

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



July 31, 2016

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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

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

Conviction Crisis

"Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:41-42). *"For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus"* (Acts 21:13-14).

Jesus and Paul demonstrated their deep conviction and devotion to God by their willingness to suffer and die to do the will of God. Many early Christians like Stephen and James gave their lives for the cause of Christ. One wonders if American Christians today would sacrifice their lives for the Lord.

According to the U.S. Religious Landmark Survey published in June of 2008 by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, there are a number of puzzles about religious convictions in America and in churches of Christ.

While 98% of members of churches of Christ and 88% of all Americans are certain or fairly certain of God's existence, while 96% of members of churches of Christ and 82% of all Americans say their faith is very or somewhat important to them, and while 94% of members of churches of Christ and 81% of all Americans prayed to God at least a few times this month, far fewer showed strong convictions in their beliefs and practice.

For instance, only 73% of members of the churches of Christ attended church at least once in the last month, compared to 54% of all Americans.

Only 39% of members of the church of Christ would say their religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life, while 56% said many religions lead to eternal life. I read this fact broken-hearted. Do brethren doubt what Jesus said in John 14:6 and what Peter said in Acts 4:12? Are there not one gospel, one body, one faith and one baptism?

Among members of the church of Christ, 35% felt abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared to 51% of all Americans. Among churches of Christ, 31% felt homosexuality should be accepted, compared to 50% of all Americans. Why this lack of conviction? Why does our profession of faith in Christ not also pertain to beliefs and practice?

Among all Americans, only 29% rely mainly on their religious beliefs for guidance regarding right and wrong. Most trust their personal experiences. Why do people inside and outside the church compromise their convictions? They do so because they are listening to man and the culture, but not to God.

We need conviction if we are to pass our faith on to the next generation. We can no longer sit silently while the world succeeds in the decay of our faith and morals. Let us speak up for the Lord with love. Let's help people to see that God's way is the right way and the best way. Let's not let a crisis of compromised convictions destroy us.

Phil Sanders (*Labourers Together With God*, Vol. 21, Num. 4 [Sept. 2014], p. 4.)

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.." **Rom. 8:35-39**



"This Is the Law and the Prophets"

Most people who are familiar with the Bible would agree that Matthew chapters 5-7, often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount, contain some of the most memorable sayings in the world. Jesus' list of beatitudes (5:3-12), His instruction to "do to others what you would have them do to you" (7:12), and His parable of the wise man and the foolish man (7:24-27) often are recalled even by those who rarely read the Bible. When people implement these principles and rules that Jesus taught nearly 2,000 years ago, individuals grow stronger, families become more united, and society becomes a better place in which to live.

Sadly, however, the most famous "sermon" in the world also has become one of the most misunderstood and most abused sermons ever delivered. "Judge not, that you be not judged" (7:1) is quoted to "prove" that we never can judge anyone at anytime (cf. John 7:24). The narrow and difficult way to heaven that few will find often is discounted by the idea that nearly everyone will have eternal life (7:13-14). And millions of people have changed Jesus' statement, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven" (7:21), to "Just accept Jesus into your heart and you will be saved."

Another misconception of the Sermon on the Mount revolves around some of the contrasts Jesus made. Six times in Matthew 5 it is recorded that Jesus contrasted what "was said" to what "I say." Many believe that Jesus was contrasting the old law of Moses (what "was said") with the new law of Christ (what "I say"). Whereas Jesus taught that it was wrong to be angry with a brother without a cause (5:22-26), many contend that the old law taught only murder as being wrong and not the emotions (such as anger) that lead to murder (5:21). Supposedly the law of Christ went a step further than the Law of Moses. According to this line of thinking, the old law taught individuals to take personal retribution on those who wronged them (5:38) and to hate their enemies (5:43), while the new law taught to resist retaliation (5:39-42) and to love your enemies (5:44). In contrasting the Law of Moses and the righteousness of the kingdom that Jesus would require, the point frequently is made that the old law was concerned only with the actions of man, whereas the new law is concerned about the heart of man.

The first problem with this line of thinking is that Jesus never

said He was contrasting His teachings with the old law. Instead, Jesus made statements such as: (1) "you have heard that it was said to those of old" (5:21,27); (2) "furthermore it has been said" (5:31); (3) "again you have heard that it was said to those of old" (5:33); and (4) "you have heard that it was said" (5:38,43). If Jesus were referring to what Moses had commanded in the old law itself, likely a different wording would have been used. For example, at other times, when Jesus definitely was referring to what the law actually said, He made such statements as "it is written" (Matt. 4:4,7,10) and "Moses commanded" (Matt. 8:4). [Notice that these phrases occur in the chapters immediately before and after the Sermon on the Mount.] Instead of using phrases like these to show that He was referring to the Law of Moses, Jesus repeatedly spoke about what "was said." He never mentioned who said it, only that it had been said.

