

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 21, 2016

Contact Us:

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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.

Sexual Depravity Continues to Expand

Sin is progressive. In any culture or country, when citizens engage in immoral behavior and society fails to punish that behavior swiftly and firmly, the country itself will inevitably move in the direction of moral decay. Paul's admonition to Corinthian Christians applies, not only to individuals and churches, but to nations: "*Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven...*" (1 Cor. 5:6-7). The "sexual revolution" and "new morality" of the 1960s initiated the demise of traditional marriage with the advent of "free love," "shacking up," and co-ed dormitories. San Francisco became a haven for "sexual freedom" and erosion of opposition to homosexuality followed almost immediately. The gradual softening of attitudes toward homosexuality, accompanied by judicial and political accommodation, is now contributing to acceptance of the next forms of sexual perversion: polygamy and bestiality.

Indicators of this deepening plunge into the quagmire of moral degradation have been surfacing for several years. At the 1988 World Conference of Anglican/Episcopalian bishops in Lambeth, England, Resolution 26 pertaining to "Church and Polygamy" reads:

This Conference upholds monogamy as God's plan, and as the ideal relationship of love between husband and wife; nevertheless recommends that **a polygamist who responds to the Gospel and wishes to join the Anglican Church may be baptized and confirmed with his believing wives and children** on the following conditions: (1) that the polygamist shall promise not to marry again as long as any of his wives at the time of his conversion are alive; (2) that the receiving of such a polygamist has the consent of the local Anglican community; (3) that such a polygamist shall **not be compelled to put away any of his wives**, on account of the social deprivation they would suffer....

Ten years later at the same conference, African bishops succeeded in preventing a resolution against polygamy from appearing on the final agenda, since the practice of polygamy in Africa remains common.

The Netherlands essentially legalized polygamy by permitting the formation of a "civil union" (which differs from marriage only in name) of a man and two women. Dutch government authorities have refused to annul the arrangement. What's more, Dutch registrars accept polygamous marriages contracted in countries where more than one wife is permitted. The accommodation is due to the large numbers of Muslim immigrants. Few Americans are likely aware that the same thing is happening in the U.S. as more and more polygamous Muslims immigrate to America—with estimates ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 people (2008). Since liberal American judges increasingly are looking to world courts to alter long-standing American jurisprudence, America is facing these same trends.

Ten years ago, Utah's governor suggested that plural marriage may be protected under the First Amendment of the *U.S. Constitution* as an expression of religion. The Web site TruthBearer.org, devoted to "bringing Christian polygamy to the churches," brazenly declares: "Until one grows toward **loving wives as selflessly as Christ life-givingly loves the Churches**, any personal thoughts about plural marriage should be foremost about growing to that level in Christ." [Never mind the fact that Christ has only **one** bride (Eph. 5:22-33), and that He "*loved the church and gave Himself for her*" (vs. 25)—not "them."] When the highest court in the land issued its historically and constitutionally unprecedented ruling against all state sodomy laws, almost instantly, a convicted Utah polygamist commenced the appeals process to have his bigamy convictions overturned. And more recently, as fully expected, Hollywood has been eager

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"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting...who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

Romans 1:28,32



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to take advantage of weakening standards and bolster sexual perversion. Tom Hanks produced a television series in 2006 for HBO, "Big Love," that explores the lives of a husband, his three wives, and seven children.

When U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia penned the dissenting opinion for his fellow dissenters, Justices Rehnquist and Thomas, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which made homosexuality a constitutional right, he correctly concluded that if homosexual marriages are to be legalized, no legal/rational basis exists upon which to forbid any other sexual relationship, regardless of the perversity involved:

State laws against **bigamy**, same-sex marriage, adult incest, **prostitution**... adultery, fornication, **bestiality**, and obscenity are likewise sustainable only in light of *Bowers'* validation of laws based on moral choices. **Every single one of these laws is called into question by today's decision.**

Scalia added: "This effectively decrees **the end of all morals legislation**.... [N]one of the above-mentioned laws can survive rational-basis review". The increasing encroachment of polygamy is a direct manifestation of Scalia's prediction.

