do live in a *crooked and perverse generation*! What a mission field!
- The children of God can be without blemish while living in the very midst of people who are perverse in their lifestyle, rebellious in their spirit, caring nothing for the rule of living as laid down by their Master.

III. Shine as lights in the world.

- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).
- "You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt. 14,16).

C. Shine As Lights through Genuine Love.

- The world knows nothing of real love. We can show them!
- We shine as lights in the world when we love each other the way that Christ our Lord loved us!

D. Shine As Lights through Forgiveness.

- The theme of forgiveness is sounded throughout the entire NT.
- Nothing darkens the area around more than an unforgiving spirit.
- The one thing that we all have in common is the need to forgive and to be forgiven.

E. Shine As Lights through Our Worship.

- In the very act of public worship we have a wonderful opportunity to "shine as lights in the world."

John 20:19-31 – The Lord Seen By The Apostles

III. THE MAANIFESTATIONS OF JESUS CHRIST (11-29): John describes three post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus.

B. The appearance before the ten (19-23).

- The fearful ones (19a): The disciples are meeting behind shut doors for fear of the Jews.
 - Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week.
 - The doors were shut...for fear of the Jews.
- The faithful one (19b-23).
 - He comforts them (19b-20): Suddenly Jesus appears, showing them His hands and side.
 - Jesus came and stood in the midst.
 - Peace be with you – the usual salutation of friendship and love.
 - He showed them His hands and His side.
 - Then the disciples were glad – fear and sorrow is turned to joy.
 - He commissions them (21-23): They are to become his witnesses.
 - Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.
 - He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'
 - If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; etc..

C. The appearance before Thomas (24-29).

- The reluctance by Thomas (24-25).
 - The reason (24-25a): Thomas was absent when Jesus first appeared to the disciples and can't believe their wonderful report.
 - Now Thomas...was not with them.
 - Other disciples... 'We have seen the Lord.'
 - The requirements (25b): Thomas says he will not believe unless he sees and touches the wounds of Jesus.
- The recognition by Thomas (26-29).
 - The manifestation (26): Jesus suddenly appears!
 - The invitation (27): Thomas is invited to feel Jesus' wounds.
 - The adoration (28): Thomas worships.

IV. THE MISSION OF JOHN'S GOSPEL (20:30-31): "That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...believing you may have life!"

- Jesus did many other signs.
- These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ.