

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 17, 2016

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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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

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

Knowability of God

The **knowability of God** is a topic in Christian theology that deals with the degree to which God can be known by mankind. Some religions contend that He cannot be known, sometimes arguing that God is so unique from humanity that it is absurd to think that finite humans can relate or know Him in *any* significant way. Christians, however, contend that although we cannot fully know everything about God, since He has chosen to reveal Himself to His creatures in a variety of ways we can know Him personally, meaningfully, and significantly, in a limited but ever-increasing way throughout eternity.

God cannot be known exhaustively

Scripture does reveal that God can never fully be known. The Psalmist tells us that "*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable*" (Psalm 145:3). Paul adds to this idea, observing that "*the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God,*" and later notes that, "*no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God*" (1 Corinthians 2:10-12). David further emphasizes this when he says that, "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it*" (Psalm 139:6; cf. 17). This idea is ultimately summed from the very mouth of God,

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)


How God can be known

Although God cannot be known completely, we can know *true* things about Him. For example, we know that God is love (1 John 4:8), God is light (1 John 1:5), God is spirit (John 4:24), and that God is just or righteous (Romans 3:26). These aspects of God have been revealed to us in Scripture. However, more than mere facts can be known about God.

"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Scripture tells us that we can know more than facts about God – we can actually know Him as a personal being! Even more, what this passage tells us is that our source of joy should come from knowing God and not from our riches, wisdom, or might. Another significant passage comes from the Gospel of John, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent*" (John 17:3). John later writes in his epistle, "*I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father*" (1 John 2:13). God can be known, and in knowing God we should take great joy, for by knowing God, we can pray to Him, hear Him, and commune in His presence.

(<http://www.theopedia.com/knowability-of-god>)

 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" **Acts 17:26-28**

Who Is God?

In Genesis 1, we learn that God created all that we know, including ourselves. However, do we really understand who is God? Perhaps this is more difficult than you would think. Can we truly understand a being who can create an entire universe in just six days? We may not be able to grasp everything about God, but God has told us several things about Himself in the book that He has given us.

In Genesis 1:26 we read, "*Let Us make man in Our image.*" The use of plural pronouns is not an indication of royalty. Kings in the Bible usually used singular pronouns when referring to themselves, as in 2 Kings 19:21-31. The pronouns are plural because God is actually three beings. In fact, the Hebrew word for God is a plural noun. A plural noun is word in singular form that refers to multiple objects. For example, a herd refers to a group of cows, a flock refers to a group of birds, or a family refers to a group of related people.

There are a number of verses to show that God is composed of three beings. When a person is baptized, they are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). During Jesus' baptism as recorded in Matthew 3:16-17, we can see all three. Jesus is coming up out of the water; He is the Son. God, the Father, speaks from heaven. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit is coming down from Heaven in the form of a dove. Another verse referring to all three is in 2 Corinthians 13:14. Let us look at each in detail.

The Father is God. In teaching us to pray, Jesus address His prayer to "*our Father, who is in heaven.*" James 3:9 talks about God, even the Father. In Isaiah 64:8, we read about the Lord who is our Father. This brings up one of the confusions when talking about God. Sometimes the word "*God*" is in reference to all three beings acting as one. At other times, "*God*" refers specifically to the Father. The reason for this ambiguity is the fact that the Father is head of the group we call God. As a result, the Father and the Godhead are inseparable.

In addition, Jesus, the Son, is also God. In John 1:1,14, John talks about Jesus coming to earth in a human form. Jesus is called the Word (in verse 14) and the Word is God (in verse 1). Often in the Bible, Jesus is called the Son of God. If someone is a son, then they are also of the same family. I am a Hamilton and my sons are Hamiltons as well. We also see that Jesus is a part of deity by the various names He is given. In Matthew 1:23, Jesus is called Immanuel, which means "*God with us.*" In Isaiah 9:6, there is a long list of names for the coming Messiah, whom we know as Jesus. Among those names are "*Mighty God*" and "*Everlasting Father.*" If none of these verses convince you, Paul makes a very clear statement in Romans 9:5 when he calls Jesus, "*the eternally blessed God.*"

The Holy Spirit, too, is God. In Genesis 1:2, He is referred to as the

Spirit of God. He resides in heaven. Jesus told His disciples that He would return to heaven and send the Spirit (John 16:7-8). The Spirit is also eternal, just as the Father and Son are eternal (Hebrews 9:14). In 1 Peter 3:18, we are told that Jesus was resurrected by the power of the Spirit, but in Acts 2:24 Peter says that it was God who raised Jesus. Peter is not contradicting himself. The Holy Spirit is God.

