

# 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 31, 2016

## 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.

## By What Authority?

"Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?'" (Matt. 21:23). In our age, there is not much reverence for authority of any kind. The above question, asked of Jesus by the chief priests and elders, was a proper question then, and is certainly a proper question in our day. Especially in matters of religion, we need to ask and answer that question today.

While many have little or no respect for authority, most would agree that there is a need for authority. We have standards and authorities in all affairs of life. Without them chaos would fill the earth. There can be no system, unity, harmony or cooperation without authority. Every nation has some form of government (on which side of the street should one drive, speed limits, etc.). There are standards in weights and measures. Imagine a game of football without authority, rules and regulations. The confused state of religion is a failure of all who do not follow the same rule. "Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind" (Phil. 3:16). Unity and harmony will never exist in religion until we are all willing to accept a single authority as supreme. What should that single authority be?

Should it be the **feelings** of those involved in religion? We know that feelings vary, even in the same person. One minute we may feel one way about a thing, and the next day feel differently. Our feelings are affected by what we believe, whether true or not. Jacob believed that Joseph was dead. Some have felt they had lost loved ones in war because of a notice "killed in action," only to joyfully realize later that such was not the case.

Others make religious decisions based on **conscience** as their guide or standard. If that is a good standard, then we have as many standards as we do individuals. On such a basis, how could unity ever exist? Consider John 11:20-23 and 1 Corinthians 1:10 as they relate to this point. Most religious people are conscientious, but still disagree. Heathens are conscientious, but wrong. Paul was conscientious when he was persecuting the church (Acts 23:1). We should not disregard our conscience, but neither should we allow it to be our guide in matters of religion.

Still others allow the **religion of their forefathers** (parents and grandparents, etc.) to serve as their standard in religious matters. Many "join" a certain church because their parents are members of that religion. But if one were honest, in most cases, even our forefathers were not in agreement in matters of religion. Which one then would a person be willing to use as a standard in religious matters? Remember, Paul had to give up the religion of his ancestors. Not Galatians 1:13ff in this regard.

Then there are those who believe the **verdict of the majority** should serve as the standard in matters of religion. But then the question comes, "what do you mean by majority?" Which majority? If we are speaking of the majority of the world, then heathenism would be the standard. If by majority we are speaking of the majority of our own nation, what would the standard be? If by majority we mean a majority in a state, then the Mormons would probably be the standard in Utah. If by majority we mean a majority in the city, we would have to change religions almost every time we move. "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exo. 23:2).

There are those who believe the **Pope** is the final authority, even some who are not of the Catholic persuasion. God did not appoint the Pope. Contrary to some thinking, Peter was not the first Pope. He does not even fit the qualifications set out by the Catholic church. Review Peter's remarks to Cornelius, as recorded in Acts 10:26. When Cornelius fell down at the feet of Peter

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"For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." **Phil. 4:16-20**



# The Word Spoken Through Angels

In Acts 7:53, Stephen was winding up the sermon that would get him killed when he said that those listeners “*who (had) received the law by the direction of angels and (had) not kept it.*” Such a passage makes one wonder how angels were involved in delivering the old law. The passage is not alone. Galatians 3:19 asks, “*What purpose then does the law serve?*” and then answers, “*It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*”

Such passages when the appetite of the curious. The curious, however, may never know the details; those may be relegated to the secret things that belong to God (Deut. 29:29). There are some interesting passages in the Old Testament that may apply. Deuteronomy 33:2 has Moses poetically speaking of the Lord coming from Sinai and bringing a “*fiery law*” for the people “*with ten thousands of His saints.*” Likewise, Psalm 68:17 is intriguing: “*The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.*” Recall, please, that Elisha’s servant, when finally seeing visually the help God was providing, saw it in the form of a mountain being “*full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha*” (2 Kings 6:17). Also, in Daniel 7:10, the vision of the Ancient of Days has a “*fiery stream*” issuing forth from Him and “*a thousand thousands*” ministering to Him. It is a type of language that indicates a heavenly being.

How exactly angels were involved in delivering the law is beyond this author, but it can be accepted as fact based upon the above Scriptures. The important point is the application of it made by the Scriptures, which comes powerfully in Hebrews 2:1-3.

