

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



September 4, 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.

Potential is not Enough

"It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done" (Samuel Johnson, 1770).

Potential has to do with something that can happen, but has not yet happened. It has to do with possibilities: unrealized and undeveloped. While it is good to have the capacity to do many things, potential alone is not enough to accomplish what is necessary.

Christians have great potential. We have the potential for growth, to convert many people to the Lord, to make a strong impact on the communities around us. There are great possibilities; the future looks fantastic from this viewpoint.

But potential is not enough! Just because we have the ability to do something does not mean that we will do it. A congregation with great potential is no guarantee that they will make the most out of it. Remember, while something is still potential, it has not happened. What a tragedy it would be if, given the possibilities before so many Christians, these potentials were never realized!

Potential is realized when we press on with diligence to grow. We must act on our abilities and improve upon them. It takes work and commitment, not just recognition that we "can" do many things. The one talent man had the ability to gain another, but his laziness marked him forever as never reaching his potential (Matt. 25:14ff).

Sometimes people boast about their former days. "These seats used to be filled up." "We used to have so many classes going." "We used to be known for our singing." So? What are we doing now and where are we headed? Potential will never be seen by resting on the past. Paul understood this: *"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:12-14). Paul did not think in terms glorying in his past accomplishments or moping about his failures. His potential for perfection would only be realized through continually pressing toward the goal. Shall we expect less now?

God has provided for a local church to grow and be what He wants it to be (Eph. 4:11-16). Teaching takes place, saints are equipped to serve and edify, unity is accomplished, maturity is accomplished, and the church grows as each individual members does his or her part. However, as long as there are Christians who do not do their share, the total potential of a congregation will not be seen. A church may accomplish much and be known for its faithfulness, but it will never attain to its full ability as long as there are some who do not act as they ought. One or two people

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"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" John 4:35



Paul's "State of the World" Address (Romans 1:28-32)

Each year the President of the United States delivers a "State of the Union" speech. It is also common for state governors to give an annual "State of the State" address. In this passage, we have Paul's first-century message concerning the "State of the World."

In his message, Paul painted a bleak picture of the Gentile world that had rejected God and had been given over to sin (1:28). He stacked vice upon vice to emphasize that the Gentiles were in desperate need of a righteousness from God (1:29-31). His arrangement of these sins appears random to most modern readers. For the sake of convenience, they could be divided into six groups:

- *Comprehensive Terms* – "unrighteousness," "wickedness," "evil," and "haters of God."
- *Selfish Attitudes and Actions* – "greed," "envy," "murder," "strife," and "deceit."
- *The Destruction of Relationships* – "malice," "gossips," and "slanderers."
- *Self-Centeredness Expressed* – "insolent," "arrogant," and "boastful."
- *A Deadly Duo* – "inventors of evil" and "disobedient to parents."
- *The Final Four* – "without understanding," "untrustworthy," "unloving," and "unmerciful."

Unfortunately, all of this language could be used to describe our world today. There are still evil men who hate God; some even deny His existence. There are those who are self-serving; they lie, cheat, steal, and even murder to achieve their purposes. Some are malicious; they spread gossip and slander their enemies. Others are self-absorbed, boasting only of their own achievements. Instead of using their energy and God-given talents for noble purposes, there are some who spend their time plotting evil. We also live in a time when disobedience to parents is common, if not expected.

Due to widespread deception, we often wonder who we can trust. Merchants and tradesmen misrepresent their merchandise and services; married couples do not keep their marriage vows; others make promises they never keep. In times past, a man's word and a handshake could bind a deal; now we need a dozen lawyers and three reams of paperwork to accomplish the same thing.

We also live in a time when some are unloving, having no sense of natural affection. Abortion, child abandonment, and child abuse are rampant in our day. Further, a lack of mercy is seen in the fact that some desire more and more violence in their "entertainment." We also read about "random acts of violence." Perhaps we are not that far behind Paul's world.

As Paul ended his message, he emphasized the guilt and condemnation of "*those who practice such things*" (1:32). It is easy to read Paul's "State of the World" address and point our fingers at others. However, we must also consider our own lives. We might not think of ourselves as "wicked," but have we been envious of others? We might try to avoid strife, but do we struggle with pride? Perhaps we have never killed anyone, but have we been guilty of gossiping?

Paul also convicted those who "*give hearty approval*" to such evil deeds (1:32). Is it possible that we have been guilty of encouraging evil? Do we read the books, watch the movies and TV programs, and listen to the songs that glorify sinful practices? Have we idolized personalities who live sinful lifestyles? Nothing fans the flames of sin more effectively than applause.

Have you thrown yourself on God's mercy by believing in Jesus and expressing your faith in loving obedience (John 14:15; Matt. 7:21; Mark 16:16)? You have a choice. If you "give yourself over" to sin, God will "give you over" to the consequences of your sin. If, however, you give yourself up to God, He will give to you the gift of His love (6:23).

David Roper (Romans 1-7, Truth for Today Commentary, pp. 132-4)

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

Sept. 4	1 Thessalonians 2-5
Sept. 5	2 Thessalonians 1-3
Sept. 6	1 Timothy 1-3
Sept. 7	1 Timothy 4-6
Sept. 8	2 Timothy 1-4
Sept. 9	Titus 1-3
Sept. 10	Philemon—Hebrews 1
Sept. 11	Hebrews 2-4

*"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

- ◆ **Teacher's Workshop in Cleburne Saturday.** We will need to leave the building here at 5:59am (but it will be worth it!). If you plan to go, and have not let Cindy Proud know, today is the deadline.
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ **Lu Whitsett's memorial service** has been changed to **Friday, Sept. 16th, at 2:00 p.m.** We will be providing a meal here for the family before the service.
- ◆ The **ladies** are beginning a **new "Digging Deeper" study.** If you have not received your material, see Cindy McCaghren.