There is one God (the Father), one Lord (the Son), and one Spirit (the Holy Spirit) in whom we believe (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Even though God is composed of three beings, they are so united in their will that they can be counted as one being. In His prayer just before His death, Jesus prayed that His disciples (that is you and I) be one, just as God and Jesus are One (John 17:20-21). They are united, but with distinct personalities. In John 10:30, Jesus clearly states that He and His Father are One. Some people have some difficulty with this, but we have many examples of groups of people acting as one. A husband and wife are two distinct people, but when they are married they become one entity – a couple (Matthew 19:4-6). We speak of a company, such as Kodak, deciding to sell more stock. Well, by Kodak, we are actually referring to the board of directors of Kodak. They are many people, but together they make decisions for the company as a whole. This is why we say that God, as a whole, is One (1 Corinthians 8:4, Romans 3:30, Galatians 3:20).

We understand in most units, the individual parts perform different roles. In a marriage, the husband has different responsibilities than the wife, but together they accomplish a single purpose. God is made of three beings who fulfill different roles.

God, the Father, is the head of the Godhead. My grandfather worked in construction and he would refer to the Father as the owner. Everything in the universe belongs to Him. The Father planned the creation (Jeremiah 51:14-15; Psalm 33:9). In John 14:28 we read that the Father is greater than the Son. He also knows more than Jesus (Mark 13:32). Only the Father, not Jesus, not the Spirit, but only the Father knows when this world will end because the world belongs to Him and it is His choice to determine its conclusion. The Father also planned our redemption from sin (Ephesians 1:8-11; 2 Timothy 1:9).

God, the Son, can be viewed as the architect. As a son, Jesus is in submission to the Father, but this does not limit his deity. The worlds were made by Jesus and for Him (Hebrews 1:2,10; Colossians 1:16). While Jesus is not directly mentioned in the Creation account, He was there. John in John 1:1 calls Jesus, the Word. In each day of creation, God spoke and it became real. Jesus was the spoken Word. Even though Jesus is God, He willingly submitted to

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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 17 Luke 1-3

April 18 Luke 4-6

April 19 Luke 7-9

April 20 Luke 10-12

April 21 Luke 13-15

April 22 Luke 16-18

April 23 Luke 19-21

April 24 Luke 22-24

"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 **29 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ From the Elders—Children’s Library.
We have several things beginning this summer in our Children’s Education Department. One thing that is very exciting is the Children’s Library. It will be located in the front part of Room 6. We hope to have it ready for use in June. The library will have books for children and teens. There will also be incentives for the children to read this summer. More information to come.

If you have any books that are suitable for children or teens, and would like to donate them, we would appreciate it. We want books that are true to the Bible stories, or teach a good moral lesson (for example: The Berenstain Bears have a book that teaches the importance of telling the truth). A committee will approve the books before they are placed in the library (no bad language, inappropriate pictures, etc.).

If you would like to donate books, contribute money to purchase books, or be a “READING DETECTIVE”, please see Cindy Proud.

- ◆ Ladies Bible Class will meet Wednesday morning for the last time this spring. Following class, all are invited to share a meal together at an area restaurant.
- ◆ The carpet layers plan to start May 2, and the work will take most of the week. Please continue to be patient with the ongoing construction/remodeling, 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 7—Cherokee Day 2016—Cherokee Home for Children
- ◆ 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

(Continued from page 2)

the Father's will and became a man (Philippians 2:5-11; John 6:38). His purpose in coming was to free us from Satan's power, something that we could not do on our own (Hebrews 2:14-18). Our freedom was bought by Jesus offering Himself in our stead (John 4:34; Ephesians 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Peter 1:18-20). Because of His willing sacrifice, Jesus has become the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23). He will lead the church until the end of time. Then He will deliver the church to the Father for all eternity (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

God, the Spirit, also was present at the creation (Genesis 1:2). The world was powered and shaped by the Spirit. In our illustration, you can view the Spirit as the builder. He completed the creation and set it into motion (Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30; Genesis 2:7). It is the Spirit who is involved in the delivery of God's will to mankind. Jesus sent the Spirit into the world after His death (John 16:7). The Spirit's purpose in coming was many fold (John 16:8-14). He reproved the world, showing people where they came up short in God's sight. He guided the Apostles into all truth so they could accurately spread Jesus' teachings (Ephesians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10). Like Jesus, the Spirit only taught the things the Father approved. And finally, the Spirit brought glory to Jesus. He did so by resurrecting Jesus and supporting the miracles the disciples did to support their teachings. In Ephesians 1:13-14, the Spirit is described as our guarantee of our salvation. The word guarantee in these verses means "earnest money" or a "down payment." It is by the Holy Spirit's efforts that we have our Bibles. Within this book, the Spirit has promised salvation to those who follow after God's will. As a result, He stands a witness of our salvation when we are obedient to God (Romans 8:16).

