

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 26, 2016

Contact Us:

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

PARTIAL PREPARATION

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching all who would listen of the importance of preparation; the need to prepare oneself for a day of judgment. He uses several illustrations in the later part of His ministry showing us the true love of God, toward all souls who would be saved. In Matthew 24 he uses an illustration that is familiar to all, to show us the importance of watching and preparation. He tells of Noah and the flood, and those who just watched and did nothing to prepare for that day; *"And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be"* (Matt. 24:39). He continues His illustrations of people who make no preparation with the 'Good man of the house.' *"But know this that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore watch for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man comes"* (Matt. 24:43-44). Jesus contrasts the words *foolish* and *wise*, to try to get us to understand how one must not neglect his watching and preparation. He wants us to experience, through all of these illustrations the horror of the end of the unprepared. The *foolish virgins* were good people, just like our good friends and family. They did not appear to be a bunch of evil and corrupt individuals. They were good enough acquaintances of the *wise virgins* to ask for a loan of some oil for their lamps. Consider the end of these people; *"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slept. And at midnight there was a cry made. Behold, the bridegroom comes; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes"* (Matt. 25:1-13). Can you imagine the horror these experienced, when they finally realized that they were going to be left, forever? This realization of partial, or no preparation, is something to which we do not pay much attention, as we live our lives of privilege. At age sixty-two, I finally experienced what Jesus was illustrating all of my life, when I went to my physician and she told me that she was sending me to the hospital immediately. I hadn't prepared myself for this, my thoughts just would not allow this to come to my mind. I didn't have time for this, my thoughts just would not allow this to come to my mind. I didn't have time for this. I had many plans at home, and I was not ready to go. I had just prepared two good sermons to preach Sunday morning and Sunday evening. I had a Bible class to teach, I had to be home, to help Joy. I had cattle to feed. I had made plans to build a fence. I had a radio program to broadcast Monday night, visits to make. I am the head of the visitation program at the church, I am not ready to leave my life! But that door was shut, my foolishness and my lack of preparation for this day, became apparent, when I had planned all of the things I 'had to do,' but now will not be able to do, because that door is shut. Jesus is teaching us of the horror of a lack of spiritual preparation, which would be much more devastating than our simplistic worldly view of the physical part of life. Do not be counted among the foolish and allow that door to be shut, without being spiritually prepared to go into the *marriage feast*. Eliminate the horror, be wise and be prepared.

David Harris

Farewell our dear brother & friend! Until we meet again.

"This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

2 Thess. 1:5-8



The Boy Who Stayed Home

When we think of the parable in Luke 15, we inevitably think of the younger son who left home for the far country of sin. We appreciate God giving us the prodigal (reckless; wastefully extravagant) son in this parable to illustrate hope, love, and forgiveness, no matter what we may have done. Then we think of our favorite character in this story, the father. He represents God and reveals God's eagerness to embrace and restore a sinner who repents. He gives the undeserved, unexpected, and unanticipated (cf. Eph. 2:4-8).

Then, there's that other main character in the story. How does he strike you? After all, his brother has been reckless and irresponsible and his dad lets him off scot-free and even throws him a party. He robbed his father blind, and he isn't even punished one bit. How do you see the brother who stayed home? Let at the text more closely and see how God sees him.

He was guilty of self-righteousness. He complains to the father about the reception his brother received (29). With self-righteousness, there's an exaggerated view of our own goodness. There's an exaggerated view of the other guy's badness. There's a comparison where we come out on top of the other guy. There are often judgmental assumptions made about the other guy. Let's not forget that Jesus condemns self-righteousness (cf. Luke 18:10-14). If the Father walked up on some of our condescending conversations, He would spoil our fun since the spirit of self-righteousness is so far removed from the spirit of a loving Father who longs for His wayward children to come home.

He lacked self-control (28). He appears quick-tempered, not waiting for an explanation. We have the conversation between the younger son and the father, and the older son and the father. Where is the conversation between the two brothers? Didn't he claim to be the good, righteous one? There was no self-control in the way he talked to his father or about his brother. "If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

He was selfish. Why did he wring his hands about the younger brother's wasteful spending? The father, who knew

this son, answered, "All that I have is yours." There is no evidence that the older brother was concerned about his formerly depraved brother or his once-grieving father. He seems more interested in how these things impacted him. He appears faithful to his father, but for the wrong purpose. What difference would it have made if the older brother saw the prodigal as someone to serve rather than slam?

