

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 28, 2016

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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 3)

“... the word of the LORD came ... saying, ¹⁷‘Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: ¹⁸When I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 3:16-19).

Last week, we noted that life only has meaning and purpose in this world when it is lived for God. When we acknowledge that point, we must soon realize that a condition of living life for God is living according to *His* guidance, *His* counsel, and *His* instructions: In short, living to please God means living by His rules! One point we soon grasp, as we read the New Testament, is that for God to be pleased with our service to Him, that service should include **evangelizing the lost with His gospel!** It ought to be self-evident to us that His word is not going to "jump up" and do the job **for** us! The words of the scripture above should be emblazoned in our minds, reminding us that the responsibility to look out for the souls of those who are lost in sin has been given to **us!**

In Acts 20:26-27, the apostle Paul gives us an excellent example of how we should strive to live before God. There, he told the Ephesian elders that he was "...free from the blood of all men." Paul was able to make this claim because he had never avoided telling someone what God's word says; he made a point of revealing **all** of what God said, not just the parts people would like to hear. Therefore, he could encourage the Christians at Ephesus and at Colossae to "redeem the time," to make the most of their time, for God!

Jesus told the disciples of that ancient day that, **even then**, the "fields" were ready for harvest (John 4:35); therefore, Christians need to answer the Lord's call for "more laborers" in Matthew 9:37-38. After all, it was Jesus Himself who said that,

"... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

The **gospel** is the only "power" God has given to man for the salvation of others: As Paul points out in Romans 1:16-17, the gospel is the only "power" He has given for salvation. Only that message, clearly and faithfully presented has the power to actually "save" someone from the consequences of sin.

Jesus **did** acknowledge the fact that there is a time coming when we will have no more opportunities to spread the message of salvation (John 9:4). When that day arrives, it will be too late to phone someone, or to sit down and have a good bible study, because time will come to a close. Our point here is twofold: God's word is not going to "jump up and teach" **for** us, and (second), He has blessed us with abundant opportunities: Let's not waste them! We are here to evangelize those who **are** lost.

Dave Rogers, The Midtown Messenger, 9/12/2004 (midtowncoc.org)

"...just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and **in the defense and confirmation of the gospel**, you all are partakers with me of grace..." "...but the latter out of love, knowing that **I am appointed for the defense of the gospel**" "Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so **stand fast in the Lord, beloved.**" **Philippians 1:7,17; 4:1**



Why Our Blessedness Doesn't Depend on Who's in the White House

Politics are on a lot of people's minds right now. And I'm sure all Christians are hoping and praying someone will be elected president who will exemplify and promote biblical values and morality. But in the midst of this political season, there is a danger against which Christians must diligently guard; and that is, thinking our "blessedness" depends on who is elected president.

Blessed is the Nation

Far too often, passages like Psalm 33:12, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...*" are misapplied to the United States of America. We tend to think this passage is talking about *any* nation whose God is the Lord. **Interpreting it this way makes us feel anxious and worried**, hoping we'll elect a president who will make us a "*nation whose God is the Lord.*"

But there are some HUGE problems with interpreting and applying this passage this way. First of all, the entire verse actually says: "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.*"

The last part never seems to get quoted, but it helps us to understand this passage is talking about the blessedness of being God's *chosen* people. Blessed means "happy." And in the context of the Old Testament, it was talking about Israel being God's chosen people, and how happy they could be because that was true.

As Christians, when we make application of this passage, we MUST apply it to the church, not to the United States. The church is God's New Testament people. The church is the "*nation whose God is the Lord.*" The church is "*the people whom God has chosen as His heritage*" (see also 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Don't Trust in Nations

But if we were to read, interpret, and properly apply the rest of Psalm 33, it would be a great blessing to us (especially in this political season). **It should make us feel less anxious and less worried**, rather than the other way around.

First, the psalmist commanded praise be given to God because, "*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host*" (Psalm 33:6). Consequently, all people should fear Him and stand in awe of Him (vs. 8).

