

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



March 6, 2016

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801
325-646-7102
www.4thstreetcoc.org
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.

“Why Am I Here” (Part 4)

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:1 - 2).

As we consider in this series of articles *ways in which we can please our Father*, we need to consider that in addition to living for Him, and seeking to evangelize those who don't (yet) know Him, we should also make a constant effort to **EDIFY** those who are spiritually weak or who are new in the faith! The apostle Paul acknowledged in the passage above that Christians **can** "stumble" unexpectedly in sin. The "spiritual" ones (those who are living by the Holy Spirit's direction, which is through the word) among the saints are charged to "restore" (*mend, repair, make whole or sound once again*) the erring Christian to his former condition in the light (1 John 1:7-9). This restoration is to be done in a meek spirit, and the strong are to bear the infirmities of the weak (Romans 15:1) so as to aid the weak in becoming strong (not merely for self-aggrandizement), all the while "looking to oneself" (Galatians 6:2) lest the act of restoring an erring brother become a source of pride and a stone of stumbling! What we must always remember here is that, weak or strong, all stand on "level ground" at the foot of Christ's cross!

While we are saddled with a particular obligation to our fellow Christians, our responsibility encompasses all mankind (Romans 15:2, Galatians 6:10).

1. Just as Christian parents are to "nurture" their own children in the truth (Ephesians 6:4), so we must also care for and "educate" those who are **spiritual babes**, so they can "grow up" to become giants of the faith!
2. Spiritual discernment (the ability to accurately distinguish right from wrong) comes only through the exercise of an educated conscience (Hebrews 5:13-14). Too many new Christians "died on the vine" because they lack spiritual exercise!
3. We must never forget the consequences of spiritual ignorance! Ancient Israel went into **Assyrian** bondage (never to return as a nation) because of their bondage **to sin**, Isaiah 5:13. Likewise Hosea laments that his people were destroyed by **ignorance**, Hosea 4:6. James points out plainly (in James 1:13-16) that spiritual **ignorance** (not knowing God's word) leads to spiritual death.

The apostle Paul counseled the Corinthians to "*Let all things be done for edification*" (1 Corinthians 14:26, NKJV), and what we do should help point those who are lost to Christ (Romans 15:2). To "edify" is *to build up, to reinforce or buttress, to strengthen*. When we educate one another in the scriptures, both by active teaching and by example, we are inoculating the church against the "wiles" of the devil. Knowledge of God's will is essential for us to live lives which please our Father. He has given us His word so that we may discern the right way in this sin-darkened world, and so that we may also correct our steps whenever we go astray in sin (N.B. Psalms 119:1-6, 97-99, 103-105, 130, and 165). **We are "here"** to help one another reach heaven! Last week, we noted that life only has meaning and purpose in this world when it is has been given to **us!**

Dave Rogers, The Midtown Messenger, 9/19/2004 (midtowncoc.org)

“And they put over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.... And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.'”

Matthew 27:37,39-40



Understanding Grace #1

(A Word Study)

At the graveside service of a godly woman, I heard a man say that his departed grandmother had “grown up in the churches of Christ before we discovered grace.” The way he said it you would think “the churches of Christ” were a denomination. He could not have been talking about the churches of Christ we read about in the New Testament. The apostles taught the truth about grace from the beginning. They also refuted false ideas about grace that were in circulation in their day. Perhaps this man in the graveyard was talking about the time before change agents in the church discovered Baptist doctrines.

I have heard a lot of strange things about grace. Here are some things old and new I have either heard or read (not in any particular order): “You must keep the old law to enjoy grace,” “grace is for the circumcised,” “grace must be earned,” “there is insufficient grace for me,” “grace means you do not have to obey the gospel,” “salvation is by grace only,” “grace is unconditional,” “grace is only for the elect,” “grace is irresistible,” “you cannot fall from grace,” “grace means you are not under ANY law,” “there is no grace in the Old Testament,” “let us sin that grace may abound,” “because of grace, it does not matter what we do in worship (instrumental music and women preachers),” “because of grace, it does not matter what we believe about salvation (salvation without baptism),” “because of grace, it does not matter what church we are a member of (denominations),” “because of grace, it does not matter who we marry (fornication),” “grace excuses lasciviousness,” “I can only reach so high and grace reaches the rest of the way,” “you never talk about grace.” You have likely heard some of these things yourself; and, you could probably add statements to the list. But, this is enough to demonstrate the confusion believed and taught about grace.