There, Jewish Christians in danger of sliding back into Judaism are quite forcefully admonished, “*Therefore*

*we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...*” Indeed, the “*word spoken through angels*” was steadfast. Penalties were prescribed for all kinds of offenses. All from the adulterous to the rebellious son were to suffer the death penalty (Lev. 20:10; Deut. 21:18-21). Punishment for disobedience was harsh.

The inspired author argues from the lesser to the greater. If those punishments were harsh, how much more harsh will be the punishment who neglect the salvation spoken by the Lord! In some ways, the new law of Christ seems more lenient. No longer do we stone rebellious sons or kill the adulterous. This is NOT part of the law of Christ. Nevertheless, there will come a judgment with an eternal consequence (2 Cor. 5:10; John 5:28-29).

The Thrust of Hebrews 1-2 is to prove the Divinity of Christ by proving His exaltation above angels. In that vein, God has now “*spoken to us by His Son*” (Heb. 1:2). That word supersedes any word spoken by angels. Christ is superior; so is His word.

The application is clear. “*Give the more earnest heed*” to Christ’s word. Slipping from it carries a terrible penalty. Modern audiences may not be tempted to fall back into Judaism, but falling back into any lifestyle other than that in Christ is tragic and awaits a terrible penalty (2 Pet. 2:20-22). God is loving and just, but He penalizes the stubbornly rebellious (cf. Heb. 10:26). The “*word spoken through angels*” should have taught us that.

**Andy Robinson**

(Publishing Peace, Vol. 10, No. 10 [Oct. 2014])

## 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. 31**     **John 19-21**

**Feb. 1**      **Acts 1-3**

**Feb. 2**      **Acts 4-6**

**Feb. 3**      **Acts 7-9**

**Feb. 4**      **Acts 10-12**

**Feb. 5**      **Acts 13-15**

**Feb. 6**      **Acts 16-18**

**Feb. 7**      **Acts 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)



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(much like people do the Pope today), “Peter lifted him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I myself am also a man.’” Then in Galatians 2:11, we find record of Paul withstanding Peter to the face, “because he was to be blamed.” The claims of the Pope are absurd, and he certainly should not be considered ones authority in matters of religion.

Still others look to certain **councils and conventions** as their final authority in matters of religion. Many follow creeds written by men, yet men’s creeds contradict one another. It is not uncommon to hear of major religious organizations having fighting within their conventions as to what the “church position” will be on certain matters, such as abortion, homosexuality, etc. One must realize that “it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23). The Proverbs writer said, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (14:12).

**When all is said and done, Christ is the only Supreme Authority.** If there is ever to be unity, men must accept Him as the last appeal. He has all authority (Matt. 28:18). We must be willing to “hear Him” (Matt. 17:5). God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Heb. 1:1-2). His word, not the councils and conventions of men, will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48).

*Sidney White*

*(“Labourers together with God...”, Vol. 21, No. 4 [Sept. 2014])*

## Celebrate

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

**February Birthdays:** Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Peggy Chism (3), Carol Wilcox (5), Sue McAnear (6), Lunday Maninger (8), Patti Bannister (14), Larry Petty (18), Jack Turner (22), Jonathan Fuller (28).

**February Anniversaries:** Billy & Peggy Chism (26).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Jan. 17, 2016	Jan. 24, 2016
Bible Class	46	53
AM Worship	60	69
PM Worship	48	53
Wednesday PM	58	50
Contribution	\$2,276	\$2,201

Next Week: 1/31/16		Next Week: 2/7/16		<b>January 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghrens <b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren / Bridges <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Cindy McCaghren's group
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	James Thomas		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Tom Wilcox Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	James Fuller*, Hank Wheeler Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		<b>February 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> Dennis / Guthrie <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Cindy McCaghren's group
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	February 3 Prayer Night	February 10 Joe Dennis	February 17 Allen Griffith	February 24 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 January 31, 2016

Sunday Class ..... Acts 20:28ff: Third Evangelistic Journey  
 Wednesday Class ..... Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

