

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 23, 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.

God In Three Persons



One of the earliest controversies to erupt in early Christianity centered around the Trinity. The basic question boiled down to this: "If there is but one God and Christ is God, what is the relationship of Christ to the Father?" Early Christians answered that question in a variety of ways, and some were fairly close to the truth and some were heretics. I don't want to get bogged down in weighty theological arguments; instead, I simply want to look at what Scripture has to say on the Trinity.

GOD IS ONE

Central to Christianity is the belief that God is one. The Old Testament strongly asserts monotheism.

1. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Deut. 6:4).
2. "They may know that you alone, whose name is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth" (Psalm 83:18).
3. "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me" (Isa. 43:10).

The New Testament strongly affirms monotheism.

1. "Jesus answered, 'The most important [commandment] is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one"' (Mark 12:29).
2. "There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist" (1 Cor. 8:16).
3. "There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).
4. "You believe that God is one; you do well" (James 2:19).

GOD IS THREE

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each referred to as God.

1. The Father is called God
 - "Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead" (Gal. 1:1).
 - "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

(Continued on page 2)

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**" **John 20:30-31**



2. The Son is called God.

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).
- “Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” (John 20:28). Some say that we can’t use Thomas’ statement as an affirmation of Jesus’ deity; after all, Thomas has not yet been guided into all truth. But, carefully notice what Jesus, in essence, says at v. 29 – Jesus says, “Thomas, you believe. You might believe because you saw me, but you do believe.”

3. The Holy Spirit is called God.

The New Testament on a couple of occasions refers to the Holy Spirit as God.

- “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God’” (Acts 5:3-4).
- “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16).

The Scriptures also use attributes of One who must be divine to describe the Holy Spirit.

- The Spirit is omnipresent: Psalm 139:7.
- The Spirit is a lawgiver: Rom. 8:2.
- The Spirit would guide the Apostles into all truth: John 16:13.
- The Holy Spirit does divine work.
 - He is the One through whom we are born again: John 3:8.
 - He is the One through whom we shall be resurrected: Rom. 8:11.
 - He was active in Creation: Gen. 1:2.

There is perfect unity in God. Jesus and the Father are one

(John 10:30). “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14).

This is, admittedly, quite difficult to understand. How is it that God can be both one and three at the same time? Tertullian, an early Christian writer, said of the Trinity, “Try to understand it and you will loose your mind; deny it and you will lose your soul.” I am persuaded the reason we have such great difficulty understanding the Trinity is that we are finite and God is infinite; God is Spirit (John 4:24). Although we have an eternal soul as God does, we are presently confined to our bodies. Everything we see, everything we experience is physical. But, God because he is spirit is not bound to our physical limitations and experience.

There are several analogies man has used to attempt to explain the Trinity. We can use the analogy of a woman – she might be a wife, a mother, and a woman. Water can take three forms – cloud, rain, and mist. An egg has a shell, white, and yoke. We must understand, however, that our analogies are woefully inadequate to explain God. If we could fit God into a little box and fully explain him, would he still be God?

There are many errors taught concerning the Trinity.

- On the one hand, we have the United Pentecostal view. They hold that there is no distinction in the Trinity — they believe there is just one person in the Trinity. That simply cannot be. An abundance of Scriptures demonstrate that there is a distinction between Father, Son and Spirit; e.g., in Matt. 3:13-17, you clearly find a distinction between Father, Son, and Spirit.
- On the other hand, we have the Jehovah’s Witness position that denies the deity of the Son. They claim that Jesus is not eternal, he is a created being, and he is not divine. But, notice Hebrews 1:8 – “But of the Son he says, ‘Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom.’” The Father calls the Son “God.”

We need to understand God so that we can serve, honor, and obey God.

