

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 18, 2016

Contact Us:

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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.

Don't Let Doubt Sink Your Faith



G. Campbell Morgan was a British preacher*, scholar and author of the latter 19th and early 20th century. He had already dedicated his life to ministry by age 19. However, he developed some doubts about the Bible.

Morgan relates the writings of various scientists and agnostics disturbed him (e.g., Charles Darwin, John Tyndall, Thomas Huxley, and Herbert Spencer). As he read their books and listened to debates, Morgan became more and more perplexed.

What did he do?

He cancelled all preaching engagements, put all the books in a cupboard and locked the door, and went to the bookstore and bought a new Bible. He said to himself, "I am no longer sure that this is what my father claims it to be – the Word of God. But of this I am sure. If it be the Word of God, and if I come to it with an unprejudiced and open mind, it will bring assurance to my soul of itself."

The result?

"That Bible found me!" said Morgan. The new assurance in 1883 gave him the motivation for his preaching and teaching ministry. He devoted himself to the study and preaching of God's Word.

Doubt has sunk the greatest of men. Literally! The Gospel writer records an occasion when the disciples were on a boat one night on the sea of Galilee. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them. Walking on the water! The ever impetuous Peter requested that he be allowed to walk on the water to meet Jesus. To which, Christ said, "Come!"

Matthew then records what happened.

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matt 14:29-31)

Peter began well. He was excited. Focused. Faithful. And Peter did walk on the water. But doubt
(Continued on page 3)

"You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. Concerning the works of men, by the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. Uphold my steps in Your paths, that my footsteps may not slip."
Psalm 17:3-5



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nearly two thousand years ago the Lord promised to build His church (Matt. 16:16-18). In AD 30 the church of Christ, the promised church, was established in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2). Jesus purchased this church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The church of the first century was united under the one Head – Christ, followed the same rule – the New Testament, and were of the same mind and same practice. The first century church was united in doctrine, in worship, and in organization.

For about two hundred years the church was true to apostolic teaching. But the church of the first century began to drift into apostasy. This came as no surprise, for it was foretold by the apostle Paul, *“But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons”* (1 Tim. 4:1), and he said there would be a *“falling away”* (2 Thess. 2:3). There were six basic developments that caused this “falling away.” First, there was the gradual development of a system of rulers, a hierarchy, patterned after the political organization of the Empire. Secondly, there came extensive modification of Christian doctrine through Greek culture. Thirdly, there was the introduction of Jewish and pagan doctrines, customs and ceremonials into the church. Fourthly, there came the formulating of elaborate, uninspired church decrees. In the fifth place, there came the creation of a human priesthood, vested with spiritual powers and privileges. And finally, there was the assumption of both spiritual and temporal power by church leaders. These were foreign to the Bible, yet they were very prominent in the development of church history. Centuries of ignorance and superstition led to the birth of the apostate church.

Over the years there were many who had tried get back to the *“old paths”* (Jer. 6:16). Men such as John Huss and Huldrick Zwingli gave their life in such an endeavor. Later, other men like Martin Luther, John Cal-

vin, John Wesley, and a host of others, worked toward the old paths. The trouble with these men is that they did not reach all the back to Jerusalem – they tried to reform the church instead of restoring the New Testament church. Much good came out of the Reformation Movement – the Bible being translated in the language of the people, and the people being encouraged to study the Bible for themselves – but they did not go all the way back to AD 30 in search of the New Testament church.

Early in the nineteenth century there was a general unrest among the churches of America. In all denominations there could be found those who believed that the followers of Christ should lay aside the traditions of men and go back to the church described in the New Testament. Among this number were men like Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, and John Smith. The aim of these men, and others like them, was to do things just as the Apostles had taught, and thus, being disentangled from the desire was not to establish or start another church, but to call people back to the church of the New Testament. These restorers held up the Bible as their only guide in religious matters and restored the church of Christ.

It is important to realize that if we sow the same seed the apostles sowed in the first century – the word of God (Luke 8:11), the same harvest will be produced. Paul said, *“For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap...”* (Gal. 6:7). Every seed produces after its kind. If we sow oats we will reap oats, and is we sow corn we will reap corn. When the seed of the kingdom was planted in the first century it did not produce various denominations – it produced the New Testament church – the church of Christ. Today, if that same seed is planted – the word of God, then the New Testament church will be the result. The church of the first century exists today because the very same seed is planted. The Lord’s church will never be destroyed as long as the seed – the word of God – exists. Jesus said, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”* (Mark 13:31).

Tom Moore (The Pacesetter, Vol. 43:35, n.p.)

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. 18 2 Peter 1-3

Sept. 19 1 John 1-3

Sept. 20 1 John 4-5

Sept. 21 2 John—Jude

Sept. 22 Revelation 1-3

Sept. 23 Revelation 4-6

Sept. 24 Revelation 7-9

Sept. 25 Revelation 10-12

“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 **32 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped with the meal for Lu Whitsett’s family on Friday.
- ◆ Everyone who helps with the education program, be sure to turn your information concerning the teacher’s appreciation dinner in to Cindy Proud today.
- ◆ Gospel Meeting this week at 9th & Main, San Angelo.

