

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 20, 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.

Whatever Became of Sin?

Karl Menninger published a book by the same title, which I have borrowed for this week's article. Having focused his reader's attention on the rather obvious decline in western civilization and the deplorable condition in which we now find ourselves, he opens the third chapter of that book with these pointed comments:

"In all the laments and reproaches made by our seers and prophets, one misses any mention of 'sin,' a word which used to be a veritable watchword of the prophets. It was a word once in everyone's mind, but now rarely if ever heard. Does that mean that no sin is involved in all our troubles—sin with an 'I' in the middle? Is no one any longer guilty of anything? Guilty perhaps of a sin that could be repented and repaired or atoned for? Is it only that someone may be stupid or sick or criminal—or asleep? Wrong things are being done, we know; tares are being sown in the wheat field at night. But is no one responsible, no one answerable for these acts? Anxiety and depression we all acknowledge, and even vague guilt feelings; but has no one committed sins? Where, indeed, did sin go? What became of it?" (Menninger, 13).

The problem with much of our sin-sick society is the fact that they just don't give any thought to that three letter word S-I-N. If anyone tries to address sin in our society and define and describe it for what it is, he is quickly labeled judgmental and unloving. How long has it been since you heard any of our national leaders speak of the sin problem we have in our country? Did you know that in the early 50's the Congress voted to require the President to proclaim one day a year to be recognized as a day of prayer? Truman began it in 1952, and the following year President Eisenhower borrowed some of the words from Abraham Lincoln for his first proclamation. Here is what Eisenhower said: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to *confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow*, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon." Interestingly neither President Eisenhower, nor any President since that time, has ever used the same words or anything akin to them. According to an article in *Theology Today* (October 1972), such words were "not compatible with the Commander-In-Chief's vision of a proud and confident people." I guess that means as a nation we quit sinning more than a half century ago!?! Quite the contrary. Under the guise of social freedom we have extended our rights as a nation to embrace deviant behavior and the slaughter of innocent babes in the womb while ignoring any possibility that what we are doing is displeasing to the God of heaven. This is an age of license. Morally, we are loosing the battle to the humanists. Some schools and neighborhoods are already out of control. Because we live in a "free land," some have taken that to mean we are free to do whatever we desire – no limits, and no holds barred. But are we not reaping the harvest of seeds planted decades, if not centuries ago? God has provided the avenue to freedom in Christ. But rather than respect the limits of that freedom, we have taken it upon ourselves to worship and serve God as we see fit. Do you doubt that? Then ask someone, anyone, why they attend a particular religious sect, and listen care-

(Continued on page 2)

"...we also **rejoice** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Romans 5:11)

"**Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I will say, **rejoice!**" (Philippians 4:4)

"**Rejoice** always, " (1 Thessalonians 5:16)



(Continued from page 1)

fully to the answer. "Well, I like the people." "I like the preacher." "The music is uplifting." "The location is convenient." Seldom (if ever) will you hear someone say, "I like that congregation because God has authorized all that is said and done among these people." If you ask someone why they like all the rigmarole in church music, with guitars, drums, and percussion instruments, more often than not you will hear these four words: "Because I like it." The restraints in worship set forth in God's word have largely been ignored, from Catholicism right up through and including Protestantism. Our liberty has been redefined to mean we can do anything that God does not strictly forbid in His word. Were we to use the same sort of thinking in matters earthly, you could drive any speed you desired simply because there is no sign posted that says, "thou shalt not drive 90 or 100." And once we took the liberties in matters pertaining to worship, it was, and is, an easy step to take the same kind of liberties regarding God's moral laws. We have turned liberty into license. With the so-called legalization of homosexual marriages the bar has been lifted one more notch and exactly how far man will now go with this new found "right" is anybody's guess.