Is there no end to the incessant parade of depravity and moral degeneracy to which the American public must be subjected? "*Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush*" (Jer. 6:15; 8:12). The fact that polygamy was predictable and inevitable in no way reduces the shock and repugnance that must surely be felt by those Americans who still retain some semblance of moral sensibility and ethical decency.

AMERICA'S VANISHING VALUES

The Founders of American civilization and the vast majority of Americans since were unequivocal and adamant in their insistence on the reprehensible nature of polygamy—and the threat it poses to civilized society. In the late 1800s, Mormons fled to Utah seeking respite from the widespread opposition to their cultic practices. As America extended its "manifest destiny" westward and more U.S. territories sought statehood, the admission of Utah and Idaho into the union came to the forefront of national concern. After all, their predominantly Mormon populations were practicing polygamy. But the judicial authorities did not shrink from the appointed responsibility, as is evident from the following three United States Supreme Court cases that addressed the matter.

In the 1885 Utah Territory case of *Murphy v. Ramsey*, the Court declared:

For certainly no legislation can be supposed more whole-

some and necessary in the founding of a free, self-governing commonwealth, fit to take rank as one of the coordinate States of the Union, than that which seeks to establish it on the basis of **the idea of the family, as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman** in the holy estate of matrimony; the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guaranty of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement.

Did you catch that? The only "sure foundation" of civilization and the best security for morality (which, in turn, initiates social and political improvement) is **the family** defined as **one man for one woman for life**. But the foundation is crumbling and the guaranty is failing. Hence, as our morals continue to unravel, we ought fully to expect to see the erosion of all that is stable and noble in our civilization and the undermining of beneficent progress in social and political improvement.

In another U.S. Supreme Court case involving polygamy in the Territory of Utah, the defendant insisted that his bigamy was simply in keeping with his constitutional right to the free exercise of his religious beliefs as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He insisted that

the practice of polygamy was directly enjoined upon the male members thereof by the Almighty God, in a revelation to Joseph Smith, the founder and prophet of said church; that the failing or refusing to practice polygamy by such male members of said church, when circumstances would admit, would be punished, and that the penalty for such failure and refusal would be damnation in the life to come.

The high court vehemently disagreed and issued a sweeping repudiation of polygamy:

Polygamy has always been odious among the northern and western nations of Europe, and, until the establishment of the Mormon Church, was almost exclusively a feature of the life of Asiatic and of African people. At common law, the second marriage was always void, and from the earliest history of England polygamy has been treated as an offence against society.... From that day to this we think it may safely be said **there never has been a time in any State of the Union when polygamy has not been an offence against society**, cognizable by the civil courts and punishable with more or less severity. In the face of all this evidence, **it is impossible to believe that the constitutional guaranty of religious freedom was intended 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

August 21 1 Corinthians 13-14

August 22 1 Corinthians 15-16

August 23 2 Corinthians 1-3

August 24 2 Corinthians 4-6

August 25 2 Corinthians 7-9

August 26 2 Corinthians 10-11

August 27 2 Corinthians 12-13

August 28 Galatians 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 **20 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.
- ◆ Thank you to Joe Dennis and James Fuller for filling in today in Johnny’s absence.

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

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prohibit legislation in respect to this most important feature of social life. Marriage, while from its very nature a sacred obligation, is nevertheless, in most civilized nations, a civil contract, and usually regulated by law. **Upon it society may be said to be built,** and out of its fruits spring social relations and social obligations and duties, with which government is necessarily required to deal. In fact, according as monogamous or polygamous marriages are allowed, do we find **the principles on which the government of the people, to a greater or less extent, rests.**

Such legal declarations reflected the views of the vast majority of Americans for the first 180 years of our national existence. Indeed, for most of American history, courts have had no trouble recognizing and reaffirming the idea of the family and the historic definition of marriage: one man for one woman for life. After all, this foundational premise was drawn directly from the Bible (Gen. 2:24).

