

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 21, 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 2)

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. ¹⁴For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

In the long ago, the great philosopher/king Solomon sought for meaning in this life. He pursued happiness by acquiring wealth, power, prestige, wives; anything and everything which could be obtained "under the sun" he possessed: Yet none of these things brought the king contentment or lasting purpose in life. After experimenting with all the world had to offer, Solomon's summary of his experience is found in the verses above; *life only has meaning and purpose when it is lived for God.*

A corollary to this point is the observation Solomon made in the last verse of Ecclesiastes, that God will sit in judgement of all that every person has ever done. If our lives are really all about how well we follow God's instructions concerning how to live (that's Eccl. 12:13), then *judgement* comes down to how loyal or faithful we have been to **God's** purpose for us! Consider some examples:

1. Nadab and Abihu, priests of God, violated His ordinance regarding the fire to be offered on the altar in the tabernacle (Lev. 10:1-2). As a result, God "consumed" them.
2. When the nation of Israel suffered a shortage of water in the wilderness near Meribah, God instructed Moses to speak to a rock, to obtain water for his people. Moses "added" to God's instruction by also *striking* the rock (Lev. 20:6-12), and because of this addition, God did not let him enter Canaan with the people.
3. In 1 Samuel 13, impatient king Saul took over the role of a priest, and offered a sacrifice. The prophet Samuel told him, *"You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God"* (vs. 13).
4. Again, in 1 Samuel 15, the same king violated God's expressly stated commandments concerning the war with Amalek. Samuel again confronted him (vv. 14-23), and this time, the message was that God had taken away Saul's rulership over the kingdom because of his sin.

Jesus implies in John 14:15 that we cannot really love Him if we are unwilling to keep His commandments. The apostle Paul urged the Corinthian Christians to continually "abound" (to *overflow*) in doing the Lord's will, 1 Corinthians 15:58. Like those early saints, if **we** choose another way, then **our** "labors" will also be vain (empty, pointless, useless).

When we ponder the purpose of our lives in this world, we must eventually confront the fact that we do not have the power to create ourselves: Therefore, we are either the offspring of cold, impersonal, impossible chance or we are the deliberate creation of One greater and more powerful than we. If we are indeed the "offspring" of **God** (*and we are, Acts 17:29*), then we have a responsibility to Him as **His** creation, and Solomon's point in Ecclesiastes 12:13 comes abruptly into much clearer focus!

Dave Rogers, The Midtown Messenger, 9/5/2004 (midtowncoc.org)

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." Phil. 4:8,9



Christ's Post-Judgment Status

In the prologue of his gospel account, John informed us that the Word which "always was," "always was with God," and "always was God," "*became flesh and dwelt among us*" (John 1:1;14). The Hebrews writer, in chapter 2:9-14, explained why it was that God had to become flesh. In this context he presented two major reasons why Christ coming in the flesh was essential. First he wrote, "*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone*" (Heb. 2:9). Second, he concluded the context with this point. "*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil*" (Heb. 2:14). To accomplish both of these goals, it was essential for God, Who is Spirit, to become man, who is flesh. While in the flesh Jesus Christ, the Son of God fulfilled the purpose of the Father perfectly. Jesus said, "*And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him*" (John 8:29). Because Jesus "*made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him...*" (Phil. 2:7-9). Jesus was "*declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*" (Rom. 1:4), and was raised to reign at the right hand of God (Acts 2:30ff). At this moment, we are under the authority of our King Jesus as He reigns as "*Lord of lords and King of kings*" (Rev. 17:14, 19:16).

As we continue to study our Bibles we learn that the last great prophetic event to unfold will be the Judgment, when men stand before their Creator, both good men and evil, and give account of the lives they have lived on this earth (John 5:28, 29). That brings us to the question of this article. What will be the status of Jesus Christ, the Son of God after the Judgment? With our remaining space, we will address this question from a Biblical perspective.

