

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 14, 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.

“Why Am I Here” (Part 1)

"what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" Psalm 8:4 (ESV)

"What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him," Job 7:17 (NKJV)

In these pensive passages, we see expressed man's age-old amazement at the fact that God deigns to notice him. The importance of humanity pales to insignificance when compared to the majesty and infinity of our Maker. Our Creator, as these verses acknowledge, is immeasurably greater than we.

One of the most serious questions any person can ever ask concerns the reason for human existence; *"Why am I here?"* A parallel puzzlement might be framed as *"What is my purpose in this life?"* According to the bible, God's goal for the zenith of His creation is that we have a righteous and holy relationship with Him, so that our relationship can continue in eternity. Matthew 22:36-40 records the Savior's serious answer to good, but insincere question:

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"³⁷ Jesus said to him, " You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."³⁸"This is the first and great commandment.³⁹"And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (NKJV)

Long ago, in Josh. 24:14-15, the leader of God's people then challenged them to *"...choose you this day whom ye will serve...."* The prophet Elijah put it like this in 1 Kings 18:21, asking ... *"How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him;...."*

Jesus observed in Matthew 6:24 that *"...no man can serve two masters,..."* and went on to adjure all those who follow Him to *"...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;"* (Matthew 6:33).

To a degree, these words from the bible have already answered the central question we have asked: **Why am I "here?"** A good summary of the inspired answer to this deceptively simple-sounding question may expressed as "to please God, to do His will." This is the gist of king Solomon's musing in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, and it also accords with Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman in John 4:34, and with His words to the multitude in John 6:38.

In the coming weeks, this series of articles will explore several answers to the questions of "why are we here?" and "what is our purpose in this life?". Consider, for example, that if our essential reason for existence it to please God, then it is incumbent upon us to *keep His commandments, to evangelize the lost, to mature and edify the saved, and to bear much fruit in His kingdom!*

Dave Rogers, The Midtown Messenger, 8/29/2004 (midtowncoc.org)

"And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?' But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Luke 2:49-52



What Is The Primary Goal Of Evangelism?

Some people think the goal of evangelism is simply to grow a congregation; as long as pews are filling up, they believe the goal of evangelism is being achieved. For others, it's all about baptisms; as long as people are being baptized, they think they are fulfilling the goal of evangelism. Don't get me wrong, baptisms and "church growth" are certainly good things, but these could absolutely be in vain if we do not understand the *primary* goal of evangelism.

What Is Evangelism?

It's funny that we urge Christians to be evangelistic, but sometimes without even really explaining what that means.

The word "evangelism" comes from the Greek word, "euaggelizo," which means **to announce good news**. Obviously in the context of Christianity, the good news about which we're talking is the Good News about Jesus Christ: the Son of God was born King of the Jews, was crucified, and was raised King of kings and Lord of Lords; and He gives eternal life to His disciples.

In a nutshell, evangelism is telling people the Good News about Jesus.

What is the Primary Goal of Evangelism?

But why do we tell people the Good News? What's our primary goal in that? **Our goal is for them to know how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, if they so choose.** And we must realize, the decision to be a disciple is not one to be taken lightly.

Jesus said, before following Him, people ought to consider the cost. He compared it to building a tower, "*Which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it*" (Luke 14:28)? Jesus wanted people to understand the enormous commitment required when responding to the Good News:

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after

me cannot be my disciple...any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:25-26,33).

Again, the primary goal of evangelism is for people to know how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. **Some will, sadly, decide the cost is too high.** In rebellion, they will choose to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin rather than be mistreated with the people of God (see Hebrews 11:25). Others will see the Good News for what it is. In faith, they will repent of their sins and say, "*Here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?*" (Acts 8:36).

Evangelism Is Not Just for the Lost

As a side note, when we understand the goal of evangelism is for people to know how to be disciples of Jesus, then we will realize that evangelism is not just for the lost, it's also for the saved. **Even the church needs to be constantly reminded and matured concerning how to follow Jesus.**

In case that seems strange to you, to evangelize to the saved, consider these facts:

We could easily define evangelism by the "Great Commission," in which Jesus said to go and make disciples by teaching them, baptizing them, and continuing to teach them how to follow Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

Paul said evangelists and other leaders "*equip the saints for the work of ministry*" (Ephesians 4:12).

Evangelists like Timothy and Titus remained in churches, teaching and reminding Christians how to be disciples of Jesus.

Every one of Paul's letters was evangelistic, but they were evangelistic to the saved, not the lost.

Evangelists teach the lost – and the saved – the Good News about Jesus, so they know how to follow Jesus. All Christians, in some sense, **need to be evangelists and to have evangelists in our lives.** We all need to be taught more (and reminded often) about the Kingship of Jesus, so we know how to follow Him.

(Continued on page 3)

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. 14 Romans 10-12

Feb. 15 Romans 13-14

Feb. 16 Romans 15-16

Feb. 17 1 Corinthians 1-3

Feb. 18 1 Corinthians 4-6

Feb. 19 1 Corinthians 7-9

Feb. 20 1 Corinthians 10-12

Feb. 21 1 Corinthians 13-14

"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)

Why It Matters That We Know the Goal of Evangelism

Why does it matter that we realize the primary goal of evangelism isn't just to baptize people or get them "coming to church"? It matters because we've developed all kinds of methods and strategies to baptize people and grow churches. We can quickly walk people through why they need to be baptized. We can show people why our congregation is a great place to be. But are we being evangelistic?

