

# 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



April 10, 2016

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 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

## UNDERSTANDING GRACE #3 (GRACE EXCLUDES BOASTING)

Salvation by the grace of God is one of the great themes of the book of Romans. As you read the following verses, think of grace as "God's good will toward men." Romans 3:23-24, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." 4:2-5, "For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." 4:14-16, "For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all." 5:1-2, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." 5:14-15, "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many." 5:17, "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." 5:20-21, "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." 11:5-6, "Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."

Romans must be read in the context of the teaching and thinking of the times. Paul is not writing to refute the teachings of the old Law (the Law of Moses), for that was indeed the Law of God given at Mt. Horeb (Deut. 5:1-3). And, Paul is not writing to refute the idea of the law of God itself. Rather, Paul is writing to refute a popular error that many Jews had come to believe about the old Law. They looked to the Law of Moses as a way for them to be justified in God's sight. Romans 2:17 says, "Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,"

In their minds they thought that if they could learn to keep the Law of Moses perfectly, then they would be worthy of God's salvation. If that were so or if that were even possible, there was no need for the blood of Christ or the New Covenant; there would be no need for grace at all; they would be justified by their own works under the Law. It is easy to see how a doctrine like this would lead to the kind of pride and boastfulness that Paul condemns. In contrast, grace excludes boasting. Romans 3:27, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith." Grace excludes boasting, but it does not exclude all law. There are two laws in Romans 3:27, the "law of works" and the "law of faith." To say we are justified by faith means we are justified by the "law of faith." The law of works was the doctrine held by the Jews. As we have already written, it was their doctrine (belief) that they could merit their salvation by keeping the Law of Moses. The "law of faith" is the law of God that says we are saved by grace when we believe and obey the Gospel.

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"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him,...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,...."

Philippians 3:7-10

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.



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There is a great contrast between the Jew's law of works and God's law of faith; so also, there is a great difference in a doctrine that teaches that salvation is earned through your own proud works and in the doctrine that teaches that salvation is a gift received upon humble obedience to God.

Grace excludes boasting, but **grace does not exclude obedience.** Every time Paul mentions "faith" in the book of Romans it is in the context of a humble obedient faith. Paul began his epistle with "obedience to the faith." He writes, "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ.... Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name" (vs. 1,5). Paul worked and preached among the Gentiles, not just so men would believe, but that they would trust and obey – "obedience to the faith."

In Romans 15:15-19, Paul writes that he was preaching to make the Gentiles obedient. "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient – in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." To fully preach the Gospel of Christ is to preach obedience to Christ.

The last Paul writes of faith in Romans it is concerning "the obedience of faith." Romans 16:25-26, "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith."

Faith in the book of Romans does not exclude obedience. Instead, Romans begins with obedient faith and it ends with obedient faith. Everything it says about grace is in the context of obedient faith. In Romans 1:8 it says, "...your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world," and then says in Romans 16:19, "For your obedience has become known to all." The Romans did not have a reputation of "faith only." Their reputation was of "obedient faith." There is no contrast between faith and obedience in the book of Romans.

Grace excludes boasting, but **grace does not exclude the consequences of disobedience.** Romans not only teaches the necessity of obedience, it also teaches the consequences in store for those who "do not obey the truth." Romans 2:5-11, "But in accordance with

your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God."

Grace excludes boasting, but **grace does not exclude calling on the name of the Lord, and neither does grace exclude obeying the Gospel.** Paul does not just talk about believing the Gospel; he also talks about obeying the Gospel. I used to hear preachers on the radio talk about believing the Gospel, but only a few would talk about obeying the Gospel. When I heard a preacher talk about "obeying the Gospel" I was pretty sure I was listening to a Gospel preacher, because they were the only ones that talked that way. When they spoke of "obeying the Gospel" they were speaking as "the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

Romans 10:9-17 says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Notice in the paragraph above that men were to **hear, believe, call on the name of the Lord, and they would be saved.** Paul was not teaching salvation by "faith only" because in verses 13-14 he put "call on the name of the Lord" between "believe" and "saved." Then in verses 16-17 he put "obeyed the Gospel" between "salvation" and "faith." So, "call on the name of the Lord" in Romans 10:13 becomes "obeyed the gospel" in Romans 10:16. Either way you say it, neither are excluded by grace.