It is not true to say that we “never talk about grace.” However, if you hear Gospel preachers talk about obedience more than they talk about grace, then remember that is what Jesus did. When the apostles preached grace they did so in the context of obedience. Grace is God’s part, and what God does by grace is not changed by what we preach. Obedience is man’s part, and “*we persuade men*” (1 Cor. 5:11). Preaching the truth about grace can motivate men to obey the Gospel, but I do not think confusion about grace is because “the churches of Christ have been slow to discover grace.” I think it is more likely that some have not been listening, or they have dismissed what they heard because it did not suit them.

Thomas Warren used to teach that if we wanted to understand the whole truth about what the Bible teaches about a topic, then we need to find everything the Bible says about that topic and put it

together. That is a big task when it comes to a subject like grace. Nevertheless, that is what I tried to do in preparing for this series of articles. The King James Version remains the translation of my choice, and the numbers that follow are in reference to that grand old book, but for most other translations these numbers will not be far off.

In the King James Version of the New Testament, the word “grace” is found 130 times (129 of these times the word “grace” is a translation of the Greek word *charis*). The one time the English word “grace” is used where the word *charis* does not appear in the Greek text is in James 1:11, where in reference to the flower it is said, “*the grace of the fashion of it.*” Here the word “grace” is used for the word *euprepeia*. It is referring to its beauty.

In the Greek text the word *charis* is found 150 times. This means that twenty-one times the word *charis* is not translated “grace.” Here is a breakdown of how *charis* is translated in the New Testament: grace (129); thank, thanks, or thankworthy (8); favor (6); pleasure (2); gracious (1); benefit (1); liberality (1); joy (1); acceptable (1).

The common Sunday School definition of the word “grace” is “unmerited favor” — but it’s never translated that way. The basic meaning of the word *charis* is simply “favor.” The idea of “favor” is in the word *charis* itself. When the “unmerited” idea is coupled with it, it comes from the context. If we would focus our attention on the inherent “favor” idea in the word “grace,” rather than the often-implied “unmerited” nature of it, we would get a better appreciation of the word itself. “Grace” is not so much about our own unworthiness as it is about the nature of God, His love, His good will toward men, and the pleasure He has in favoring us.

“*If I have found grace in thy sight*” is a common expression in the Old Testament. Substitute the word “favor” for “grace” in your mind when you read these passages. In Genesis 19:18-19 Lot said, “*Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight...*” when he plead with the angels to let him escape to Zoar rather than fleeing to the mountains. In Genesis 32:5 Jacob said, “*I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight*” when he was sending word to his brother Esau. He was wanting his brother to look favorably upon him. In Genesis 39:4 it is said of Potiphar that “*Joseph found grace in his sight,*” when he looked upon him favorably. In Exodus 33:13 Moses prayed saying, “*If I have found grace in thy sight,*” when asking God to go with him. In Ruth 2:10, Ruth ask Boaz, “*Why have I found grace in thine eyes?*” And Boaz answered by telling her of the good report he had heard of her.

The first time the Greek word usually translated “grace” is used in the New Testament is Luke 1:30 where the angel said to Mary,

(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

Mar. 6 1 Thessalonians 2-5

Mar. 7 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Mar. 8 1 Timothy 1-3

Mar. 9 2 Timothy 4-6

Mar. 10 2 Timothy 1-4

Mar. 11 Titus 1-3

Mar. 12 Philemon—Hebrews 1

Mar. 13 Hebrews 2-4

“*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)

“thou hast found favour with God.” It is the word “favour.” It is used again in Luke 2:52 where the text says, *“Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”* There were reasons that people liked Jesus, and God was pleased with him. In Acts 2:46-47 it says of those in the early church that they had *“favour with all the people”*— they were making a good impression. In Acts 7:9-10 it is said of Joseph that God was with him and *“gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”* He was an impressive young man, and so also it says of David in Acts 7:46 that David, *“found favour before God.”* In these passages the word repeatedly translated “favour” is the word usually translated “grace” (*charis*). Thinking of the word “favour” when we read the word “grace” helps us better understand and appreciate Paul’s salutation at the beginning of all his epistles when he says *“Grace be unto you,”* and his benedictions at the end of every one of them when he says, *“The grace of the Lord be with you.”* He wanted the Lord to continue to look favorably upon them, to be pleased with them, and to continue to bless them.