<p><b>God Shall Supply – Philippians 4:19</b></p> <p><b>I. The Problem of Materialism and the Question of Need.</b></p> <p>A. We must not see this as a materialistic exchange of goods/services.</p> <p>B. God does not need our material help in an absolute sense.</p> <p>C. With every material thing we do as Christians there comes to us a spiritual blessing.</p> <p>D. Consider this principle in connection with prayer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God does not need us to tell Him anything.</li> <li>Why, then, does He want us to pray?                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In prayer we reveal ourselves as contrite and needy children.</li> <li>We show our relationship – submission of the lesser to the greater.</li> <li>We receive spiritual blessings beyond prayer's specific answer.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>E. When Paul told the Philippians that God would supply all their need – that "need" was not merely material.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Philippians did what was right and they were blessed spiritually.</li> <li>The distinction between "material" and "spiritual" is fundamental.</li> <li>There is an eternal aspect to every person – the soul - the inward man has the characteristic of eternity, the body does not.</li> </ol> <p>F. Materialism is the great enemy of the inward man.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materialism is worldliness (1 Jn. 2:15-17).</li> <li>Christians often believe that their great "needs" are material - nothing could be further from the truth.</li> <li>There is to be a godly separation between the world and the child of God.</li> </ol> <p><b>II. My God ~ Your Need ~ His Riches.</b></p> <p>A. <b>My God shall supply</b> – Paul's God – Jehovah – He alone will bless – He alone is able to bless.</p> <p>B. God will supply <b>your need</b>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"All the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi" (1:1).</li> <li>God blesses everyone with material blessings – but the greatest blessings are designed for God's children.</li> </ol> <p>C. "...according to <b>His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.</b>"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can be sure that God will not run out.</li> <li>"In glory" provides insight into the character of this wealth.</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Be Sure To Be Thankful (4:20).</b></p>	<p><b>John 21</b></p> <p><b>I. THE FISHERMEN ON THE SEA (1-3).</b></p> <p>A. <b>The disciples</b> (1-2): There are seven there.</p> <p>B. <b>The decision</b> (3): They decide to go fishing but catch nothing all night.</p> <p><b>II. THE FISHER OF MEN ON THE SHORE (4-25).</b></p> <p>A. <b>The call</b> (4-5): Standing there, unrecognized, Jesus calls out, asking if they have caught any fish. They reply that they have not.</p> <p>B. <b>The command</b> (6a): Jesus tells them to cast their net on the right of the boat.</p> <p>C. <b>The catch</b> (6b): Immediately the net is filled with fish!</p> <p>D. <b>The comprehension</b> (7): John suddenly recognizes Jesus; Peter begins swimming toward Him.</p> <p>E. <b>The coals</b> (8-9): When all the disciples arrive, they find fish frying over a fire and some bread.</p> <p>F. <b>The count</b> (10-11): There are 153 large fish in the net!</p> <p>G. <b>The communion</b> (12-14): Jesus now invites all seven to breakfast and personally serves them!</p> <p>H. <b>The confessions</b> (15-17): Peter's opportunity to confess his love for Jesus.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Round one</b> (15).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus (15a): "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [agape] Me more than these?"</li> <li>Peter (15b): "Yes, Lord, You know that I love [philo] You."</li> <li>Jesus (15c): "Feed My lambs."</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Round two</b> (16).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus (16a): "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [agape] Me?"</li> <li>Peter (16b): "Yes, Lord, You know that I love [philo] You."</li> <li>Jesus (16c): "Tend My sheep."</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Round three</b> (17).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus (17a): "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love [philo] Me?"</li> <li>Peter (17b): "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love [philo] You."</li> <li>Jesus (17c): "Feed My sheep."</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>I. <b>The cross</b> (18-19): Peter will die a martyr's death by crucifixion.</p> <p>J. <b>The concern</b> (20-21): Peter asks what kind of death John will die.</p> <p>K. <b>The chiding</b> (22): "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"</p> <p>L. <b>The confusion</b> (23): A false rumor spreads that John will never die.</p> <p>M. <b>The confirmation</b> (24-25)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Concerning the witness for Jesus</b> (24): John testifies that all he has said about Jesus is true!</li> <li><b>Concerning the works by Jesus</b> (25): He says if everything that the Savior did while on earth was written down, the whole earth could not contain the books!</li> </ol>
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