Then the psalmist wrote, "*The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples*" (Psalm 33:10). In other words, no matter how powerful a nation, they are *nothing* before God. No plan can succeed, unless the Lord allows it.

The psalmist reminds Israel that the great army of a king, the strength of a mighty warrior, and even the powerful war horse are all false hopes (Psalm 33:13-17). The message is clear, don't put your trust in these things and do not fear them.

Oh, how the church needs this message!

- a strong leader
- an arsenal of nuclear weapons
- a strong military force
- a thriving economy

These are all false hopes. They mean little to nothing to the people of God, the church. They are neither a threat to make us tremble, nor a hope to make us feel secure.

God is Our Help and Shield

The psalmist ends this psalm (vs. 20-22) with words that are so important for us to hear: "*Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*"

No matter who is in the White House, my hope is in the Lord. If the economy crashes, my hope is in the Lord. If the United States of America ceases to exist, my hope is in the Lord. My blessedness does not depend on these things. No matter what happens to the United States, I'm still part of "*the nation whose God is the Lord*" because my citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

When we, as Christians, think our blessedness depends on who is in the White House, we forfeit the happiness that comes from being children of God. If first-century Christians could know the happiness of being in Christ while Nero was emperor, then you and I can know the happiness of being in Christ while Obama is in the White House (and whoever comes next).

How Exiles Should Act

Even when the Jews were exiled in Babylon, they were still "*the nation whose God is the Lord.*" Though their citizenship was in Canaan, they were told to seek the welfare of Babylon while they were there (Jeremiah 29:7): "*But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*"

Christians in the United States are exiles in a land that is much like Babylon in many ways. We ought to seek the welfare of our nation. We ought to pray to the Lord on its behalf (see also 1 Timothy 2:1-2). We ought to vote for good leaders, promote biblical

(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. 28	Galatians 1-3
Feb. 29	Galatians 4-6
Mar. 1	Ephesians 1-3
Mar. 2	Ephesians 4-6
Mar. 3	Philippians 1-3
Mar. 4	Philippians 4—Colossians 2
Mar. 5	Colossians 3—1 Thess. 1
Mar. 6	1 Thessalonians 2-5

"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)

morality, and do our duty to serve and protect the nation.

But let's remember, the things of this nation are not our hope or source of blessedness. Our military, economy, president, Congress, Supreme Court, etc. are not our hope. They are not the source of our blessedness, whether they are good or bad.

Our Prayer

May the church, "*the nation whose God is the Lord*" offer prayers like this:

Father, we pray for our current president, our future president, and for all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

And during our time of exile in the United States, our soul waits for You, Lord; You our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in You, because we trust in Your holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

(See 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and Psalm 33:20-22)

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Celebrate

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

March Birthdays: Jonathan Fuller (2/28), Ken Maninger (4), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28).

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Feb. 14, 2016	Feb. 21, 2016
Bible Class	43	48
AM Worship	55	57
PM Worship	43	40
Wednesday PM	41	45
Contribution	\$2.021	\$1.864

This Week: 2/28/16		Next Week: 3/6/16		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	Fuller Family	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ryan Rudloff, Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister*, Allen Bland Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 2 Prayer Night	March 9 Don Smith	March 16 Joe Dennis	March 23 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 February 28, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 22:6ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
 Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