First let us consider how His choice to "become man" will influence His standing after judgment. In 1 Timothy 2:5 Paul wrote, "*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*" Paul wrote these words after Christ died on the cross, after He was raised and ascended to sit on the right hand of the Father and yet; Christ was still "*the Man Christ Jesus.*" It would be a mistake to assume that after His work here on earth that He ascended to the exact same position He held before He became flesh. In other words, we cannot assume that He laid aside all tie and association with man at that point. For Paul clearly reveals that

He is still "*the Man Christ Jesus.*" We would do well to consider another passage from the pen of Paul. In Philippians 3:20-21 we read, "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*" What is interesting to note here is that when Jesus returns He possesses a body. When we study 1 Corinthians 15 we learn that it is a "*spiritual body,*" but it is a body nonetheless. In fact, it is a body like unto the body that we will possess in eternity. The conclusion to be drawn is that this is a result of God, Jesus Christ, Who is Spirit, choosing to humble Himself and become man (Phil. 2:7,8). This cannot be said of God the Father or God the Holy Spirit. It was a result of the Logos' choice to take on Him the form of man. We need to keep this in mind as we continue consideration of other passages.

Next we would turn our attention to Hebrews 2:11-13. There the writer says, "*For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: 'I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.' And again: 'I will put My trust in Him.' And again: 'Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.'*" This should immediately call to mind Psalm 22, which depicts our Savior's death on the cross. In that passage the Hebrew writer found two passages, which convey the relationship that Jesus has with those who properly respond to His suffering and death. Psalm 22:22 reads, "*I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.*" Again we read in verse 25, "*My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.*" Without going into great detail concerning this passage we would highlight the fact that Jesus is very closely associated with those to whom He has a physical link. That link, in this context, is two-fold. First, He shares their physical nature and secondly, they share His love for the Father. These are those that are in the Kingdom, which shall be delivered up to God the Father in the end (1 Cor. 15:24). Paul expresses some very interesting truth in 1 Corinthians 15. In verse 25, we read, "*For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.*" "Till" is an adverb of time, which indicates that the reign of Christ shall cease at some point. Paul continues, "*Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all*" (1 Cor. 15:28). To say that this passage is profound and amazing is an understatement to say the least. When we add

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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

Feb. 21 1 Corinthians 13-14

Feb. 22 1 Corinthians 15-16

Feb. 23 2 Corinthians 1-3

Feb. 24 2 Corinthians 4-6

Feb. 25 2 Corinthians 7-9

Feb. 26 2 Corinthians 10-11

Feb. 27 2 Corinthians 12-13

Feb. 28 Galatians 1-3

"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)

Romans 8:16-17 it really emphasizes the cost of Jesus' choice to "become flesh." It says, *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."* This was only made possible by Jesus' choice to associate with those in the flesh.

Because man sinned and separated himself from God, Jesus chose to provide the price for the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23). That choice necessitated His becoming flesh because Spirit does not bleed or die. So Christ *"humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross"* (Phil. 2:7-8). After Jesus defeated Satan and took possession of *"the keys of Hades and of Death"* (Rev. 1:18), He was raised to sit at the right hand of God and to reign (Acts 2:30-31). That is exactly what He is doing at this moment. However, because of His choice to become man for man's spiritual benefit, He continues to have that tie to man and will even when He steps down from that reign (1 Cor. 15:25) to stand among His brethren. His benevolent choice was one that had significant ramifications. As those who have benefited from our Lord's grace, we Christians should continually bow down on our knees and thank our Lord and Saviors Jesus Christ. May His Name be exalted and extolled by those He is not ashamed to call brethren.