He had an unforgiving spirit. His brother has sinned against him, but he was unwilling to forgive him. One of the servants called him "your brother" (27), the father calls him "this brother of yours" (32), but the only time he directly refers to him he calls him "this son of yours" (30). Behind these parables, the Pharisees and scribes grumble at Jesus receiving sinners. In the first two parables, people sought the lost. In this last parable, the older brother made no effort to go after his brother. God implies as early as Cain and Abel that we are our brother's keeper (cf. Gal. 6:2; James 5:19-20). Not only did he not search for his brother, but now he won't forgive him.

He was jealous. He thought the father was better to his erring brother (29-30). You can almost hear him saying, "You love him more than you love me." He couldn't stand to see his brother honored. How contrary to the way God wants His children treating each other (Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:31-32). The older brother was making accusations and he hadn't even spoken to him. He thinks the worst of him and is utterly lacking in brotherly affection.

He was not humble, but rebellious against his father's will. He wanted to tell the father how to run his house. Do you notice the younger son respectfully addressing his father (21)? There's little if any respect from the older son (29-30). The Bible condemns self-will. Peter condemned those despising authority and the self-willed (2 Peter 2:10). Some people are loyal to the church as long as they can have their own way.

Some of us may find ourselves in the position of the prodigal. None of us will ever be in the position of the father. May we never find ourselves in the position of the boy who stayed home. If we do, we may lose our place in the father's house!

Neil Pollard (preacherpollard.wordpress.com)

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 26 Revelation 10-12

June 27 Revelation 13-15

June 28 Revelation 16-18

June 29 Revelation 19-20

June 30 Revelation 21-22

July 1 Matthew 1-3

July 2 Matthew 4-6

July 3 Matthew 7-9

"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 **28 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ No Summer Youth Series this week, due to camp.
- ◆ Johnny will be working at camp this week, but will be available if needed.
- ◆ Ladies Meeting—July 5—Jessica’s house—planning session for Ladies’ Day. Time TBA.

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 15-17—Gospel Meeting @ Smithfield (Ft. Worth—“Cross Examination: Examining the Testimony of the Witnesses” Tavaris Armstrong.
- ◆ July 16—Ladies’ Day @ Smithfield—“A Study of Psalm 51” Sandi Smith.
- ◆ 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

Many years ago I entered the wonderful temple of God’s revelation. I entered the portico of Genesis and walked down through the Old Testament Art Gallery where the pictures of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Joshua; Samuel and David and Daniel hung on the wall. I entered the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah; to the grand impassioned strains of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and harp in God’s organ of nature responded to the tuneful touch of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard, and passed into the conservatory of Sharon where the lily of the valley’s sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business room of the proverbs, and passed into the observatory room of the prophets where I saw many telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far off events but all concentrated upon the Bright and Morning star which was soon to rise over the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience room of the King of kings and caught a vision from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I entered the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His office work in the forming of the church. I passed into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James, Jude and John penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks. I got a vision of the King seated upon His throne in all His glory and I cried, “All hail the power of Jesus name, Let angels prostrate fall, Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.”

Anonymous

Celebrate

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

July Birthdays: David Greer (6/26), Stormy Barnum (6/27), Ashley Kahlich (6/28), Laura Huckaby (6), Jason Warman (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: David & Lisa Greer (6/28), Allen & Karen Bland (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | June 12, 2016 | June 19, 2016 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bible Class | 42 | 44 |
| AM Worship | 54 | 67 |
| PM Worship | 41 | 45 |
| Wednesday PM | 44 | 44 |
| Contribution | \$1,813 | \$1,941 |