It is difficult to describe our Creator. His vastness and great power defies the thoughts of man. We cannot fully understand Him, but I hope that this short lesson will give you a further appreciation of our God and Savior.

(lavistachurchofchrist.org/LVstudies/Genesis/06_god.htm)

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

	Apr. 3, 2016	Apr. 10, 2016
Bible Class	36	45
AM Worship	58	60
PM Worship	31	46
Wednesday PM	46	43
Contribution	\$1,862	\$2,056

This Week: 4/17/16		Next Week: 4/24/16		April 2016 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: M&P Bannister / Greer Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group May 2016 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Joe Dennis Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Allen Bland, John Barnum	Allen Griffith*, Ryan Rudloff Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 20 Don Smith	April 27 Joe Dennis	May 4 Allen Griffith	May 11 Prayer Night

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 17, 2016

Sunday Class , Acts 25:13ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies
Wed. Class Man's Problem—Sin; God's Solution—Jesus Christ

Who Is God?

I. Who is God?

- A. It is important to understand God as He is presented in Scripture.
 1. "The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him – and of her." (A. W. Tozer – *The Knowledge of the Holy*)
 B. The basis of our understanding of God lies in how we understand the Bible – in which He has revealed Himself to us.
 1. General revelation refers to the fact that all of creation serves as a witness to the existence of its Creator (cf. Romans 1:19-20).
 2. Special revelation consists of anything from the supernatural realm.
 C. God's attributes are often classified in two categories:
 1. Incommunicable attributes are those that He alone possesses.
 2. Communicable attributes are those that both God and man share.
 D. Each one of God's attributes must be considered as part of the whole.
 E. God is "heavy" – *kabed* – a person worthy of recognition and respect.

II. God is Incomprehensible.

- A. Knowing God is not an easy task – He is infinite; we are finite.
 1. Aids to help us in our quest.
 a. He created us in His image.
 b. God speaks to us in language that we understand.
 2. We have limitations in our understanding of God due to the nature of our existence.
 a. We are limited by our minds.
 b. We are limited by our own selfishness.
 c. We are limited by the revelation we have received.
 B. Nevertheless – God is a God of revelation.
 1. Christianity is a revealed religion.
 2. God has revealed an incredible amount of information about Himself.
 3. Consider Job's struggle with the incomprehensibility of God.
 C. There is a benefit in being unable to fully understand God.
 1. We will never exhaust our understanding of Him.
 2. The incomprehensibility of God should push us to ever-increasing intensity of investigation.
 D. While God is ultimately incomprehensible – He wants His creation to know Him.

False Doctrines Concerning the Nature of Man

I. Some teach that a baby is born in sin.

- A. Verses misused to try and prove this false doctrine: Psalm 14:2-3; 51:5; 58:3; Ephesians 2:3.
 B. Bible answers: Genesis 8:21; Acts 17:28; Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 18:3; 2 Samuel 12:23.

II. Some teach that man does not have a soul.

- A. They misuse certain verses to try to establish this false doctrine: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:19; 7:21-22; 37:35; Joshua 10:28,29 (KJV); Job 34:14-15; Ecclesiastes 9:5,10; Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 10:28.
 B. The Bible answer: Acts 17:28-29; Hebrews 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Ecclesiastes 12:7; John 11:26; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Genesis 35:18; 1 Peter 1:3-4.

III. Some teach theistic evolution. Cannot be true because:

- A. The Bible says Adam was the first man.
 B. It cannot explain Eve.
 C. It cannot explain where man acquired his soul.
 D. The Bible teaches catastrophism – evolution uniformitarianism.
 E. The Bible states that the heavens, the earth, the seas, and all that is in them were created in six days.
 F. It makes a liar out of Jesus the Savior, and His inspired writers.
 G. The Bible says everything brings forth after its own kind.

IV. Some teach man is not a free moral agent.

- A. Deuteronomy 1:39.
 B. Joshua 24:15.
 C. Isaiah 7:15-16.
 D. Matthew 18:3; 23:37.
 E. Proverbs 1:29.
 F. Revelation 22:17.
 G. John 5:40.
 H. Acts 13:46.
 I. Romans 6:16.