Another dilemma that arises when one teaches that Jesus merely was contrasting the old law with the new law is that Jesus referred to some statements that simply are not to be found in the Old Testament. For instance, in Matthew 5:21 He said, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment." The phrase "and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment" is found nowhere in the Old Testament. Likewise, when Jesus stated, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy,'" He could not have been quoting from the old law because the old law never said to "hate your enemy."

So what was Jesus doing if He was not contrasting the old law with the new law? The answer to this question is found in the immediate context of this passage where Jesus stated: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets, I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.... I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:17,20). The comparisons Jesus made throughout the rest of the chapter were between the traditional/oral interpretation and application of the Law of Moses (not the revealed written Law of Moses) and the righteousness of the kingdom that Jesus would require of His disciples (under the new law). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus expounded the real meaning of the original law as it was in-

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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

July 31 **John 19-21**

Aug. 1 **Acts 1-3**

Aug. 2 **Acts 4-6**

Aug. 3 **Acts 7-9**

Aug. 4 **Acts 10-12**

Aug. 5 **Acts 13-15**

Aug. 6 **Acts 16-18**

Aug. 7 **Acts 19-21**

"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

- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** Tuesday evening at **Stephenville**.
- ◆ There is a sign up sheet on the back table for when we **host the SYS next week**. Please sign up!
- ◆ First Sunday Fellowship Meal next Sunday.

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

- ◆ **August 3-5—VBS @ Hamilton** (flyer on board)
- ◆ **August 5-7—Discipleship U.—Dripping Springs** (flyer on board)
- ◆ August 12-14—Creation vs. Evolution Seminar @ Cleburne with Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press (flyer on board)
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 10—**Teacher's Workshop @ Cleburne** (flyer on board—**all teachers strongly encouraged to attend**)
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Sept. 18-22—Gospel Meeting @ San Angelo with Omari French
- ◆ Oct. 1—Ladies Day @ Dublin.
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat (info on board)
- ◆ 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

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tended. He applied it correctly, and *"the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes"* (Matt. 7:28-29). The scribes and Pharisees had failed in their attempts to explain the law correctly, whereas Jesus explained and applied its real meaning and exposed the error of the "learned." This point is illustrated perfectly by one of Jesus' statements recorded in chapter 7: *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the prophets"* (v.12). Jesus was not instituting a new commandment; rather He was explaining that doing *"to others what you would have them do to you"* is a summary expression of all that the Old Testament required (Barnes).

Although many people in the religious world teach that in His oft'-quoted sermon Jesus simply was contrasting the old law with the new law, the context indicates that Jesus actually was reacting, not to the law itself, but to the way the law had been misinterpreted and abused. The Old Testament did not encourage or allow a person to be angry with his brother without a cause or to covet another's wife (cf. Proverbs 6:18; Exodus 20:17), but, sadly, many of the Jews had interpreted the law in such a way. In His masterful explanation of the law, Jesus exposed the error of the scribes and Pharisees and preached the righteousness demanded of those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven. Even though we no longer are under the old law today (Heb. 8:7-13; Col. 2:14; etc.), what a blessing it is read it (cf. Rom. 15:4) and to learn from the Master's perfect interpretation of it. Like Ezra and others from long ago, Jesus "gave the sense [of the law], and helped them to understand the reading" (cf. Neh. 8:8).

Eric Lyons (apologeticspress.org)

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Bodhi Schlegelmilch (7), Joe Dennis (9), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), Brandi Kite (14), Royce Ford (16), Ryan Rudloff (20), Anita Alexander (25), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Chipper & Susan Bridges (1), Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), Terry & Pam Teague (16), Don & Darlene Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 17, 2016	July 24, 2016
Bible Class	55	48
AM Worship	71	73
PM Worship	38	47
Wednesday PM	41	43
Contribution	\$1,946	\$2,033

This Week: 7/31/16		Next Week: 8/7/16		July 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group August 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Joe Dennis Family Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Joe Dennis Family	Gene & Mike Bannister Families		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Gene Bannister*, Hank Wheeler Don Smith, Tom Wilcox	Randy Huckaby*, John Barnum Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Larry Petty	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 3 Prayer Night	August 10 Tom Wilcox	August 17 Don Smith	August 24 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 July 31, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 1:21ff**
 Wed. Class **How can we identify the NT church today?**