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. 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
- ◆ Dec. 9-11—“Family Matters” Seminar @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco).

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did him in! He took his eyes off Jesus. His focus was diverted to the obstacles and elements. The wind. The waves. His confidence gave way to doubt. And his faith turned into fear.

Doubt can drown you. In life. In business. In relationships. And in your Christian walk.

Since Faith is the road to big things, hence doubt will do everything possible to gain inroads.

Doubt questions, “Why did God do this to me?”

Doubt wonders, “What if it doesn’t work? What if I fail?”

Doubt accusingly asks, “Why does God allow this terrible tragedy to occur?”

Doubt incriminates God by saying, “Where was He when I needed him?”

Doubt skeptically impugns, “Who do you think you are? You can’t do it?”

Doubt creeps in through the cracks and in sinister and snide ways, tells you that you are not good enough, not strong enough, not worthy enough.

When doubts arise, hold tight to your faith. Indeed, *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of God”* (Rom. 10:17).

When doubts arise hang on to your hope. Your Hope is an anchor of the soul. When the winds of doubt blow, anchor deep in God’s promised hope.

When doubts arise, cling to the love of God. He is a faithful, forgiving, loving Father.

Don’t drown in doubt. Let God find you through His Word

Ken Weliever (thepreachersword.com)

* G. Morgan Campbell was a denominational preacher. He is mentioned here as an example of using Bible study to remove doubt, not to endorse his doctrine. *Johnny*

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

	Sept. 4, 2016	Sept. 11, 2016
Bible Class	45	51
AM Worship	66	75
PM Worship	45	N/A
Wednesday PM	39	N/A
Contribution	\$1,982	\$1,937

This Week: 9/18/16		Next Week: 9/25/16		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	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Allen Bland, Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum*, James Fuller Allen Griffith, Larry Petty		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Joe Dennis	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 21 Don Smith	September 28 Joe Dennis	October 5 Prayer Night	October 12 Allen Griffith

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 18, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 2:9ff**
 Wed. Class **Things Associated with being a Member of the Body**

Integrity

"The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them" (Prov. 11:3).

I. A Single Purpose.

- A. Our English word "integrity" comes from "integer" – a mathematical term meaning a complete number, a number that is not divided.
 1. Moral application – a person of integrity has a single purpose.
 2. The single course of always doing right – honesty, sincerity, honorableness, sound moral principles, fairness, and uprightness.
- B. Thus, the Old Testament word translated "integrity" includes the idea of completeness or simplicity, something not divided.
- C. Some say, "Every man has his price." If so, no man has integrity.
- D. Jesus warned of the hypocrisy that tries to focus in two directions (Matt. 6:1-6; 16-18; 19-21).
- E. Jesus urges a "single eye" – an eye that looks only toward pleasing God (Matt. 6:22 KJV; see also Prov. 4:25-26).
- F. Though found 19X in the NKJV OT, the word "integrity" is only found once in the NKJV NT (Titus 2:7 – none in KJV, ASV) – however, the concept is an obvious essential of Christian character (1 Cor. 16:13; Acts 24:16; Heb. 13:18).
- G. Character is the summation of life's choices.
 1. We are what we are because of the directions we choose.
 2. Biblical integrity means accepting as absolute the moral and spiritual directives of God's word and determination to follow them.
 - a. That God's will is the foundation of integrity is illustrated in the Lord's instructions to Solomon (1 Kgs. 9:4-5).
 - b. Job is remembered for his patience – but it was his integrity that made him endure (Job 2:3; 27:5).

II. Integrity is Rare.

III. People of Integrity.

- A. Among Christians – integrity ought to be the rule, not the exception.
- B. How can we develop and maintain integrity?
 Others may choose the path of crookedness, the broad way that leads to destruction – "But as for me, I will walk in my integrity" (Psalm 26:11).
 Let us so live that we can pray like the Psalmist: "Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me" (Psalm 7:8)

Psalms of Praise – Psalm 19

This Praise Psalm logically breaks down into three parts.

- The glory of God as reflected by His world (1-6).
- The glory of God as revealed by His Word (7-11).
- The glory of God as received by His servant (12-14).

"Contemplate therefore either the Skies, or the Scriptures, or the Soul, and you are face to face with God. In the Skies is revealed His glory; in the Scriptures, His Greatness; and in the Soul, His Grace." (Scroggie)

I. The Sky: His Glory Announced (1-6).

- ¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
- ²Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
- ³There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.
- ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.
In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,
- ⁵Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.
- ⁶Its rising is from one end of heaven,
And its circuit to the other end,
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

II. The Scriptures: His Glory Announced More Fully (7-11).

- ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
- ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart,
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever,
The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
Yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
- ¹¹Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.

III. A Servant: His Glory Applied (12-13).

- ¹²Who can understand his errors?
Cleanse me from secret faults.
- ¹³Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
Let them not have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

IV. A Closing Prayer (14).

- ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.