

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



August 14, 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.

Jesus Doesn't Judge A Church By Its Size

The phrase, "Church growth" has become a buzzword in religious circles. For many, the size of a church is the primary way to judge its health and success. They believe churches should do anything and everything to grow their numbers, because size is what matters. But on the other hand, there are those who assume a large church indicates compromise and apostasy. Have you ever stopped to consider that the New Testament puts very little emphasis on congregational size? So why do we emphasize it so much? Maybe it's time to realize that Jesus doesn't judge a church by its size.

Judging Large Congregations

Just because a congregation is large does not necessarily mean it is healthy, successful, or being blessed by God. There are plenty of churches who have gotten large by telling people what they want to hear. Paul told Timothy a time would come when people would, "*accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions*" (2 Timothy 4:3). When this happens, we shouldn't assume Jesus is applauding these churches for the fact that they are bursting at the seams.

When we equate large churches with success, we are often willing to do anything it takes to "grow." We start thinking of the church as a business and the community as potential customers. We start catering our "menu of ministries" and the way we worship to what people want, all because we judge a church by its size.

But on the other hand, we must not assume every large church is large because they are compromising the truth, entertaining the masses, or not teaching sound doctrine. I know several wonderful congregations who have well over a thousand members. Sometimes churches have a lot of members because they really are reaching a lot of people with the gospel.

Judging Small Congregation

Just because a congregation is small, does not mean the members don't care about reaching people with the gospel. It does not mean they are "inward focused." It does not mean that church is dying.

Many Christians get discouraged with their smaller congregations, or refuse to place membership in smaller congregations, because they have preconceived ideas about there being something wrong with small congregations. There is nothing wrong with a small congregation. Jesus loves small congregations too.

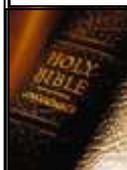
But on the other hand, there are those who equate small with faithful. Or they equate small with friendly and close-knit. Just because a congregation is small does not mean it is a faithful congregation or that it is a loving close-knit family. Sometimes the stereotypes are true. Sometimes a congregation is small because the members are doing nothing to reach people with the gospel.

How Jesus Judges a Congregation

When we learn to see the church the way Jesus sees the church, we will stop judging congregations based on size. We will start to understand that Jesus' criteria for being a successful congregation is far less quantifiable than average Sunday morning attendance.

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"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.' (Now this, 'He ascended'—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)" **Eph. 4:7-10**



What Is Your Default Mindset?

According to computer technology and terminology, a "default" is "a pre-selected option or a pre-designed value or setting." For example, when I started typing this article the page appeared in the format that I had previously designated for the settings I would like for all the pages to have when I type these essays. I do not have to re-set the borders of the pages, the type style, the font size, etc. each time I compose an article. All of these things have already been determined and "saved" to the default setting for all "News and Views" essays.

All accountable, responsible human beings have a "default mindset" – a mindset, outlook, attitude that they have "programmed" themselves to have. The apostle Paul wrote: *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit"* (Rom. 8:5). One's mindset determines whether he or she lives for the things of the flesh or the things of the Spirit.

To live according to the flesh does not mean not having a legitimate concern for the needs of our fleshly bodies and earthly lives such as food, clothing, shelter, love, companionship, friendship, etc. Rather, to live according to the flesh means to live to fulfill the lusts and sinful desires of the flesh. The apostle continued, *"For to be carnally (another word for fleshly, hf) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be. So then, those who are in the flesh (possessed of a fleshly mindset or orientation, hf) cannot please God"* (Rom. 8:6-8).

On the other hand, to live according to the Spirit means to live to do the will of God and to please Him. Elsewhere Paul wrote: *"If then you were raised with Christ (a reference to being raised from the waters of baptism [see Romans 6:1-18], hf), seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the*

earth" (Col. 3:1-2). In other words, let your default mindset be on heavenly things, not earthly things.

In a striking contrast between "flesh" and "spirit," Paul declared: *"Now the works of the flesh are evident which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies (religious parties [denominations], sects), envy, murders, drunkenness, revelry, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I have also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law"* (Gal. 5:19-23).

