

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



June 12, 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.

God is Righteous

God is totally, absolutely, fundamentally righteous! Such a statement's a no-brainer, right? Right! But it's also a necessary statement, especially for the benefit of those who have weak faith. Knowing that God is righteous gives us confidence in all that He claims to be and in all of His teachings and in all of His assurances laid out for us in scripture.

God being *righteous* is closely akin to His being *just*. Interestingly, the ASV frequently translates "*righteous*" where the KJV reads "*just*." In fact, *righteousness* is the character or quality of being *right* or *just*. It essentially denotes God's faithfulness and truthfulness. Knowing that God is righteous allows us to know that we can trust Him implicitly.

Being righteous is not some minor attribute of God. It is a vital characteristic of His very identity. God is righteous by nature and not just some of the time; He is always righteous "*in all His ways*" (Ps. 145:17).

God's law for mankind is righteous (Rom. 8:3-4). His word that communicates His will is righteous (Ps. 119:123,138). Psalm 119 is the longest of all of the psalms. The importance and magnitude of God's word is highlighted in this psalm perhaps more than in any other text of scripture. His word is referred to, in some way, in every one of the 176 verses in this psalm with the exception of approximately five. The Bible is not just another book; it is a treatise on righteousness.

As God's word is righteous, it should not be surprising that His judgments, based upon His word, are also righteous. The apostle John wrote, "*true and righteous are Your judgments*" (Rev. 16:7). On that final day of reckoning mankind can take heart in knowing that the judge before Whom they will appear will be righteous beyond comparison, and He will have full and accurate knowledge of all facts pertaining to their lives. There will be no inequity in His judgments.

Righteousness is so fundamental to God's character that He cannot abide unrighteousness. Living unrighteously automatically disassociates a person from God (1 Jn. 1:5-6). One cannot live in sin and walk with God at the same time (1 Jn. 3:6-10). It's like oil and water, the two practices don't mix. The world needs to learn this lesson. Our culture has tried to clean up the image of unrighteousness. Committing fornication and even adultery are depicted as being good under given circumstances. Lying, cheating and stealing are OK, if conditions justify it. Such convoluted reasoning is influenced by the devil. "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...*" (Isa. 5:20).

God "*loves righteousness*" (Ps. 11:7), and He watches over the righteous (1 Pet. 3:12). We need to realize how imperative it is that we live righteous lives (1 Pet. 4:17-18). The unrighteousness of mankind is what sent Jesus to the cross (Rom. 5:8). We should never minimize the gravity of His sacrifice through a frivolous attitude about sin. Even the effectiveness of our prayers can be compromised by living unrighteous lives (Jas. 5:16).

God has not left us without hope. He will count us righteous as we are born again through baptism into Christ (1 Jn. 2:28-29; 1 Pet. 1:22-23). Then we can look forward to spending eternity with our righteous Heavenly Father in the land of the righteous.

Sunny Slope Church of Christ, 6/1/14 (churchofchrist.com)

"Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright are Your judgments. Your testimonies, which You have commanded, are righteous and very faithful. ... Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. ... The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live."

Psalm 119:137,138,142,144



should you take the LORD'S SUPPER if you feel unworthy?



1 Corinthians 11:27 warns Christians not to take the Lord's Supper "unworthily." And I've known many sincere and well-meaning Christians who have kept themselves from partaking of the Lord's Supper on a Sunday because they felt particularly "unworthy" that week. But does that passage really mean if you've sinned this week you have disqualified yourself from taking the Lord's Supper on Sunday? What exactly does it mean to eat and drink "unworthily"?

You ARE Unworthy

I appreciate the sincerity of those who have examined themselves and realized they have sinned previously that week or even earlier that day, and thus abstain from partaking in the Lord's Supper. But what bothers me is that when someone says this is their practice, they are implying there are Sundays on which they partake of the Lord's Supper because on those occasions they do feel worthy.

Consider that for a moment, how could we sincerely look at our lives and say, "Yep, I'm good! I'm worthy of partaking of the body and blood of Jesus." That type of attitude is the very opposite of the attitude with which we should approach the Table. We partake, not because we are worthy, but because we are unworthy.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:8-10).

We ought to come before Him – especially in that moment – confessing our unworthiness, not thinking to ourselves, "I think I'm worthy enough to partake this week."

In an Unworthy Manner

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 11:27, is not speaking of how "worthy" the Corinthians are to partake of the Supper. He is writing to admonish them about the *manner* in which they were taking it. Which is why the better translation reads,

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord" (NKJV).

In context, here are a few of the points Paul makes about how the church can take the Supper in an unworthy manner.

- In a manner that causes division (vs. 18-19, 22).
- In a manner that is self-indulgent (vs. 21).
- In a manner which is not in remembrance of Him (vs. 23-25).
- In a manner that does not proclaim His death (vs. 26).
- In a manner that is not self-examining (vs. 28).
- In a manner that does not discern (honor) the body and blood of Christ (vs. 29).

There certainly may be other ways Christians could profane the Lord's Supper and take of it in an unworthy manner, but feeling sorrow for your sin is not one of those ways.

How Can We Take the Lord's Supper in an Unworthy Manner?