Grace excludes boasting, but **grace does not exclude obedience from the heart, and neither does grace exclude baptism.** Romans 6:14-18 says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are

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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

**April 10** Matthew 27-28

**April 11** Mark 1-3

**April 12** Mark 4-6

**April 13** Mark 7-9

**April 14** Mark 10-12

**April 15** Mark 13-14

**April 16** Mark 15-16

**April 17** Luke 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)



**Visitation Meeting**

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **23 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ There will be **no Ladies Bible class this Wednesday** (4/13). Next Wednesday (4/20) will be the last class until the fall, and will be followed by a meal together at an area restaurant.
- ◆ There will be ongoing construction/remodeling at the building over the next few weeks. Please be patient, as we may be inconvenienced at times during this process.

**Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart**

- ◆ August 9—We host area Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

**Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

- ◆ April 17-21—Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main [San Angelo] (Michael Light)
- ◆ April 21-23—Academy of Christian Studies (ACS) Class: “*God Centered Preaching and Teaching*” (Mike Vestal)—Dripping Springs, TX
- ◆ April 22-24—Lovely Lectures
- ◆ April 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Gordon (Jessie Dickison)
- ◆ April 30—Ladies Day @ Comanche (flyer on board)
- ◆ April 30-May 5—Focal Point—San Marcos, TX.
- ◆ May 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton (Rick Popejoy)
- ◆ May 14—Men’s Day @ Hamlin (Mike Bonner)
- ◆ May 21—Ladies Day @ Hamlin (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship University—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “*The Bible and Archaeology*” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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*not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” Notice, they were slaves of sin “before” they obeyed; they were slaves of righteousness “after” they obeyed; and they were freed from sin “when” they obeyed. Verse 17, “yet you **obeyed** from the heart that **form** of doctrine to which you were delivered.” A “form” is a mold that is shaped like the end product. It is used when pouring concrete, or for casting metal in a foundry, or for stamping plastics. The “doctrine” Paul delivered was the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The “form” of that doctrine is explained in Romans 6:3-4, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Many of us know, intuitively if not otherwise, that religion is no substitute for righteousness, but learn this also, righteous living by itself is not a substitute for obeying the Gospel. If it were, then we could be justified by works, but salvation is not of works because it is of grace.*

The book of Romans teaches that grace excludes boasting, but...

**Grace Does Not Exclude:**

- **The law of faith,**
- **Obedience to the faith,**
- **The consequences of disobedience,**
- **Obeying the truth,**
- **Calling on the name of the Lord,**
- **Obeying the gospel,**
- **Obeying from the heart that form of doctrine delivered you,**
- **Being buried with him in baptism.**

Hear it! Grace does not exclude baptism. God saves man by grace, WHEN man obeys God by faith.

*Bill Boyd* (Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 27, Num. 3 [Mar. 2016], pp. 21,22)

**Celebrate**

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

**April Birthdays:** Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), **Darlene Smith (10)**, Caroline Dennis (30).

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



**Records**

	Mar. 27, 2016	Apr. 3, 2016
Bible Class	52	36
AM Worship	67	58
PM Worship	53	31
Wednesday PM	52	46
Contribution	\$2,347	\$1,862

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 4/10/16		Next Week: 4/17/16		<b>April 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> M&P Bannister / Greer <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group  <b>May 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Joe Dennis Family <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Fuller / Stultz	Dennis Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Bland, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Don Smith	James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 13 Tom Wilcox	April 20 Don Smith	April 27 Joe Dennis	May 4 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 April 10, 2016

Sunday Class ..... , ..... Acts 24:24ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies  
Wed. Class ..... Man's Problem—Sin; God's Solution—Jesus Christ

