

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 9, 2016

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102
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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.

Be A Barnabas

Barnabas was such an encouragement to the early church that he was even given that nickname: "Mr. Encourager." Of course the Hebrew way of saying that was "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36,37). Paul urges us to "Not let any unwholesome talk come out of [our] mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29).

So am I a Pollyanna, believing that all people are good, sweet and well-intentioned? No. I know there are false teachers out there, and selfish, prideful brethren who would wreck a church for their own gratification. I see human beings as sinners who need the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

But I also know that it's a tough world out there. In work places and at high school, sinful people hurt and maim others for the pleasure of it. It seems to me that in the church we should find safe haven. Some things we can learn:

- In order to grow, most of us are going to make mistakes, fail, sin. Will there be brethren there who have the vision to see beyond our current failings to what we can become? We can't just "write" brethren off when they make a mistake. What if Christ had written us off?
- When people fail or sin, they are at a crossroads. They might conclude that they are not worthy of Christ, and give up. They need a Barnabas to lift them up again at that moment!
- Have the wisdom to see in someone else an ability or talent you don't have. Identify those with potential.
- I remember the elder who told me that for twenty-five years he dreaded the moment after worship because every time it ended someone would find him in the foyer and complain or criticize. Begin to see things through the eyes of leadership – elders, deacons and preachers. See the complexity of the decisions they make. Become a Barnabas to them.
- Being a Barnabas is more than being an empty-headed cheerleader. It requires thought, vision, insight into the way others behave, and finding ways to motivate them.
- Different people are motivated different ways. The body is made up of many parts, each with a unique and needed contribution to the whole.
- One of the greatest pleasures is to say something good about another in secret, and have him find out about it by accident. Speak well of others.
- Tell them you appreciate them. Thank them. A teenager told me once: "My father never once said, 'I love you.'"
- Be creative. Cards. Gift certificates. Baby sitting their kids while they go out.
- Identify some particular groups of people to encourage: Send young people a card telling them what you appreciate about them. The person who teaches your kid, or grand kids' Bible class. The preacher's wife, the elder's wives. Often they lose their identity because of their husband's role. Befriend that woman. The victim of bereavement, divorce, or some other tragedy.

The church always seems to have plenty of critics; what it needs is more encouragers!

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

"These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent'."

Revelation 3:1-3



The Fundamental Trans Formation

We are seeing in America the ever-progressing destruction of traditional American values. This includes fundamentally transforming family, church and synagogue, neighborhood, school, marriage, authentic Liberty and, sadly, even the truth.

For example, we'll look at two TV shows that show how our entertainment industry seeks to affect the outcome of redefining marriage and a sense of self.

Brent Bozell and Tim Graham offered the case in point in their analysis of the ABC TV show, "Modern Family." The gents framed up what we've long called entertainment as indoctrination quite nicely by walking readers through the liberal success of portraying same-sex marriage as commonplace. Despite about 500,000 same-sex marriages as reported by USA Today in June this year, compared to the more than 60 million traditional marriages reported in 2015, a 1% occurrence has been defined as commonplace on TV.

Until the 1970s, entertainment mirrored our society. Today, entertainment works to chisel away at the bedrock of morality, decency and even commonsense, to have society model its sad display of everything from excessive sexuality and objectifying women to the outright disdain for manhood.

The writers of "Modern Family" weren't satisfied with portraying same-sex marriage as common, so they're now introducing a transgender character — and a *child*, no less.

In their scrutiny, Bozell and Graham noted the Disney-owned ABC, along with many other hard Left activists who dominate the entertainment industry, is exposed as a cultural deconstructionist with an agenda not to entertain but to indoctrinate. An eight-year-old Atlanta actor selected to "play" the transgender boy will allegedly press the homosexual characters of the show to examine if their tolerance is elastic enough. Translation: The new normal is not only same-sex marriage but the further reaches of gender disorientation pathology.

"Modern Family" doesn't stand alone. Arguably more in-

sidious is ABC's "Once Upon a Time," because it's a show marketed to families. The show features fairy tale characters transported into our world, and it's a clever jumble of Snow White, Prince Charming and the Evil Queen, along with Rumpelstiltskin, Hook, Robin Hood and the Wicked Witch of the West, to name a few. Most of the fun is harmless. Except when it's not.

In an episode that originally aired this April, Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz shared a romantic storyline with Little Red Riding Hood, ending with "true love's kiss" breaking a sleeping spell. In an interview with "Entertainment Weekly," the co-creators Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz lay out the lesbian-themed story plainly and clearly: It was "just another example of how in a fairy tale, as in life, love is love. Our goal is to make it as we see it in the real world, just as normal and as a part of everyday life as it should be."

It's the embodiment of the "love wins" slogan. Unsuspecting families watching "Once Upon a Time" find themselves identifying and sympathizing with two lesbian characters who are simply following their hearts. What could be so wrong with that?

Every single day this battle for the minds of our children and culture at large is being waged. And, sadly, the "progressives" are winning. They're winning by portraying falsehoods as reality, even if it is fairy tale based. They're winning by creating emotional narratives around a weakness in our society — the confidence in one's own identity.

The last few generations of our children have been exposed and trained up with the philosophy that self-esteem is the most critical element in the success of child-rearing and development. We now have millions of youth and young adults who believe they are, indeed, very important. So important that they should have free college tuition. They are entitled to a safe space where their "gender identity" is fluid and must be validated by everyone around them. And "love" — however they define it today — is an end in itself.