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

- ◆ **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. 2-5—Gospel Meeting @ Stephenville with Jim Nash.
- ◆ 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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cannot work for everyone else. "... the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

Not everyone does the same work. One person may not have abilities that another may have, and vice-versa. But God expects each person to do what he/she can do. Potential means nothing unless we are willing to act on it.

There is a sense in which we will never reach our full potential on this earth. We must avoid the attitude that says, "I did it; I'm perfect" (see Rev. 3:14-22). If we become satisfied with our spiritual lives so that we do not work for further growth and knowledge, we are in serious trouble. So, while we recognize that we have potential, let's always be striving to grow and mature. If we will, our capacity for heaven will be attained when this life is over (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

So ask yourself, "What have I done?" Then ask, "What am I able to do?" Are you working hard toward fulfilling your abilities?

Don Moyer (lavistachurchofchrist.org)

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: Jean Hamann (3), **James Fuller (6)**, Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Frank Alexander (19), Matthew Ochoa (19), Allen Bland (23), Glenda Milam (24), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28).

September Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 21, 2016	Aug. 28, 2016
Bible Class	31	54
AM Worship	56	71
PM Worship	49	49
Wednesday PM	37	43
Contribution	\$1,894	\$3,140

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 9/4/16		Next Week: 9/11/16		September 2016 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group October 2016 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: M&P Bannister/Greer Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, James Thomas Allen Bland, Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 7 Prayer Night	September 14 Tom Wilcox	September 21 Don Smith	September 28 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 September 4, 2016

Sunday Class *Romans 1:31ff*
 Wed. Class *Things Associated with being a Member of the Body*

<p><u>The Meaning of Discipleship – Luke 9:23-26 (Part 2)</u></p> <p>I. A Disciple Is One Who Diligently Learns The Teachings Of Another.</p> <p>II. A Disciple Is One Who Follows Another.</p> <p>III. A Disciple Is One Who Denies Himself.</p> <p>IV. A Disciple Is One Who Suffers For His Master.</p> <p>A. Jesus said, "Let him...take up his cross...."</p> <p>B. By implication, Jesus is calling attention to the cross He will all-too-soon be called upon to bear.</p> <p>C. The cross of Jesus signifies His sufferings – the cross His disciples must bear also relates to sufferings.</p> <p>D. Not only does the figure of the cross itself point to our sufferings, but the larger context does also.</p> <p>E. What sorts of sufferings constitute the "cross" of a disciple?</p> <p>F. "For Jesus" is the key to the sort of suffering or sacrifice that constitutes the disciple's cross.</p> <p>G. The Lord often warned His disciples and His prospective disciples that they would encounter persecution.</p> <p>H. How far are we expected to go in bearing our cross after Jesus?</p> <p>I. The test of discipleship is not in times when skies are blue, but when the storms of hatred, opposition, and ill-treatment beat against us.</p> <p>J. Various indicators suggest that we may be steadily and somewhat rapidly approaching an era of persecution. How will we react?</p> <p>K. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20).</p> <p>V. A Disciple Is One Who Is Steadfast.</p> <p>A. What is the time element, the frequency of fellowship, prescribed by Jesus for His disciples? Daily!</p> <p>B. The religion of Christ is not a "dress" or "suit" that one can put on for one or two hours or days each week, while it hangs unused and unobserved in one's closet the remainder of the time.</p> <p>Conclusion. When we contemplate the rigorous standard of discipleship the Lord sets before us in Luke 9:23-26, it is evident that men have redefined downward the entire concept. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?" (v. 25).</p>	<p><u>Didactic Psalms – Psalm 139</u></p> <p>I. The Conception Of God As Is Found In The Book Of Psalms: At the heart of the Psalms is the personal God of Israel.</p> <p>A. The Psalmists never tire of praising God as creator, sustainer, lawgiver, ruler, vindicator and judge.</p> <p>B. The personality of God is presented in such concrete and realistic terms that one who reads these poems knows their authors trusted in the Lord and took refuge in Him.</p> <p>C. The direct and earnest prayers they prayed were natural outpourings of hearts which were intimate with the Almighty.</p> <p>II. The Characteristics of God As They Are Presented In the Psalms: His divine Attributes: Psalm 139.</p> <p>A. He is omniscient (v. 1-6).</p> <p>B. He is omnipresent (v. 7-12).</p> <p>C. He is omnipotent (v. 13-16).</p> <p>D. He is infinite in righteousness (v. 17-24).</p> <p>E. His goodness (Psalm 103).</p> <p>F. His justice (Psalm 5).</p> <p>G. His forgiving nature (Psalm 51).</p> <p>H. His loving care for His people (Psalm 23).</p> <p>III. The Text.</p> <p>IV. Key Ideas Set Forth In Psalm 139.</p> <p>A. God has an intimate knowledge of us.</p> <p>B. God searches man's ways as a judge scrutinizes evidence in his courtroom.</p> <p>C. God's investigation of man makes Him the perfect judge, and gives the righteous confidence to give themselves fully to doing right.</p> <p>D. God is a personal God who is interested in individuals.</p>
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