Of the two above lists – the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit – which best describes you? Which best describes me? Paul concludes the passage by saying, *"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"* (Gal. 5:24-25). His point is that as children of God we are to have a spiritually oriented default mindset, not a fleshly oriented default mindset.

Someone said, "We are what we think about all day long." The wise man Solomon put it this way: *"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"* (Prov. 4:23). If our default mindset is of the flesh, we will be fleshly (carnal) in our thoughts and actions. Our lives will be filled with such things as Paul lists above under the works of the flesh. But if our default mindset is of the things of the Spirit, we will be spiritual in our thoughts and actions. We will live spiritually-oriented lives and they will be filled with the things Paul lists above under the fruit of the Spirit.

What is your default mindset?

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Phil. 2:5).

Hugh Fulford (facebook.com/hugh.fulford)

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

August 14 Romans 10-12

August 15 Romans 13-14

August 16 Romans 15-16

August 17 1 Corinthians 1-3

August 18 1 Corinthians 4-6

August 19 1 Corinthians 7-9

August 20 1 Corinthians 10-12

August 21 1 Corinthians 13-14

"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 **26 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ We need a count of all who plan to attend the teachers workshop on Sept. 10th—please let Cindy Proud know. All teachers (men and women, present and future) are encouraged to attend. All expenses are paid.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge. *“The Christ Centered Church: The Beauty of Christianity from the Book of Ephesians”*
- ◆ October 29—Ladies’ Day with Becky Blackmon. *“Making Christ the Lord of Your Life in Every Situation of Your Life”*
- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **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. 1—Developing Church Leaders Conference—Baker Heights (Abilene).
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat (info on board)
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Homecoming Lectureship @ Rising Star
- ◆ Oct. 22—Ladies Day @ San Angelo with Cathy Iverson
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: *“The Bible and Archaeology”* (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus judges a church **based on whether or not they are “in step with the truth of the gospel”** (Galatians 2:14). So here are some of the ways you can tell if a church is in step with the truth of the gospel:

- They are devoted to *“the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* (Acts 2:42).
- They don’t just talk about love; they love people in tangible ways. They sacrifice themselves and their belongings for one another (1 John 3:16-18).
- They *“continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name”* (Hebrews 13:15).
- They understand their salvation is a matter of God’s grace and not their own doing, so there is absolutely no boasting (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- They walk in the good works God prepared for them to do (Ephesians 2:10).
- They *“purge”* evil people from their fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:13).
- Their worship assembly is edifying and things are done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:26-40).
- They are full of humility, gentleness, and patience. They bear with one another in love and are eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2-3).
- Their minds are *“on things that are above, not on things that are on earth”* (Colossians 3:2).
- They *“walk by faith, not by sight”* and make it their aim to please the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:7-9).

These are just a few examples of things the New Testament actually emphasizes; numbers are not one of them. Small churches can be pleasing to the Lord and large churches can be pleasing to the Lord. Jesus doesn’t judge a church by its size...neither should we.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

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).



Records

| | July 31, 2016 | August 7, 2016 |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bible Class | 51 | 50 |
| AM Worship | 78 | 66 |
| PM Worship | 59 | 47 |
| Wednesday PM | 44 | 32 |
| Contribution | \$1,787 | \$1,904 |

| This Week: 8/14/16 | | Next Week: 8/21/16 | | August 2016 | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday AM: | | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | |
| Greeters | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | John Barnum Family | | Make Announcements: John Barnum | |
| Opening Prayer | Don Smith | Gene Bannister | | Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell James Fuller, Larry Petty | Ryan Rudloff*, Randy Huckaby Hank Wheeler, James Thomas | | Clean Building: Joe Dennis Family | |
| Closing Prayer | Allen Bland | Tom Wilcox | | Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group | |
| Attendance Cards | Ian Barnum | Jaceten Evetts | | September 2016 | |
| Sunday PM: | | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | | Song Leader: Ken Maninger | |
| Opening Prayer | Randy Huckaby | John Barnum | | Make Announcements: James Fuller | |
| Scripture Reading | Hank Wheeler | Mike Bannister | | Prepare Communion: Maninger Family | |
| Communion | Ken Maninger | Ryan Rudloff | | Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz | |
| Closing Prayer | John Barnum | Don Smith | | Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | August 17 Don Smith | August 24 Tom Wilcox | August 31 Allen Griffith | September 7 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 August 14, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 1:26ff**
Wed. Class **How can we identify the NT church today?**

