

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



October 2, 2016

Contact Us:

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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

The Old Testament and the Christian

I've known many Christians who did not wish to study the Old Testament. When I was much younger, I was teaching from Exodus and a gentleman told me, "Justin, you need to quit teaching from the Old Testament; we need teaching from the New." I was stunned. In my young thinking, I assumed that if the book was in my Bible – and Exodus still was the last time I checked – the book deserves study.

As I've grown older, my understanding of Scripture has – prayerfully – matured, and I am still convinced, more than ever, that the Old Testament merits serious attention from Christians desiring to know the will of God.

We know that the Old Testament is not the standard by which we live (Rom. 7:1-6; Gal. 3:23-25; Heb. 7:11-28). Therefore, no part of the Old Testament Law has a binding effect on us today. That's precisely why we do not bring one week-old males before the church to have them circumcised. That's precisely why we don't bring in animals to sacrifice them for our sins.

What value, then, could the Old Testament possibly have for the Christian? Why should we even bother studying from the Old Testament?

The Old Testament Reveals Sin

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet'" (Rom. 7:7).

The Old Testament makes perfectly clear the problem we humans have with sin. So many Old Testament characters fell into sin: Eve fell into transgression when Satan tempted her in the Garden; fearing that he might die if Pharaoh discovered that Sarah as his wife, Abraham lied when he went into Egypt; when David went on his roof and found Bathsheba bathing, he called her to him, committed adultery and then killed her husband to cover up the affair; Solomon, the wisest man ever to live, had 1,000 women and he fell away from God to follow their idols. From the Old Testament, we learn what sin really is.

A newspaper editorial once asked, "What's wrong with the world?" G. K. Chesterton wrote back, "I am." The Old Testament shows us what's wrong with the world – we are.

The Old Testament Warns of Disobedience and its Results (1 Cor. 10:6-11; Heb. 2:1-4).


Think of the punishment those in the Old Testament received for their sin: Adam and Eve faced punishment because they both ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen. 3:16-24); because he lied to Pharaoh, Abraham was driven out of Egypt where he had gone to escape a severe famine (Gen. 12:14-20); David brought severe heartache on his family because he committed adultery with Bathsheba and sinned to cover it up (2 Sam. 12:7-18a); because of Solomon's idolatry, the kingdom was divided (1 Kgs. 11:9-13).

We learn from the Old Testament, then, that when God says something, he means it – it's not for us to debate, it's not for us to do what we choose, but God expects obedience and disobedience brings punishment.

Bill Cosby used to tell of "The First Parent." Cosby said:

"Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His kids. After He created heaven and earth,

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 "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." **2 Peter 3:17-18**

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

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God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing He said to them was, ‘Don’t.’ ‘Don’t what?’ Adam replied. ‘Don’t eat the forbidden fruit.’ ‘Forbidden fruit? Really? Where is it?’ ‘It’s over there,’ said God, wondering why He hadn’t stopped after making the elephants.”

“A few minutes later, God saw the kids eating the forbidden fruit, and He was angry. ‘Didn’t I tell you not to eat that fruit?’ God asked. ‘Uh huh,’ Adam replied. ‘Then why did you?’ ‘I dunno,’ Adam answered.”

“God’s punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.”

God continues to punish sin – not in an immediate sense as He often did in the miraculous age, but we all face punishment for our sin.

The Old Testament Points to Christ

Jesus Himself said to the Jews, “*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me*” (John 5:39).

So much of the Old Testament tells us much about Jesus. When Jesus encountered two men on the road to Emmaus who did not understand His death and resurrection, He said, “*How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?*” *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself*” (Luke 24:25-27). Peter used the Old Testament to explain to the crowd at Pentecost Jesus’ resurrection (Acts 2:25-28).

I would dare say that one could not understand the New Testament without the Old. The Old Testament presents the problem of sin and the promises of God to deal with that problem. Without the Old Testament we could not adequately appreciate the extent to which God went through to secure our salvation.

The Old Testament Instructs in Salvation

Paul told Timothy, “*From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim. 3:15). When Timothy was an infant, the Old Testament would have been the only Scriptures available, thus Paul obviously speaks about the Old Testament as making Timothy wise for salvation.