| This Week: 6/26/16 | | Next Week: 7/3/16 | | 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 | Song Leader: Joe Dennis | | |
| Greeters | John Barnum Family | Tom & Carol Wilcox | | |
| Opening Prayer | Joe Dennis | Allen Griffith | | |
| Communion | Randy Huckaby*, Allen Bland Hank Wheeler, Caleb Dennis | Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell John Barnum, Larry Petty | | |
| Closing Prayer | James Fuller | Gene Bannister | | |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell | Caleb Dennis | | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: Ken Maninger | Song Leader: Joe Dennis | | |
| Opening Prayer | Allen Griffith | Don Smith | | |
| Scripture Reading | Tom Wilcox | James Fuller | | |
| Communion | Randy Huckaby | Ken Maninger | | |
| Closing Prayer | Gene Bannister | Randy Huckaby | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | June 29 Tom Wilcox | July 6 Prayer Night | July 13 Don Smith | July 20 Joe Dennis |

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 June 26, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 1:5ff**
 Wed. Class **How can we identify the NT church today?**

God's Wrath

We know that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Can He also be a God of wrath?

I. Mr. Nice Guy?

- A. We are accustomed to ease.
 1. One of the products of this mindset is user-friendly religion.
 2. We dislike negativity – the less of it we have in religion, the better.
- B. We actively avoid a wrathful God – we prefer a god without teeth.

II. God, What Sharp Teeth You Have!

- A. God hates those activities that do not conform to His moral character.
- B. The "OT God was one of wrath, and the NT God is one of love."
- C. The wrath of God is very much present in the NT (Jn. 3:36; Rom. 1:18).
- D. Our reaction to sin tends to be rather overwhelming.
- E. Each sinful act requires atonement for the One who not only created the universe – but could also destroy it.

III. Wrath Restrained.

- A. "One of those days!" – we have all had them.
 1. Our anger is nearly always self-interested.
 2. God's wrath is always a perfectly righteous indignation.
- B. God's wrath has been feared since the Garden in Eden – however, Christians do not live in fear.
 1. Christ satisfied our penalty on the cross (Rom. 3:25-26).
 2. God cannot justly deliver a second punishment.

IV. Is A God Of Wrath A Good Thing?

- A. Being faced with God's wrath is a fearsome prospect.
- B. Facing the wrath of God has led some to engage in a kind of preemptive strike against themselves – monastic orders, etc.
- C. Like God's jealousy – the idea of wrath carries negative connotations.
 1. What kind of God would He be if He did not hate sin and act out against it?
 2. Anger is not the opposite of love – because love involves being angry at anything that harms those we love.
- D. A God who goes unaffected by sin would be fearsome indeed.
- E. God is consistent and does not play favorites.
- F. God's wrath is also tempered by justice and fairness.
- G. God may be wrathful – but His wrath is always holy and just.
- H. Reflecting on the wrath of God is vital for our Christian lives.

Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning Final Things (2)

I. Armageddon.

- A. "Mount of Megiddo" – the scene of numerous OT battles.
- B. Only mentioned one once (Rev. 16:16).
- C. Our battle is spiritual – not carnal (2 Cor. 10:3-5).
- D. What would Christ prove if He defeated the devil in a carnal warfare?
- E. The Megiddo valley is too small to hold the population of the world.

II. Revelation 20 – the Lord will come back and set up an earthly kingdom.

- A. It does not mention the second coming of Christ.
- B. It does not mention a bodily resurrection.
- C. It does not mention a reign on earth.
- D. It does not mention a literal throne of David.
- E. It does not mention Jerusalem or Palestine.
- F. It does not mention us.
- G. It does not mention Christ on earth.

III. Consequences of premillennialism.

- A. That one does not need Bible authority for what he teaches.
- B. That prophecies can be wrong.
- C. That God does not keep His promises.
- D. That God does not know all things.
- E. That the death of Christ was an accident.
- F. That the church was an accident.
- G. That the gospel was not planned.
- H. That Christ, John the Baptist, and the apostles were false teachers.
- I. That the Lord's Supper is a memorial to God's failures.
- J. That the new birth cannot be taught today.

IV. The Hadean realm.

- A. Once you and I are conceived in our mother's womb, we become eternal beings – we will forever exist somewhere.
 1. What a sobering thought!
 2. The question is "Where?"
- B. The Jehovah's Witnesses and others deny the hadean world.
- C. Luke 16:19-31