<p><b><u>The Man of God as seen in Philippians – Part 2 (Chapters 3-4)</u></b></p> <p>III. The Man of God...Is Sound (3:1-21).</p> <p>A. By Remaining Aware of False Teachers (3:1-2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The man of God must achieve four goals in order that he not be deceived by false teaching.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize his position as being "in the Lord."</li> <li>Follow the written things (i.e., scripture).</li> <li>Realize that such activity is "safe."</li> <li>Recall that he, too, was once deceived.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. By Recalling One's Past (3:3-11).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The man of God is the true Israel and does not follow a sinful past devoted to other religious or "fleshly" systems (3).</li> <li>Men of God don't care for earthly titles, academic pursuits, nor worldly honor; but for the resurrection and reward offered by Christ (9-11).</li> </ol> <p>C. By Reaching For Heaven (3:12-21).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men of God are always realistic about their status before God and are ever pushing ahead toward the goal of heaven.</li> <li>The goal for Paul was singular – "one thing I do" (13).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul knew that in order to reach his goal of heaven – one thing had to be uppermost in his mind.</li> <li>Paul desired that all of his beloved brothers and sisters in Christ would have the same singular purpose in life (15).</li> </ol> </li> <li>The "how" of such a walk is to follow apostolic teaching/example (17).</li> <li>The man of God realizes that in heaven lies his true citizenship (20).</li> </ol> <p>IV. The Man of God...Is Serene (4:1-23).</p> <p>A. From Steadfast Joy (4:1-4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus taught that thoughts determine life (Matt. 12:34-37).</li> <li>The man of God finds serenity in the unity of brothers/sisters (2).</li> <li>Serenity also comes from the true joy of helping others (3).</li> </ol> <p>B. From Self-Control (4:5).</p> <p>C. From Suppliant Prayer (4:6-7).</p> <p>D. From Sober-Mindedness (4:8-13).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The man of God will achieve the serene life by doing right (9).</li> <li>From standing fast, helping others, prayer, and right-thinking (10-13).</li> </ol> <p>E. From Savior-Centered Strength (4:9-23).</p> <p>The man of God's purpose is the upward pull of Christ to God (3:13-14).</p>	<p><b><u>Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning the Bible</u></b></p> <p>I. Some believe that the Bible is not inspired.</p> <p>A. If the Bible is of such a nature that it could not be produced by man – then it must have a source greater than man – God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bible's own claim – "All Scripture is breathed out by God..." (2 Tim. 3:16 ESV).</li> <li>Its amazing unity.</li> <li>Complete, accurate fulfillment of prophecy.</li> <li>Impartiality.</li> <li>Indestructibility.</li> <li>Higher code of conduct.</li> </ol> <p>II. Some teach that the natural man cannot understand Bible.</p> <p>A. Their proof texts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Peter 1:20-21 "...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,...."</li> <li>1 Cor. 2:14 "...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God...nor can he know them,...."</li> </ol> <p>B. Eph. 3:1-4 "...by revelation He made known to me the mystery...by which, when you read, you may understand..."</p> <p>III. The Catholic church gave us the Bible.</p> <p>A. "And since the books of the Bible constituting both the Old and the New Testament were determined solely by the authority of the Catholic Church, without the Church there would have been no Bible, and hence no Protestantism." (The Faith of Millions, p. 10).</p> <p>B. Matt. 24:35 "...My words will by no means pass away."</p> <p>C. 1 Peter 1:25 "But the word of the Lord endures forever" (quoting Isa. 40:8).</p> <p>D. Where was the Catholic church when the Old Testament was being written? How did these books become canonical?</p> <p>E. Where was the Catholic church when the New Testament was being written? How did these books become canonical?</p> <p>F. The books of the Bible are canonical because they are inspired! And no church gives inspiration – the Holy Spirit does!</p> <p>G. If the Bible is a Catholic book, why does it nowhere mention the Catholic church, or many of its practices and doctrines?</p>
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