<u>Appointed For The Defense – Stand Fast (Phil. 1:7,17; 4:1)</u>	<u>False Doctrines Concerning Authority</u>
<p>I. What does "appointed for the defense" mean?</p> <p>A. The word "defense" is a Greek judicial term referring to an attorney talking his client off from a charge.</p> <p>1. Paul speaks of the "defense" and "confirmation" of the gospel.</p> <p>a. "Defense" (apologia) - statement of a good case (Acts 28:17-23).</p> <p>b. "Confirmation" – undergirding of faith by teaching and exhortation.</p> <p>2. Peter also urges Christians to make a defense (1 Pet. 3:15).</p> <p>3. Jude recognized that we must "contend earnestly for the faith."</p> <p>B. This is the battle cry of the church.</p> <p>II. Is there really such a thing as Gospel that needs defending?</p> <p>A. Titus 2:1 "...speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine"</p> <p>B. The gospels clearly reveal that Jesus had a doctrine.</p> <p>C. The early church continued "in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42).</p> <p>D. There is such a thing as sound doctrine and we can know it.</p> <p>III. Why is there a need for defending the Gospel?</p> <p>A. False teachers and false doctrines abound on every hand.</p> <p>IV. How can false doctrines/teachers can be encouraged by Christians?</p> <p>V. What are some truths that must be recognized in defending the truth?</p> <p>A. The different reasons why men speak things contrary to the gospel.</p> <p>B. The characteristics of opponents of the faith (Jude 4-16).</p> <p>C. The danger of false doctrine from both within and without the church.</p> <p>D. We must not try to force the truth upon those that don't want it.</p> <p>E. We must always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).</p> <p>F. We must be gentle, meek, and patient in teaching them (2 Tim. 2:24-26).</p> <p>G. We must not in any way encourage false teachers (2 John 9-11).</p> <p>H. We must, if they refuse the truth, mark them (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10-11).</p> <p>VI. "Stand Fast".</p> <p>A. "Therefore" ties the present verse and to what has just been stated.</p> <p>B. The gospel brings new character – and new character stability.</p> <p>1. The expression "stand fast" is used six times in Paul's epistles:</p> <p>2. "Stand" means to "stand firm."</p> <p>3. "Fast" means "firmly fixed; stable."</p> <p>C. "In the Lord," is the source of man's stability.</p> <p>Paul places the challenge clearly before us. Will we accept the challenge?</p>	<p>I. The Pope.</p> <p>A. The Roman Catholic Church claims that Jesus built His church upon Peter (Matt. 16:18-19) – whom they claim was the first Pope.</p> <p>B. Ex-cathedra – "by virtue of his (Pope's) supreme Apostolic authority."</p> <p>C. Reasons why Peter could not have been the first Pope.</p> <p>D. The Apostle Paul would have made a much better Pope!</p> <p>II. Creeds.</p> <p>A. Deut. 4:2 You shall not add to the word...nor take from it...</p> <p>B. Prov. 30:6 Do not add to His words...He rebuke you...you be found a liar.</p> <p>C. Gal. 1:6-9 if we, or an angel...preach any other gospel...let him be accursed.</p> <p>D. Rev. 22:18-19 If anyone adds to...if anyone takes away...</p> <p>III. Parents.</p> <p>A. We are to follow any man <u>only</u> as far as he follows Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).</p> <p>B. Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents <u>in the Lord</u>, for this is right.</p> <p>C. Luke 14:26; Matt. 10:37</p> <p>IV. Conscience.</p> <p>A. The conscience must be educated (Prov. 22:6).</p> <p>B. The conscience can honestly misguide us if uneducated (Acts 23:1).</p> <p>C. The conscience acts on what it <u>believes</u> is right and wrong (Rom. 14:1f).</p> <p>D. The conscience is a prodder and not the body of truth itself (Rom. 2:15).</p> <p>E. We are saved by faith and faith comes by God's word (Rom. 10:17).</p> <p>F. We are set free by truth – not our conscience (John 8:32).</p> <p>G. We will be judged by Jesus' words – not our conscience (John 12:48).</p> <p>V. Preachers.</p> <p>A. Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets...</p> <p>B. 1 John 4:1 do not believe every spirit...test the spirits, whether they are of God...many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2 Cor. 11:14-15; Rev. 2:2).</p> <p>VI. Feelings.</p> <p>A. Prov. 14:12 There is a way that <u>seems right</u> to a man...its end is...death.</p> <p>B. Prov. 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool...</p> <p>VII. Modern-day revelation.</p> <p>A. The Bible is complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17).</p> <p>B. It contains all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).</p> <p>C. Paul, in the 1st century, preached the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).</p>