Being evangelistic means teaching people about Jesus. If we teach them about Jesus and they reject Him, we've still been evangelistic. But if we use some slick presentation to get someone baptized, or get them coming to our congregation, but they don't know what it means to be a disciple, then we have NOT been evangelistic.

Baptism and church attendance are absolutely necessary to be a disciple, but they are not the primary goals; the primary goal is that we learn to **bear our cross and daily follow Christ**. If we don't learn faithful discipleship, baptism and church attendance are ultimately in vain.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

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. 31, 2016	Feb. 7, 2016
Bible Class	54	49
AM Worship	68	66
PM Worship	48	44
Wednesday PM	55	48
Contribution	\$2.648	\$2.097

Next Week: 2/14/16		Next Week: 2/21/16		February 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: Dennis / Guthrie Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger/Churchwell Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Communion	John Barnum*, Ryan Rudloff Hank Wheeler, James Fuller	Don Smith*, Alan Bland James Thomas, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Mike Bannister		
Communion	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 17 Allen Griffith	February 24 Tom Wilcox	March 2 Prayer Night	March 9 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 February 14, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 21:23ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
 Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

Joseph (Husband of Mary)

One individual who is often overlooked in God's Scheme of Redemption is the other Joseph – the husband of Mary who was the mother of Jesus.

I. Joseph Was Part of the Genealogy of Jesus.

A. One purpose of the genealogy is to give absolute proof Jesus descended from Abraham and David.

1. The fulfillment of the promise God made that through Abraham's seed He would bless all families of the earth (Gen. 12:1-3).
2. God also made promises to David concerning the Messiah.
3. The Jews knew the Messiah would be a descendant of both Abraham and David – of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10).

B. The genealogy also shows that Jesus was truly human (Jn. 1:1-3,14; Gal. 4:4).

II. Joseph's Choices Regarding His Wife.

- A. Joseph was "betrothed" to the virgin Mary (Matt. 1:16; Luke 1:26,27).
- B. Joseph had great faith and courage to accept God's message concerning the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-25).
- C. Joseph followed the law regarding circumcision (Luke 2:21-34).

III. The Choice of Paying Taxes (Luke 2:1-6).

- A. Even though Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth of Galilee, their home was Bethlehem – the city of David – 90 plus miles away.
- B. Jesus pointed out the responsibility we – as citizens – have in paying taxes to the government (Matt. 22:15-22; Mark. 12:13-17; Luke 20:21-26).
- C. Paul also spoke of the authority of civil government (Rom. 13:1-7).
- D. Joseph chose to obey this command from the Roman government.

IV. Fleeing Into Egypt.

- A. Wise men came from the East to worship Jesus (Matt. 2:9-11).
- B. Herod had all males two years and under in Bethlehem killed (Mt. 2:16-18).
- C. Joseph is warned in a dream to flee to Egypt (Matt. 2:13,14).

V. Returning to Live in Nazareth (Matt. 2:19-23).

VI. Providing a Home for Jesus.

- A. We know little of Jesus' childhood, other than the trip to Jerusalem.
- B. When Jesus begins His ministry - there is no mention of Joseph.
- C. Jesus was often called "the carpenter's son", or "the son of Joseph".
- D. On the cross – Jesus left the care of His mother to John (Jn. 19:26,27).

Joseph made many choices that affect our lives today.
 What choice will we make in regard to our eternal destiny?

Commonly Held False Doctrines – Judging and Denominationalism

I. False doctrine about judging.

A. John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

B. Matthew 7.

1. ¹Judge not, that you be not judged – hypocritical judging.
2. ⁶Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine.
3. ⁷Ask...seek...knock – ¹¹good gifts...good things.
4. ¹²Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them.
5. ¹³⁻¹⁴Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life. Enter ye in at the strait gate, avoid the broad gate.
6. ¹⁵Beware of false prophets.
7. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits.
8. ²¹He who does the will of My Father in heaven.
9. ²²Many will say to Me... – Many are deceived.
10. ²⁴Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them.
11. ²⁹He taught them as one having authority.

C. 1 Cor. 5:12-13 put away from yourselves the evil person. Isn't that judging?

II. The false doctrine of Denominationalism.

A. It is a sin against God (1 Cor. 14:33).

B. It is a sin against Christ.

1. He prayed for unity (John:17:20-21).
2. He practiced unity (John 10:30).
3. He preached unity (Matthew 12:25).
4. He planned unity (Ephesians 2:13-14).

C. It is a sin against the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).

D. It is a sin against the Bible (1 Peter 4:11).

E. It is a sin against prophecy (John 10:16).

F. It is a sin against society.

G. It is a sin against the family.

H. What we are simply calling people back to simple New Testament Christianity – leaving the bondage of denominationalism behind.

1. Does the Lord's church exist separate and apart from denominationalism? If so, where? How can we find it?
2. Be like the Bereans, who "received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).