How could the Old Testament, which makes no allusion to how we obtain salvation in the New Testament age, make us wise for

salvation?

- The Old Testament presents quite graphically the universal nature of sin.

Adam and Eve, the first couple, sinned after being placed in the Garden, and sin has been a problem ever since. Abraham, the father of the faithful, twice lied about his relationship with Sarah. David, a man after God’s own heart, committed adultery and killed an innocent man to cover his tracks.

- The Old Testament presents the inadequacies of the Law to deal with sin.

God commanded the Day of Atonement as a yearly ritual for the Israelites (Lev. 16:29-34). If the Old Testament was adequate to take away sin, why did the high priests have to perform the Day of Atonement year after year?

- The Old Testament told of a Messiah who was coming to take away sin once and for all (e.g., Isa. 53:4-7). We know this refers to Jesus, for the New Testament informs us it does (Acts 8:32-35).

Paul also told Timothy that the Scriptures make one “*wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*” Obviously salvation cannot be divorced from faith in Christ. “*I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins*” (John 8:24). When the jailer in Philippi asked Paul and Silas what to do to be saved, they responded, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household*” (Acts 16:31). The Old Testament produces faith in Christ, for the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus over and over.

The Old Testament Provides Examples of Righteousness

Hebrews 11 tells us of the great men and women of faith in the Old Testament and illustrates righteousness by their actions. Thus, not only does the Old Testament warn us of the evil effects of sin, but it graphically tells us the wonders of obedience to God.

Think of the great examples of righteousness in the Old Testament. We remember Abraham’s lying, but we are far more familiar with his taking Isaac atop a mountain and trying to sacrifice him. We remember David’s affair with Bathsheba, but we also remember his killing Goliath, because he had great faith in the power of God. We remember Noah’s building the ark as God instructed; we remember Joseph’s forgiveness of his brothers; we remember Hezekiah’s restoration of Jewish worship.

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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

Oct. 2 Matthew 4-6

Oct. 3 Matthew 7-9

Oct. 4 Matthew 10-12

Oct. 5 Matthew 13-15

Oct. 6 Matthew 16-18

Oct. 7 Matthew 19-21

Oct. 8 Matthew 22-24

Oct. 9 Matthew 25-26

“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

- ◆ **Fellowship meal today** after morning worship.
- ◆ **Ladies “Digging Deeper” study and fellowship**—Tuesday evening at the McCaghren’s—6:30 pm.
- ◆ There is a new **Spiritual Sword** available to pick up on the back table.
- ◆ **Fliers** are available at the back for our upcoming **Gospel Meeting and Ladies’ Day**. Only 2/4 weeks away!

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

- ◆ **Oct. 2-5—Gospel Meeting @ Stephenville with Jim Nash.**
- ◆ **Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat**
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Homecoming Lectureship @ Rising Star
- ◆ Oct. 15-16—*“Back to the Bible Lectures”* @ Hamilton
- ◆ 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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The Old Testament provides us several positive examples; examples we need to follow.

The Old Testament Gives Us Hope

“Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).

How does the Old Testament give us hope?

- We see God’s faithfulness throughout the pages of the Old Testament.

God promised Abraham that he would become a great nation; God promised David that one from his own loins would be the Messiah; God promised Noah that He would save him and his family from the Flood; God promised the Israelites that they would go into Babylonian Captivity but that they would return home. As we see God’s faithfulness established in the Old Testament, we can rest assured of God’s faithfulness today.

- We see that many of the great characters of the Old Testament struggled with sin.

Abraham lied; David committed adultery; Solomon went into idolatry; Jonah refused to obey when God told him to go to Nineveh. We see, therefore, that even those who desperately wanted to do right struggled with sin, and I have the hope that I can continue to grow and overcome the temptations I have.

The Old Testament Reveals the Nature of God

God revealed Himself to Moses (Ex. 34:6-7). The Old Testament reveals God as the Creator, as compassionate, as forgiving, and as just.

The Old Testament Shows the Unfolding Purpose of God (1 Pet. 1:10-12)

The Old Testament gives the grand sweep of the history of the world and God’s dealings with mankind. It would be impossible to place Christ and the church within this history without the context of the Old Testament.

As you study Scripture, don’t forget the Old Testament!

Justin Imel (drjustinimelsr.com)

Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), Cassie Freeman (23).