I suppose every age has its advancements in technology, communication, transportation and science, but perhaps there has never been a generation that has witnessed as many changes as has ours (unless it be the industrial revolution). I can still remember when a computer was something you saw on television on some science fiction show, and a "window" was what mom had us clean every Spring so as to allow more summer sun into our homes. A "ram" was the cousin of a goat, "meg" was the little girl who lived down the street, and an "application" was something you filled out when you applied for a new job. Some words have taken on entirely different meanings than they had when I was growing up. For example, a "program" was a TV show, a "cursor" was someone who used profanity, and "memory" was something that you lost with age, not space on a computer. With the modern age has come at least two inventions that have dramatically impacted our communication capabilities. One of these is the television, the other the computer. The new "digital" television is becoming increasingly popular, with pictures so sharp it has been billed as

the biggest change in viewing quality since we moved from black and white to color. The irony of it all is the undeniable truth that while we are making gigantic strides in accessing knowledge, we are losing ground when it comes to the quality of material that we are able to access. As the late Paul Harvey once said, "TV turns the sky into a sewer." A recent study has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the entertainment industry in general, and the television industry in specific is an "influence" rather than a "mirror" of society. According to that survey conducted by Public Opinion magazine, 65% of television's creative community admitted that TV was a major influence on social behavior. Of the "cream of the crop" among television's "most experienced and respected members," 93% said they seldom ever, or never, attended religious services. The devil got his claws into the television industry some four decades ago and has not let go yet, nor does it look like he will do so anytime in the near future.

And now comes our modern age of personal computers, and our unlimited and unrestricted access to the "super highway." So far it is "no holds barred," and while we argue with ourselves over what constitutes censorship, or how to define pornography, young and innocent minds are being overwhelmed by the evil side of that promising means of communication. Some years ago I had an occasion to visit with a sister in Christ who was then facing the sunset years of her life. Preceded in death by her husband of more than 60 years, Mary would soon depart this life to be with her Lord. As we visited and reflected upon the years of wisdom and experience now behind her, she commented, "Tom, you would not believe the changes I have seen in my lifetime, and most of them are not for the good." Yes, sister Casey, I would believe the changes. I have seen enough in my lifetime to make me hang my head and blush at the sins of our beloved America. At times it almost seems to overwhelm me. It would be easy to become discouraged at it all. And then I think: The only thing that has really changed is man's capacity and not his propensity to sin. Modern technology simply provides the avenues by which sinful man can exercise his evil desires. There may be more opportunities for sin, but as Solomon reminded us, "there is nothing new under the sun."

Tom Wacaster

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. 20	2 Peter 1-3
Mar. 21	1 John 1-3
Mar. 22	1 John 4-5
Mar. 23	2 John, 3 John & Jude
Mar. 24	Revelation 1-3
Mar. 25	Revelation 4-6
Mar. 26	Revelation 7-9
Mar. 27	Revelation 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)*



“Old Time

Gospel Singing”

March 26, 2016 6:00pm

Remember the Singings we used to have?
Let's start a new (old) tradition!

4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 Fourth Street
Brownwood, Texas

Gospel Meeting

March 27-30, 2016

“Great Things About Christianity”

4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 Fourth Street
Brownwood, Texas

Service Times & Topics

Saturday (3/26)	6:00pm	Old Time Gospel Singing
Sunday	9:45am	The Greatest Love
	10:40am	The Greatest Book
	6:00pm	The Greatest Chapter
Monday	7:00pm	The Greatest Verse
Tuesday	7:00pm	The Greatest Mission
Wednesday	7:00pm	The Greatest Decisions

Lunch will be provided after services Sunday Morning.
Snacks & fellowship after Monday & Tuesday evening services.