Psalm 68

- I. The Primary Message of the Text – **The Glory of God in His Goodness to Israel.**
 - A. God Arises, Enemies Scatter (1-3).
 1. The psalm begins with *Elohim* – God.
 2. The first three verses depict the movements as a powerful force driving away the enemies.
 - B. God's Righteousness: A King of Goodness (4-6).
 - C. God, Giver of Blessings (7-10).
 - D. The Conquering God (11-14).
 1. God is pictured having conquered the armies that were standing against Israel.
 2. A company of women comes to the people bringing the good news, "Kings of the armies flee, they flee."
 - E. God in Zion (15-18).
 - F. God of Salvation and Death (19-23).
 - G. Processional of Praise (24-35).
 1. The final verses describe the processional of praise as the king reigns from the throne in Zion.
 2. In 28-31 we read of the rulers of the nations also coming to the temple and bringing their tribute, a symbol of subjection to the king.
 3. In 32-35 the final call is given to all the people of the earth to sing their praises to God.
- II. The Messianic Message of the Text – **The Ascension of the Messiah.**
 - A. The Jewish people always read the scriptures in a moving context.
 - B. A portion of Psalm 68 is quoted by Paul in Ephesians 4:7-8.
 1. We cannot say that the whole psalm is Messianic and David was not speaking about his day and time.
 2. By quoting this psalm, Paul is stating that Jesus is the king who now sits on the throne – ruling over the nations.
 - a. The psalm spoke about the ascension of a king to the throne over the enemies' armies – Paul speaks also of the descending.
 - b. The psalm speaks about the people bringing gifts to the king – Paul speaks of the Messiah giving gifts to the people.
 - C. The final important implication is that in Psalm 68 we see God establishing His kingdom in Zion.

Didactic Psalms – Introduction and Psalm 1

- I. **Didactic Psalms:** What are they?
 - A. They are generally directed toward man for purposes of edification and teaching [*didasko* – to teach].
 - B. Topics treated in didactic Psalms.
 - C. Provide both physical and spiritual instruction.
 - D. Serve to aid the reader in understanding a number of troubling events, and in obtaining a better grasp of God and His works.
- II. **Psalm 1** – the door to the Psalms.
 - A. *Blessed is the man.* (1)
 1. Uses an important word – "Blessed." (occurs 26X in the Psalms)
 2. Describing a person who is approved of God.
 - B. *Walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.*
 1. In the Bible, walk is a description of a life style.
 2. *Counsel* is a word that means "advice."
 3. The person approved of God chooses his counselors carefully.
 - C. *Nor stands in the path of sinners.*
 1. The person is choosing very carefully where he spends his time.
 2. Where the sinners walk is not where he is.
 - D. *Nor sits in the seat of the scornful.*

In contrast, this person finds ultimate fulfillment in the law of the Lord.

 - A. *His delight is in the law of the Lord.* (2)
 - B. *In His law he meditates day and night.*
 - C. *He shall be like a tree planted.* (3)
 - D. *He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.*
 - E. *He shall be like a tree...that brings forth its fruit in its season.*
 - F. *He shall be like a tree...whose leaf also shall not wither.*
 - G. The conclusion: *And whatever he does shall prosper.*

The Hebrew word *rasha'* (ungodly, wicked, morally wrong) is found 77X.

 - A. *The ungodly are not so.*
 - B. *But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*
 - C. *The ungodly shall not stand in the judgment.*
 - D. *Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

Summary and conclusion.

 - A. *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*
 - B. *But the way of the ungodly will perish.*