October Anniversaries: Frank & Anita Alexander (4), Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

| | Sept. 18, 2016 | Sept. 25, 2016 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bible Class | 48 | 46 |
| AM Worship | 71 | 60 |
| PM Worship | N/A | 42 |
| Wednesday PM | N/A | 45 |
| Contribution | \$1,984 | \$2,404 |

| This Week: 10/2/16 | | Next Week: 10/9/16 | | October 2016 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: M & P Bannister / Greer Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group November 2016 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday AM: | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | Song Leader: Mike Bannister | | |
| Greeters | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich | John & Tina Barnum | | |
| Opening Prayer | Ken Maninger | John Barnum | | |
| Communion | Tom Wilcox*, Allen Bland Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler | Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell | | |
| Closing Prayer | Randy Huckaby | Allen Griffith | | |
| Attendance Cards | Chase Churchwell | Ian Barnum | | |
| Sunday PM: | Song Leader: James Fuller | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox | | |
| Opening Prayer | John Barnum | Don Smith | | |
| Scripture Reading | Don Smith | James Fuller | | |
| Communion | Tom Wilcox | Joe Dennis | | |
| Closing Prayer | Joe Dennis | Hank Wheeler | | |
| Wednesday Devotionals: | October 5 Prayer Night | October 12 Allen Griffith | October 19 Tom Wilcox | October 26 Don Smith |

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 October 2, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 2:15ff**
 Wed. Class **Things Associated with being a Member of the Body**

I Became A Christian – Now What?

It is critical that the new convert understands what has taken place in his life and in heaven, when he obeys the Gospel.

- Concerning his relationship with God.
- Concerning his standing with God.
- The new Christian enjoys a change of location:

Things have changed – becoming a Christian necessitates that the babe in Christ make changes in his life.

I. Grow.

- Spiritually, the Christian is either growing or dying – there is no option of staying the same (John 15:1-2; Matt. 28:19-20).
- Now that I am a Christian I am expected to, "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:1-3).
- This growth is directly linked to Bible knowledge (2 Pet. 1:3-9).
- Being converted to Christ and continuing to grow are inseparable.

II. Serve.

- Song – "I Want to be a Worker for the Lord."
- Consistent throughout the NT is the essentiality of the Christian serving his fellow man (James 1:27).
- Greatness in the kingdom of God is measured by service – not status (Matt. 20:27; 23:11; 10:44).
- Perhaps the most chilling and telling example of this is found in Matthew 25 (cf. Matt. 20:28; John 13:16).
- Added benefit – those who are preoccupied with serving others, generally are not complaining about not being served (Acts 20:35).

III. Worship.

- Perhaps the most intimate, encouraging, and uplifting aspect of the Christian life is worship (Psalm 18:3; Rev. 4:11; 5:12).
- Although worship is directed toward God – it is beneficial to us.
- When we unite our voices in lifting up the name of God.
- When we speak to God in prayer.
- When the Lord speaks to us through preaching (or reading) His Word.
- When we share in the Lord's work through our giving.
- When the family gathers around the Lord's Table to have communion.

God allows us – marred, broken, ruined – to be born again (John 3:3-5).

Now that you are a Christian, what **will** you do?

Psalms of Praise – Psalm 47

"Our God: The King of Kings And Lord of Lords"

Two golden themes run throughout the psalm:

- The kingship of God over all the earth, and
- The victories He has brought to His people.

I. Rejoice in the Lord (1-4).

- Oh, clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
- Why should the Lord be praised? For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.
- He is to be praised for what He has done – He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.
- In His grace, He gave Israel an inheritance – He will choose our inheritance for us.
- Selah – What God has done should be carefully thought about.

II. God Ascends (5-7).

- God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- The call to praise becomes even more intense, being stressed by repetition – Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- Because of His universal kingship, He should be the recipient of intelligent praise – For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding.

III. God Reigns (8-9).

- God rightfully claims the entire world as His domain – God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.
- He assembles the leaders of the earth to do His bidding – The princes of the people have gathered together, the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.

IV. Application.

- Continual Praise.
- When should we praise Him?
 - We will praise Him before a battle.
 - We will praise Him during the battle itself.
 - We are to praise Him after the battle.