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

	Mar. 6, 2016	Mar. 13, 2016
Bible Class	44	44
AM Worship	77	64
PM Worship	42	39
Wednesday PM	49	41
Contribution	\$2,537	\$1,566

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/20/16		Next Week: 3/27/16		March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group April 2016 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: M&P Bannister / Greer Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	John Barnum*, Randy Huckaby Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Johnny McCaghren		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Joe Dennis	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 23 Allen Griffith	March 30 Gospel Meeting	April 6 Prayer Night	April 13 Tom Wilcox

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 20, 2016

Sunday Class Acts 23:12ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
 Wednesday Class Authority & Inspiration of the Bible

<p style="text-align: center;">Rejoice In The Lord</p> <p><i>"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4)</i> As members of the Lord's church we truly have reason to "Rejoice always."</p> <p>I. PAUL HAD REASONS TO REJOICE.</p> <p>A. Paul Rejoiced in the Philippians' Faithfulness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>It was a joy for him to pray for them</u> (1:4). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joy in that prayer was not out of sorrow for their sins. To Paul, praying for fellow Christians was a joy and not a burden. <u>Paul had great joy in knowing the church at Philippi was united.</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They were standing firm with the same attitude, the same way of thinking, and working together to accomplish the same goal (1:27). Paul found no joy through so-called "unity in diversity." "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psa. 133:1). <u>Paul could rejoice in anticipation of the joy that would come by seeing these brethren in heaven.</u> <p>B. Paul Rejoiced in the Spiritual Over the Physical.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Paul was able to rejoice because he knew his imprisonment glorified God and was beneficial to the church.</u> <u>Paul rejoiced in Christ Jesus and had no confidence in the flesh</u> (3:3). <p>C. Paul Rejoiced in having Fellow Laborers.</p> <p>II. PAUL GAVE REASONS FOR THE PHILIPPIANS TO REJOICE.</p> <p>A. Rejoice Because You Are in Christ.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Six times they are told to rejoice in the Lord</u> (1:26; 2:29; 3:1,3; 4:4,10). Paul was not simply telling them who could give them joy – but also where they had to be in order to have true joy. The Philippians could rejoice because they were in Christ. <p>B. Rejoice Because He Is Coming For You.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>They can rejoice in the coming of the Lord.</u> <u>The resurrection (tied to His coming) is a reason for them to rejoice.</u> <p>III. WE HAVE REASONS TO REJOICE IN SUFFERING.</p> <p>A. Rejoice Because We Have Help In Our Sufferings (Psa. 55:22).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>When Jesus was suffering, He turned to God in prayer.</u> <u>We also have our fellow Christians to comfort us.</u> <p>B. Rejoice Because Our Sufferings Are Only Temporary.</p> <p>C. Rejoice Because We Have Hope Beyond The Grave.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning Jesus the Christ</p> <p>I. Some teach that Jesus never existed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thousands of copies of the Greek New Testament Scriptures. The Jewish historian Josephus, and the Babylonian <i>Talmud</i>. Jesus is mentioned in several Roman historical documents. <p>II. Some teach that Christ was created.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Isa. 43:10 <i>Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.</i> John 1:1-3 <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.</i> What about Colossians 1:15 and Revelation 3:14? <p>III. Some deny the virgin birth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "How can a woman who has not known a man give birth to a child?" Some say Matthew is the only writer who mentions the virgin birth. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Isa. 7:14 <i>Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son.</i> Luke 1:34-35 <i>Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"</i> ³⁵... "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...." <p>IV. Some teach that Jesus was married.</p> <p>V. Some teach Jesus was not raised from the dead.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jehovah's Witnesses believe only Jesus' essence was raised from the dead – not the physical body. Matt. 16:18 <i>...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.</i> 1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-28, 32b. John 5:28-29 <i>...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth...</i> <p>VI. Some teach a strictly benevolent Christ.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They see Jesus as a loving, compassionate person, who went about doing good – but one who would never punish human beings. Jesus spoke clearly of the lost who are in danger of judgment and hell. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Matt. 5:22 <i>...in danger of the judgment. ...in danger of hell fire.</i> Matt. 7:23 <i>...depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!</i> Jesus described His role as the king who judges (Matt. 25:31-46). The wicked will not stand in the day of Lamb's wrath (Rev. 6:15-17; 14:9-10). We would never minimize the tender, loving nature of the Son of God – but it is a perversion of truth to deny that He will judge His enemies.
--	---