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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. 9 Matthew 25-26

Oct. 10 Matthew 27-28

Oct. 11 Mark 1-3

Oct. 12 Mark 4-6

Oct. 13 Mark 7-9

Oct. 14 Mark 10-12

Oct. 15 Mark 13-14

Oct. 16 Mark 15-16

"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 **24 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Caitlin Barnum and Ryan Settles were married Friday.
- ◆ Johnny will be speaking this evening on the lecture-ship at Rising Star. Willy Henderson will be speaking here in his place. Johnny and Cindy be at the Lubbock Lectureship Monday—Wednesday, returning here in time for Wednesday evening service.
- ◆ We will be having a fellowship meal next Sunday, as we begin our Gospel Meeting.
- ◆ Fliers are available at the back for our upcoming Gospel Meeting and Ladies' Day.
- ◆ Lectureships this week at Lubbock, Rising Star, and Hamilton. Information for each on the bulletin board.

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. 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
- ◆ Nov. 6-9—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs with Josh Romo
- ◆ Dec. 9-11—*"Family Matters"* Seminar @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco).

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If you're politically correct or highly degreed but hardly educated, you'll see this as a progressive society moving to accept all equally with no view of right or wrong. "Coexist," right?

If you're grounded in the laws of nature, and, yes, Nature's God, you can't believe what you're witnessing. You vacillate between the emotions of embarrassment due to the intellectual blindness of this absurdity to heartbreak seeing mixed-up adults raising equally confused children.

In using the term "culture," we connote it to be the anthropological composition of accepted values, habits, knowledge, beliefs and behaviors that are manifested in arts and entertainment, families, religions, government, business, the media and "journalism" and educational systems. Our culture has been inarguably changed over the years with these seven entities being weaponized to *create* a culture, instead of reflecting a society.

Let's for a moment view "culture" in the sense of an artificial medium rich with nutrients and resources in a controlled environment that feed organisms devoted to replication. Once this culture of like-minded creatures has colonized sufficiently and are introduced into a host environment — the aforementioned venues — the insult begins and the host can and will be overwhelmed.

What's the cure? Not more of the same! Are you willing to stand up for your Christian values?

Borrowed with changes from <https://patriotpost.us/articles/45150>

Thirty Pieces of Silver: The Rest of the Story

Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, an act inspired by Satan himself (John 13:27).

John notes that when Judas departed from Jesus, it was night, which fits the motif of evil throughout the Bible (John 13:30; 1 John 1:5; Colossians 1:13).

The remarkable mind of God works throughout history to accomplish his plan without violating anyone's freewill. The logistics of such an idea is beyond our imaginations.

Despite the freewill of Judas and the Jewish leaders, they perfectly followed the plan foreseen by God before time.

In Zechariah 11, God's judgment is coming upon his people and their sorry shepherds.

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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. 25, 2016 | Oct. 3, 2016 |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Bible Class | 46 | 41 |
| AM Worship | 60 | 59 |
| PM Worship | 42 | 46 |
| Wednesday PM | 45 | 39 |
| Contribution | \$2,404 | \$1,810 |

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

Sunday Class **Romans 2:19ff**
Wed. Class **Things Associated with being a Member of the Body**

You Have a Name that You Are Alive, But You are Dead! (Rev. 3:1-6)

- I. **Reputations Are Not Always Realities.**
 - A. There was a belief among some that this congregation was alive.
 1. "...you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (1).
 2. What people may think about a situation does not make it so.
 - a. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12).
 - b. The NT clearly contrasts the mind of man and the mind of God.
 - B. Claims do not make affirmations true.
 - C. Reality is as God declares, not as people think.
 - II. **Recognition And Response Are Required.**
 - A. Once the problem of self-approval is exposed, the next step is to use the mind wisely and follow through with the instruction from the Lord.
 - B. "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain.... Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. ...if you will not watch..." (2-3).
 1. A key word in this section is "watch."
 - a. It appears twice in the words "Be watchful" (2) and "watch" (3).
 - b. "To have been roused from sleep, to be awake...to watch...give strict attention to, be cautious, active" (Thayer).
 - c. The congregation had fallen into a deceptive sleep, believing that things were well when they were not.
 2. After recognizing the need for revival comes the need to heed the instructions for a living restoration.
 3. The words of action for improvement are "strengthen" (2), "remember" (3), "hold fast" (3), and "repent" (3).
 - III. **A Remnant of Faithfulness Does Not Rectify the Problem.**
 - A. "You have a few...who have not defiled their garments" (4).
 - B. There has always been a remnant within the people of God.
 - C. Sadly, the church still has its need to be called to awaken.
 - IV. **Responsibility Lies With Each Individual Member of the Congregation.**
 - A. "He who overcomes.... He who has an ear, let him hear..." (5-6).
 - B. If that which is dead is to come to life again, it will be due to the individual brethren who are spiritually dead hearing and applying the message of the inspired word of God.

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The prophet said that they "weighed out for me my wages thirty pieces of silver" (Zechariah 11:12). The Lord replied that the silver would be thrown into the house of the Lord and given to the potter (Zechariah 11:13).

Earlier God had used the same sum in the Law of Moses showing the vision and foresight of God. There it appeared in a discussion of an ox that killed a man or a woman (Exodus 21:28).

The intent of the owner of the ox played a part. If the oxen had been known to be violent, then the owner must pay a redemption price on his life for killing a male or female servant (Exodus 21:32).

Burton Coffman notes in his commentary, "This is the only case where a money compensation, instead of capital punishment, was expressly allowed in the Mosaic Law."

The redemption price? Thirty pieces of silver.

The plan of God worked smoothly and the precious Lord was betrayed and crucified for the sins of the world (Romans 5:6-8).

Exactly as prophesied, Judas received 30 pieces of silver. Remorseful, Judas returned the money to the defiant shepherds of Israel and the money was thrown down in the house of the Lord and used to buy a potter's field (Matthew 27:1-10).

The Bible is very rewarding to study because of God's extraordinary wisdom and vision. His greatness is evident on every page.

Richard Mansel (forthright.net)