Jesus Loves Me

- I. "Jesus loves me – this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong."
 - A. I know Jesus loves me – because "the Bible tells me so."
 1. Both the Lord Jesus and God the Father love us (2 Thess. 2:16).
 2. He washed our sins away with His own blood (Rev. 1:5).
 - B.because "little ones to Him belong" (Mk. 10:13-16).
 - C.because "[I am] weak, but He is strong."
 1. God strengthens the weak (Isa. 40:28-31).
 2. When I am weak, then I am strong (2 Cor. 12:10).
- II. "Jesus loves me – He who died heaven's gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in."
 - A. "He who died heaven's gate to open wide" (John 14:6).
 1. He died for us (Rom. 5:8-11).
 2. It is a measure of how much God loves us (John 3:16).
 - B. "He will wash away my sin" (Eph. 5:25-27).
 - C. "let His little child come in" (Matt. 19:13-14).
- III. "Jesus loves the children dear, children far away or near; they are safe when in His care, every day and everywhere."
 - A. "Jesus loves the children dear, children far away or near."
 1. Jesus' love is for all people (Matt. 11:28-29).
 2. He died for all men (Rom. 5:18).
 - B. "They are safe when in His care, every day and everywhere" (Jn. 10:27-29; Rom. 8:33-39).
- IV. "Jesus, take this heart of mine, make it pure and wholly Thine; Thou hast bled and died for me; I will henceforth live for Thee."
 - A. "Jesus take this heart of mine, make it pure and wholly Thine."
 1. We know love because Jesus died for us (1 John 3:16).
 2. Jesus dwells in us – rooted in love (Eph. 3:17).
 3. We belong to Christ (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
 4. We live for the Lord (Rom. 14:7-9).
 5. We change and are purified (Titus 2:11-14).
 - B. "Thou hast bled and died for me" (Matt. 26:28; Isa. 50:6; 53:5; John 10:15, 17-18).
 - C. The result of Jesus' love – "I will henceforth live for Thee."
 1. Leads me in righteousness for His sake (Ps. 23:3; 27:7; 31:3; Isa. 43:25).
 2. God is with me (Ps. 23:4).
 3. Whoever loses his life – for Christ's sake – will find it (Matt. 10:39; 16:25).

Commonly Held False Doctrines – Once Saved, Always Saved

- I. I know one can fall from grace – therefore, "once saved always saved" is false – because...
 - A. Adam and Eve fell from the grace of God (Gen. 3).
 - B. Some angels fell from the grace of God (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4).
 - C. The devil fell from the grace of God.
 - D. The son of perdition fell from the grace of God (John 17:12; Matt. 26:24).
 - E. One who turns from righteousness and commits iniquity falls (Ezek. 18:24).
 - F. Some in Galatia were in danger of falling (Gal. 1:6-9; 5:4).
 - G. The five foolish virgins in the kingdom were lost (Matt. 25:1-13).
 - H. The one talent man in the kingdom was lost (Matt. 25:14-30).
 - I. The good will be separated from the bad in the kingdom (Matt. 13:47-50).
 - J. Take from God's word – removed from the Book of Life (Rev. 22:18-19).
 - K. Those who practice the works of the flesh will be lost (Gal. 5:19-21).
 - L. Better not to know than to know and turn from it (2 Pet. 2:20-22).
 - M. Demas left God to love the world (2 Tim. 4:9-10).
 - N. One can wonder from the faith and need to repent (James 5:19-20).
 - O. Ananias and Sapphira fell from the grace of God (Acts 5:1-4).
 - P. One who provides not for his own is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - Q. The Bible warns that one can fall (1 Cor. 10:12; 9:27; Heb. 3:12).
 - R. Paul warned some would fall away from the faith (1 Tim. 4:1).
 - S. A man will reap what he sows (Gal. 6:7-9).
 - T. Parable of the sower shows one can begin, but then be lost (Lk. 8:11-15).
- II. Some of the "if" passages:
 - A. John 8:31 "If you abide in My word..."
 - B. John 8:51 "...if anyone keeps My word..."
 - C. John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me..."
 - D. John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments..."
 - E. 1 Cor. 15:2 "...if you hold fast that word which I preached to you..."
 - F. Gal. 6:9 "...if we do not lose heart."
 - G. Col. 1:23 "...if indeed you continue in the faith..."
 - H. Heb. 3:6 "...if we hold fast...to the end."
 - I. 1 John 1:7 "...if we walk in the light..."
 - J. 2 Peter 1:10 "...if you do these things you will never stumble..."
- III. The John 10:27,28 argument.
- IV. The body sins but the soul does not sin argument.