When we make the Lord's Supper about anything other than Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sins, we take of it in an unworthy manner. When we do not approach the table with humility, thanksgiving, reverence, and commemoration, we take of it in an unworthy manner. This is why Paul gives such a strong warning about the manner in

(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

June 12 Hebrews 2-4

June 13 Hebrews 5-7

June 14 Hebrews 8-10

June 15 Hebrews 11-13

June 16 James 1-3

June 17 James 4—1 Peter 1

June 18 1 Peter 2-5

June 19 2 Peter 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 **33 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Summer Youth Series Tuesday evening at Rising Star.
- ◆ VBS @ Dublin this week (Mon.-Thur.), 6-8pm. Classes for children thru adult. Flyer on bulletin board.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 9—We host area Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.
- ◆ October 29—2nd Annual Ladies Day.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship U.—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 10—Teacher’s Workshop @ Cleburne.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 1—Ladies Day @ Dublin.
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Homecoming Lectureship @ Rising Star
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “*The Bible and Archaeology*” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

(Continued from page 2)

which we take of this memorial meal, saying,

“Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).

Feeling sorrow for your sins and committing yourself to repentance is the only way a person should take of the Lord’s Supper. This feeling is not what disqualifies you to partake; it is a prerequisite to partaking at all. If you cannot realize and admit your sinfulness, then you have no place at the Lord’s Table.

What if There is Ongoing Sin in My Life?

Some may ask, “What if there is some ongoing sin in my life? Does that disqualify me from taking the Lord’s Supper?” I would say the answer is even worse than that. If there is an ongoing sin in your life, a sin about which you have not repented, that disqualifies you from heaven (see Hebrews 10:26).

If you know what you’ve been doing is sinful and you have every intention of continuing in that sin (even for a little while), you must not think the only thing you’re disqualified from is the Lord’s Supper. In that state, you are forfeiting your salvation (see Romans 6).

So let us all repent of our sin, and in thanksgiving, proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes!

“Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you” (James 4:9-10).

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), **Shannon Dennis (13)**, Tiffany McCaghren (22), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (28).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 29, 2016	June 5, 2016
Bible Class	45	43
AM Worship	61	69
PM Worship	39	41
Wednesday PM	39	39
Contribution	\$2,205	\$1,915

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 6/12/16		Next Week: 6/19/16		June 2016 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group July 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Bannister Families	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Allen Bland Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, Larry Petty Caleb Dennis, James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 15 Joe Dennis	June 22 Allen Griffith	June 29 Tom Wilcox	July 6 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)

<i>Studies for the week of June 12, 2016</i>	<i>Sunday Class Romans: Introduction & Background</i> <i>Wed. Class What Church Did the 1st Century Converts "Join"?</i>
<p align="center"><u>God Is Righteous & Just</u></p> <p>What if there was no standard of righteousness, and justice was strictly up to the whims of the judge? What a horrible thought!</p> <p>I. Righteousness & Justice.</p> <p>A. Righteousness – conduct in keeping with moral excellence. B. Justice – punishing misbehavior according to established law. C. God's righteousness is His always acting in accordance with what is right and morally good. D. "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (Deut. 32:4). E. Sometimes we act outside of what should be our Christian character – God never acts outside of His character.</p> <p>II. The Price for Sin Must Be Paid.</p> <p>A. We are acquainted with instances where God punishes sin both immediately and severely (Nadab & Abihu, Ananias & Sapphira, etc.). B. There are two methods God employs to punish sin. 1. A visible punishment – the situations mentioned are of this type. 2. God may also punish invisibly – not readily apparent to the eye. a. Punishment doesn't take place in the offender's lifetime on earth. b. Punishment is located in either the past or the future. 1) When one is a faithful child of God – punishment is located in the past – laid on Jesus Christ at the cross. 2) When one refuses God's salvation – there yet remains a future punishment for them. C. We should be especially grateful for God's righteousness and justice in light of His omniscience and omnipotence. 1. Without those two attributes, God's righteousness would disappoint. 2. A horrible notion – an all-powerful, all-knowing God who is not perfectly righteous. 3. What would happen if God were fundamentally unrighteous?</p> <p>III. Imitate Me.</p> <p>A. Righteousness, for man, conforming to God's standards of goodness. B. Instead, we often avoid the concept of sin. C. The imagery of the church as the Bride of Christ. D. "Therefore be imitators of God" (Eph. 5:1). E. Justice – no crime goes unpunished when divine court is in session.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning the Church</u></p> <p>I. One church is as good as another. A. Ephesians 4:4-6. B. This argument is made because they see one denomination as being just as good as another – which is true. C. They make the argument that we are all going to heaven, so it does not matter which route we take. D. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."</p> <p>II. Jesus – yes; church – no. A. John 12:48. B. One cannot have the man without the plan (Luke 6:46).</p> <p>III. All churches comprise the one true church. A. They use the vine and the branches argument (John 15:1-7). 1. Notice the pronouns – Jesus is speaking of individuals. 2. There is not a church mentioned anywhere in this passage. B. They use the "hub, spokes and wheel argument." C. They say they are members of the Lord's church + a denomination.</p> <p>IV. The "Church of Christ" had its origin with Alexander Campbell. A. If one thing we believe or practice had its origin with Alexander Campbell – we should give it up. B. Alexander Campbell taught the following things – did they originate with him, or was he simply teaching what God taught? 1. One church (Eph. 4:5; 1:22-23). 2. Division is wrong (John 17:20-21). 3. Baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). 4. Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). 5. Faith only will not save (James 2:24,26).</p> <p>V. John the Baptist established the church. A. If so, it had no law (Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:16-17). B. If so, it was not paid for (Acts 20:28). C. If so, Jesus did not know it (Matt. 16:18). D. If so, John was not in it (Matt 11:11).</p> <p>VI. The church and the kingdom are not the same (Matt. 16:18-19).</p> <p>VII. The church is the building.</p> <p>VIII. Church succession.</p>