In still another case, several men who wished to register to vote in the Territory of Idaho took the preparatory oath that required them to swear that they neither practiced polygamy nor belonged to any organization that encouraged its practice. Yet, when the men were discovered to be members of the Mormon Church, they were brought to trial and found guilty of procuring voting rights unlawfully—though the defense attorney argued that the oath constituted a “law respecting an establishment of religion” in violation of the First Amendment to the *Constitution*. Neither the District Court nor the Supreme Court accepted such thinking. Instead, they reaffirmed the essentiality of the Christian moral framework as the basis of civil society:

Bigamy and polygamy are crimes by the laws of all civilized and Christian countries. They are crimes by the laws of the United States, and they are crimes by the laws of Idaho. They tend to **destroy the purity of the marriage relation, to disturb the peace of families, to degrade woman and to debase man. Few crimes are more pernicious to the best interests of society** and receive more general or more deserved punishment. To extend exemption

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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

	August 7, 2016	Aug. 14, 2016
Bible Class	50	
AM Worship	66	
PM Worship	47	
Wednesday PM	32	
Contribution	\$1,904	\$1,

	This Week: 8/21/16	Next Week: 8/28/16	August 2016	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox	Clean Building: Joe Dennis Family	
Communion	Ryan Rudloff*, Randy Huckaby Hank Wheeler, James Thomas	John Barnum*, Larry Petty Allen Bland, Don Smith	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister	September 2016	
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Chase Churchwell	Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Prepare Communion: Maninger Family	
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	James Fuller	Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz	
Scripture Reading	Mike Bannister	Ken Maninger	Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Communion	Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Hank Wheeler		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 24 Tom Wilcox	August 31 Allen Griffith	September 7 Prayer Night	September 14 Tom Wilcox

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 21, 2016

Sunday Class **Video: The Silencing of God**
Wed. Class **TBD**

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from punishment for such crimes would be **to shock the moral judgment of the community**. To call their advocacy **a tenet of religion** is to **offend the common sense of mankind**.

For judicial and legal authorities today, and Americans at large, to permit the airing all across the land of a television program that dignifies the practice of polygamy, is to demonstrate not only the loss of common sense, it manifests the extent to which moral bankruptcy has become commonplace. The destruction of marriage and the family, the degrading of women, and the debasing of men, are the order of the day.

Polygamy is simply one more indication of our country's half-century-long venture into decadence and paganism, moving us ever closer to a complete moral, spiritual, and religious breakdown—and the inevitable collapse of civilization. In still another court case, the State Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declared the attitude of the Founders and the nation as a whole in its utter rejection of pagan morality:

They never thought of tolerating paganism...on the ground of liberty of conscience. They could not admit this, as a civil justification of human sacrifices, or parricide, or infanticide, or thuggism, or of such modes of worship as the disgusting and corrupting rites of the Dionysia, and Aphrodisia, and Eleusinia, and other festivals of Greece and Rome. **They did not mean that the pure, moral customs which Christianity has introduced, should be without legal protection**, because some pagan, or other religionist, or anti-religionist, should advocate, as matter of conscience, **concubinage, polygamy, incest, free love, and**

free divorce, or any of them. They did not mean, that phallic processions and satyric dances, and obscene songs, and indecent statues, and paintings of ancient or of modern paganism, might be introduced, under the profession of religion, or pleasure, or conscience, to seduce the young and the ignorant into a Corinthian degradation; to offend the moral sentiment of a refined Christian people; and to compel Christian modesty to associate with the nudity and impurity of Polynesian, or of Spartan women. **No Christian people could possibly allow such things.... Every Christian man is sure, that it is his religion that has suppressed the pagan customs** just alluded to, and that to it is due the large advance in justice, benevolence, truth, and purity that belongs to modern civilization; that it has purified and elevated the family relations; that it has elevated the moral standards of society, that the indecencies, and cruelties, and cheats, of paganism are now condemned by custom and by law, as crimes.

Little could a mid-nineteenth-century Supreme Court have realized that their vivid description of **paganism** would one day serve as an accurate depiction of the present moral condition of America!

Unless Americans rise up in significant numbers and put an end to the downward slide into moral and sexual insanity, the nation must inevitably face destruction. *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Prov. 14:34).

Dave Miller (apologeticspress.org)

This article was written in 2009. Our downward spiral has only increased in velocity since that time. May we not be so blind that we cannot see ourselves in our study of Romans 1! For references see original article.