

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



February 7, 2016

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
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office@4thstreetcoc.org

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.

Follow Your Heart, Or Follow God?

“Follow your heart” is the unspoken motto today, even in some popular religious circles. Rob Bell says, “Your job is the relentless pursuit of who God made you to be.” Bell makes it sound that self-realization is all God primarily cares about, and that somehow God will somehow mysteriously lead you to happiness by following your heart.

We would do well to listen to an important warning in Ezekiel that is just as important for God’s people today as it was for God’s people 26 centuries ago:

*“And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²‘Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those **who prophesy out of their own heart**, “Hear the word of the Lord!”’ ³Thus says the Lord God: ‘Woe to the foolish prophets, **who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!**’” (Ezekiel 13:1-3)*

Note two of the things God hated about false prophets. They (1) “*prophesy out of their own hearts,*” and (2) “*follow their own spirit.*”

Following Your Heart & Following God: Not the Same Thing

Have you ever felt strongly about a religious idea – one that seemed so true, so clear, and so logical? Maybe statements like, “Surely God would like this,” and “Surely God wouldn’t do that” resonate with you at times. Perhaps your spiritual zeal is so strong that you confidently feel, “This must be what God wants me to do.”

The question is: **How do you know God wants you to follow what you feel in your heart to be right?**

How can you know *anything* about God?

Of course, we can know about God by observing nature. “*The heavens declare the glory of God*” (Psa. 19:1). “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse*” (Rom. 1:20). The physical world itself testifies to the existence of God.

But how can you *know* His thoughts? 1 Corinthians 2:11 tell us,

“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”

(Continued on page 2)

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.... What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.... so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”
Phil. 1:12,18,20b



(Continued from page 1)

How Do We Follow The Spirit of God?

How then do we know the Spirit of God? The answer lies in two frequently misunderstood passages. In the first one, Jesus is telling His apostles that the Spirit would “teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). In the second one, we find Jesus promising His apostles,

“[The Spirit of truth] will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

In these two passages, Jesus was speaking specifically to the men who would be His apostles, only promising the Spirit to them personally. People often mistakenly try to make these promises to all believers today. Yet if Jesus promised His Spirit to all believers today, then every true believer must at all times know “all the truth” and “all that Jesus said.” Who today can claim that?

So how can we follow the Spirit today if the Spirit was only directly promised to the apostles? Two passages give us the answer. In 1 Peter 1:20-21, the apostle writes,

“...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

In the next passage, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul writes,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Scripture is the product of the Spirit, and Scripture is all we need to be “righteous” before God. In the 27 books of the New Testament, we find the words of the apostles who were directly instructed by the Holy Spirit.

“Proof-Texting:” Not Always A Bad Thing

Looking again at Ezekiel 13:1-3, we are reminded that it is easy for man to be convinced he’s “gotten religion right,” regardless of whether or not he is led by Spirit-inspired scripture. Jesus warned that some of the very people who would kill His disciples would think in doing so they were “offering service to God” (John 16:2).

How do we avoid false religion? How to we avoid a spirituality that is not pleasing to God? By making sure our views are based entirely upon the Bible – book, chapter, verse. To speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent, is how we preserve our fidelity to God’s Will. This deep respect for Scripture is the only thing that can guard us against the infinite number of apostasies that can result from following “our own spirit” and “our own heart.”

Making sure our beliefs are completely founded on Scripture is commonly mocked today, often disparagingly referred to as “proof-texting” or “legalistic.” But when we respect the context and meaning of each passage, proof-texting is a good thing! Indeed, we must have Spirit-inspired “proof” behind our views. **If you can’t back it up with Scripture, you shouldn’t be doing it.** And it isn’t “legalistic” to be concerned about following God’s Will to the best of your ability.

Conclusion

We must remember that the only way we can know anything about God’s Will for our lives is through what He has said. Living by the words of the Bible does not deny the power of the Spirit but esteems it. Isaiah said,

*“But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who **trembles at My word.**”* (Isa. 66:2)

You cannot know God’s Will by following your heart. Your heart must be led by His Word.

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

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

Feb. 7 Acts 19-21

Feb. 8 Acts 22-24

Feb. 9 Acts 25-27

Feb. 10 Acts 28

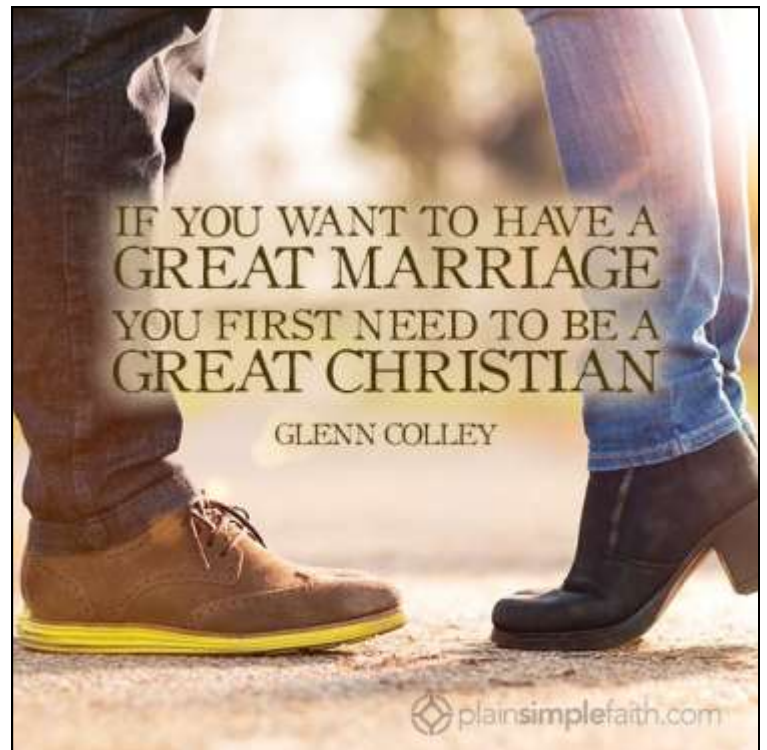
Feb. 11 Romans 1-3

Feb. 12 Romans 4-6

Feb. 13 Romans 7-9

Feb. 14 Romans 10-12

“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)