This kind of good will is often demonstrated by a gift. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 Paul wrote, *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.”* The word translated “liberality” is the word usually translated “grace” (*charis*). In 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 he wrote, *“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”* Here the word usually translated “grace” is translated “gift” in verse 4.

In all these examples, the word “grace” is more of a compliment to the character of the giver, than a commentary on the worthiness of the receiver. This should help us better understand and appreciate passages like Ephesians 2:4-8: *“By grace are ye saved through faith...it is the gift of God.”* It is out of God’s good will toward man that he extends salvation to man.

Bill Boyd (Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 27, Num. 1 [Jan. 2016], pp. 1,4)

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. 21, 2016	Feb. 28, 2016
Bible Class	48	54
AM Worship	57	59
PM Worship	40	40
Wednesday PM	45	43
Contribution	\$1,864	\$2,057

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/6/16		Next Week: 3/13/16		March 2016	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Communion	Gene Bannister*, Allen Bland Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Randy Huckaby*, Tom Wilcox Hank Wheeler, Ryan Rudloff		Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz	
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceten Evetts		April 2016	
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller	
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith	
Communion	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		Clean Building: M&P Bannister / Greer	
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group	
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 9 Don Smith	March 16 Joe Dennis	March 23 Allen Griffith	March 30 Gospel Meeting	

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 March 6, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 22:30ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

When I See the Cross

- I. **When I See the Cross – I Think of Sin.**
 - A. 1 John 1:8,10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar...*
 - B. Isa. 59:1-2 *...your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*
 - C. Sin is the worst thing known to man.
- II. **When I See The Cross – I Think Of The Love Of God.**
 - A. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- III. **When I See The Cross – I Think Of The World Crucifying The Only Perfect Man Who Ever Graced This Earth.**
 - A. *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-12).
 - B. *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"* (Luke 2:14).
 - C. *"You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased"* (Luke 3:22).
 - D. Isa. 9:6 *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
 - E. Matt. 3:11 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*
 - F. Phil. 2:5-11 *God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth...*
- IV. **When I See The Cross – I Think Of The Suffering Of Jesus Christ.**
 - A. Isa. 53:5-6 *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*
- V. **When I See The Cross – I Think Of The Resurrection.**
 - A. In 1 Cor. 15:42-44, Paul tells us what the resurrection will be like.
 - B. First, the body is sown in corruption (42).
 - C. Second, the body is sown in dishonor (43a).
 - D. Third, the body is sown in weakness (43b).
 - E. Fourth, the body is sown a natural body (44).

False Doctrines Concerning Which Law We Are Under

- I. Some say we are under Old Testament law. (Reasons why this cannot be true.)
 - A. The priesthood has been changed (Heb. 7:12).
 - B. The Law of Moses was given to Israel (Deut. 5:1-6).
 - C. If we try to keep it, we fall from grace (Gal. 5:4).
 - D. If we try to keep it we commit spiritual adultery (Rom. 7:1-4).
 - E. God told us to hear Jesus (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2).
 - F. Christ is superior to Moses (Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 3:5-6; John 1:17).
 - G. Moses' law is all or nothing (Gal. 5:2-3).
 - H. A new covenant was foretold (Jer. 31:31-33; Heb. 8:6-13).
 - I. The law was changed (Heb. 7:12).
 - J. Jesus died to put His will into force (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:16-17).
 - K. Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament (Heb. 9:15).
 - L. To go back under the Old Testament is to give up on our only sacrifice (Heb. 10:25-31).
 - M. The Old Testament law was exclusive—The New Testament law is inclusive of all people (Mark 16:15-16).
 - N. We are going to be judged by the words of Jesus (John 12:48).
 - O. The mercy seat has been changed (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:5).
 - P. Takes away the kingdom (Zech. 6:12-13; Heb. 8:4).
 - Q. The Old Testament was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14-16).
- II. There are those who claim that we are not under any law (grace only).
 - A. Heb. 7:12 *...the priesthood being changed... there is also a change of the law.*
 - B. Rom. 4:15 *...where there is no law there is no transgression.*
 - C. Rom. 5:13 *...sin is not imputed when there is no law.*
 - D. 1 John 3:4 *...sin is lawlessness [the transgression of the law - KJV].*
 - E. Rom. 8:2 *...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus....*
 - F. Gal. 6:2 *...the law of Christ.*
 - G. James 1:25 *...he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it...*
 - H. Heb. 5:8-9 *...He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...*
 - I. Matt. 7:21-23 *...he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*
 - J. Heb. 1:1-2 *...in these last days spoken to us by His Son...*