Don Walker (Christian Worker, Vol. 102, Num. 2 [Feb. 2016], pp. 6,7)

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

	Feb. 7, 2016	Feb. 14, 2016
Bible Class	49	43
AM Worship	66	55
PM Worship	44	43
Wednesday PM	48	41
Contribution	\$2.097	\$2.021

Privileged To Serve

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

Next Week: 2/21/16		Next Week: 2/28/16		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	Maninger/Churchwell Family	Fuller Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Communion	Don Smith*, Alan Bland James Thomas, Hank Wheeler	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ryan Rudloff, Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Mike Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 24 Tom Wilcox	March 2 Prayer Night	March 9 Don Smith	March 16 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 February 21, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 21:27ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
 Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

The Things...Learned...Received...Heard...Saw in Me. These Do
Philippians 4:9 *The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*
 According to Ephesians 5:1, we should be imitators of God.
 The Thessalonians were imitators of both Paul and the Lord (1 Thess. 1:6).

I. Paul: An Imitator of Christ.
 A. Paul is an example of the very thing that he called upon the Philippians to do – he himself was an imitator of Christ.
 B. Paul told the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).
 C. There is such a thing as a biblical doctrine of imitation.

II. Paul: A Man of Prayer.
 A. Paul had an explicit trust in God – fostered through his prayer life.
 B. Christ was the source of Paul's strength.

III. Paul: An Expressive and Affectionate Christian.
 A. "My beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown" (4:1).
 B. Jesus was like this (Matt. 23:37; Mark 10:21; John 11:33-35; Matt. 9:35-38).
 C. Paul, was merely imitating his Lord when he expressed genuine emotion for those whom he was trying to bring to Christian maturity.
 D. Like Paul, we too must be unafraid to express genuine love and affection towards our brethren.

IV. Paul: A Grateful and Gracious Christian.
 A. In spite of his situation, Paul remained "others" centered.
 B. This is perhaps one of the greatest challenges we face as Christians.
 C. Paul did not focus too much on himself.

V. Paul: A Proclaimer and Defender of the Gospel.
 A. Whatever the cost, the gospel must be proclaimed – this was the focus of Paul's entire Christian life.
 B. Paul was a man who had his priorities right.
 C. Paul stayed focused on the prize.
 D. His happiness was not dependent on the circumstances that were operating in his personal life.

In this letter to the Christians at Philippi, Paul lays out many challenges suitable for Christians of all ages.
 Since the sincerest form of flattery is imitation, let us live lives worthy of imitation.
 In this way, we can receive all the flattery that we desire – free from guilt.

Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning the Words: Do, Work & Obey

I. An overreaction to the Roman Catholic "works" oriented teachings.
 II. The Bible clearly teaches there are some things man must do.

A. Matt. 7:21-23 *Not everyone...shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*
 B. Lk. 6:46 *why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*
 C. John 14:15 *If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
 D. John 15:14 *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*
 E. Heb. 5:8-9 *the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*
 F. James 1:21-27 ²²*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer... ²⁵not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work... ²⁶bridle his tongue... ²⁷visit orphans and widows...keep oneself unspotted from the world.*
 G. James 2:24-26 *a man is justified by works, and not by faith only... ²⁵was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works... ²⁶faith without works is dead also.*
 H. 1 John 2:3-4 *we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar...*
 I. Rev. 22:14 *Blessed are those who do His commandments...*
 J. To believe one can work their way to heaven is a false doctrine – but to teach that there is nothing we must do in obedience is just as false.

III. Some works are necessary.
 A. Acts 10:34-35 *whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*
 B. John 6:28-29 *This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*
 C. Acts 9:6 *"Lord, what do You want me to do?" ... "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*
 D. Acts 2:40 *be saved [save yourselves – KJV, ASV, ESV] from this perverse generation.*
 E. Phil. 2:12 *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

IV. Some works are excluded from God's plan to save today.
 A. Works of the law: Gal. 2:16 *a man is not justified by the works of the law...*
 B. Works of self-righteousness: Matt. 5:20 *unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees...*
 C. Works of merit: Eph. 2:8-9 *by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works...*