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. 24, 2016	Jan. 31, 2016
Bible Class	53	54
AM Worship	69	68
PM Worship	53	48
Wednesday PM	50	55
Contribution	\$2,201	\$2.648

Next Week: 2/7/16		Next Week: 2/14/16		February 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	James Fuller*, Hank Wheeler Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	John Barnum*, Ryan Rudloff Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller	March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith		Tom Wilcox	
Scripture Reading	Don Smith		James Fuller	
Communion	James Fuller		John Barnum	
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister		James Thomas	
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 10 Joe Dennis	February 17 Allen Griffith	February 24 Tom Wilcox	March 2 Prayer Night

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 February 7, 2016

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

<p><u>Christ is Magnified – Furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1, 12, 18, 20)</u></p> <p>I. Paul's State.</p> <p>A. Three times in this chapter, Paul speaks of his "chains" (1:7, 13, 14).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Though Paul's body was imprisoned – his spirit was free. 2. He can say that "it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ" (1:13). <p>B. That which we may see as an obstacle may actually be an opportunity (Example: Paul's thorn in the flesh [2 Cor. 7-10]).</p> <p>C. When we have the attitude of Paul – our hardships should cause us to lean more upon God.</p> <p>II. Paul's Sympathies.</p> <p>A. His constant concern for those who are condemned because of sin.</p> <p>B. We also see Paul's sympathetic concern for the church.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His imprisonment had resulted in "furtherance of the gospel" (1:12). 2. At no time do we see Paul doing anything to advance himself. <p>C. We also see Paul's concern for Christ.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six times in 1:12-20 Paul speaks of Christ. 2. If we want to know what Paul meant by saying, "For to me, to live is Christ..." (1:21a), we would merely have to look at Paul's life. 3. "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." (1:27a). <p>III. Paul's Satisfaction.</p> <p>A. In all this we see a man with a tremendous attitude.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some in preached Christ to "...add affliction to my chains" (1:16). 2. Yet, Paul was filled with joy because Christ was being preached. <p>B. Paul's joy was aided by his peace of mind.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul had learned how to be content (4:11). 2. It is only when Christians are content that we open up the possibilities for the fullness of joy in Christ. 3. Paul could rejoice because he was content. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. He put his faith in God (2 Tim. 1:12), and no matter what his lot in life, he could be happy. 4. When we put our life in the hands of God and trust that He will always do what is right, guide us in the right way, and never leave us – we can be happy even when we suffer for the sake of Christ. <p>May God grant to us the wisdom and opportunity to develop these wonderful attributes of Paul in our own lives.</p>	<p><u>Commonly Hold False Doctrines – An Introduction</u></p> <p>I. The Bible tells of a falling away.</p> <p>A. 1 Tim. 4:1-3 "in latter times some will depart from the faith"</p> <p>B. Acts 20:28-30 "savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things"</p> <p>C. 2 Thess. 2:3 "the falling away comes first"</p> <p>II. We need to make sure we are doing what God would have us do.</p> <p>A. Matt. 7:21-23 "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"</p> <p>B. Matt. 7:15 "Beware of false prophets...in sheep's clothing"</p> <p>C. 2 Thess. 2:8-12 "the lawless one is according to the working of Satan"</p> <p>D. 1 John 4:1 "many false prophets have gone out into the world"</p> <p>III. We must have Bible authority for what we do.</p> <p>A. 1 Thess. 5:21 "Test <u>all</u> things"</p> <p>B. Col. 3:17 "do <u>all</u> in the name of the Lord Jesus"</p> <p>C. 1 Peter 4:11 "speak as the oracles of God"</p> <p>D. Phil. 3:16 "let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind"</p> <p>E. Heb. 8:5 "make all things according to the pattern"</p> <p>IV. Reasons to defend the truth against false doctrine.</p> <p>A. Because it will set one free (John 8:32).</p> <p>B. Because we are to contend for the faith (Jude 3).</p> <p>C. Because we are to be ready to give a Bible answer (1 Peter 3:15).</p> <p>D. Because we are to test all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21).</p> <p>E. Because the church is the pillar and the ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).</p> <p>F. Because Satan and his ministers are busy teaching error (2 Cor. 11:13-15).</p> <p>G. Because false teachers need to be exposed (Romans 16:17-18).</p> <p>H. Because some are perverting the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9).</p> <p>I. Because we cannot add to or take away from the word (Rev. 22:18-19).</p> <p>J. Because we are to be set for a defense of the gospel (Philippians 1:17).</p> <p>K. Because religious division is wrong (1 Corinthians 1:10).</p> <p>L. Because worshiping according commandments of men is vain (Mk. 7:7).</p> <p>M. Because those going down the broad way need warned (Mt. 7:13-14).</p> <p>N. Because the gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16).</p> <p>O. Because some have zeal, but not according to knowledge (Rom. 10:1-4).</p> <p>P. Because those who do not obey the gospel will be lost (2 Thess. 1:6-9).</p>
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