Justin Imel (drjustinimelsr.com)

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. 23	Luke 19-21
Oct. 24	Luke 22-24
Oct. 25	John 1-3
Oct. 26	John 4-6
Oct. 27	John 7-9
Oct. 28	John 10-12
Oct. 29	John 13-15
Oct. 30	John 16-18

“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 **40 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **We had an excellent Gospel Meeting!** Jacob presented us some very challenging lessons. We especially rejoiced with the response of Caitlin Tuesday evening. Thank you to everyone for making the Gospel Meeting a success. In addition to our regular meeting times listed below, we had 52 in attendance Monday evening and 84 on Tuesday evening.
- ◆ **Ladies' Day is Saturday!** The Ladies will have a **quick meeting after services this morning.**
- ◆ **Memorial Service for Jeff Brown,** Susan Bridges' brother, will be Friday at 1:00pm at the Texas State Veteran's Cemetery north of Abilene.
- ◆ There will be a **wedding shower for Caitlin (Barnum) and Ryan Settles** after evening services next Sunday. Selections are at Wal-Mart.
- ◆ The next Ladies **"Digging Deeper" Bible study and fellowship** will be at the McCaghren's, November 8th.
- ◆ There are some new DVDs in the old teacher's workroom for members to borrow and return.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ 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. 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).

Apples in January

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Eccl. 3:1).

It's autumn in the United States. Everyone appreciates this glorious season for its riotous colors, unique scents, and gently declining temperatures. Pumpkins and vegetables are ready for harvest. The trees are shedding their leaves in preparation for a time of rest, of renewal. Winter is on its way.

But what if I want apples in January? We have a tendency to honor the harvest season higher than the rest. We see no value in other seasons because there is no fruit. We would like lives that bear fruit all year long!

God created the rhythm of the seasons as necessary patterns for healthy growth. The highest yields are seen from trees that experience the benefit of all four seasons.

Take a look at your life. What season is it? Is it childbearing/raising season? Is it young love season? Is it empty nest season? Is it care for an aging loved one season?

Whatever season you find yourself in I would like to remind you of two things:

- Seasons are created for growth and they always change.
 1. God uses seasons to grow good fruit. If you want to grow more in love with Christ, embrace the season of life that surrounds you. If you want to grow spiritually, look around you and appreciate the opportunity that comes from that specific season.
 2. I hate the phrase, "This too shall pass." It expresses zero compassion, but in general it's true. Nothing stays the same, but God. And that's a great comfort! We may love spring, but it can't stay around forever, or we'd never have fruit. No matter your feelings on a season, it can't and won't last forever. Change is coming.
- There is something to savor about the season you're in today. When we spend all our time longing for another season, we fail to see the beauties of the one right in front of our eyes. Find something to savor about the season you're in today. Write it down.

Stop longing for apples in January. Whatever season you find yourself in today, remember: *"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."*

Kelli Hughett (start2finish.org)

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

	Oct. 9, 2016	Oct. 16, 2016
Bible Class	47	52
AM Worship	62	78
PM Worship	50	61
Wednesday PM	52	56
Contribution	\$1,905	\$2,396

This Week: 10/23/16		Next Week: 10/30/16		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
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Communion	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Hank Wheeler, James Thomas	Randy Huckaby, Allen Bland Don Smith, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Chase Churchwell		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Communion	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 26 Tom Wilcox	November 2 Prayer Night	November 9 Don Smith	November 16 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 October 23, 2016	Sunday Class Romans 2:24ff Wed. Class What Does It Mean to be Just a Christian?
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up?</u></p> <p>We need Jesus — the real Jesus. No person in history has provoked as much study, criticism, prejudice, or devotion as Jesus of Nazareth. Rigorous academic attempts have been made to get behind the New Testament portrait of Jesus, to discover the "real" historical Jesus.</p> <p>I. The Evidence Is Compelling.</p> <p>A. The problem is simple — it is <i>unbelief</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Not unbelief based on insufficient evidence. The evidence about Jesus is compelling — <i>withholding belief in Him is to commit an immoral act.</i> <p>B. How could such blatant unbelief attack "the church"? Why don't those who reject the NT portrait of Jesus simply abandon Christianity?</p> <p>C. The course of least resistance is to <i>redefine</i> Christianity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To do so requires one to neutralize the authority of the Bible. To do so one must banish the Christ of the Bible in order. <p>D. The Christ we believe in must be true if we are to be redeemed.</p> <p>II. Men Who Wrote with an Agenda.</p> <p>A. Some protest that the NT portrait of Jesus comes to us from the pens of biased men who had an agenda — of course it does!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fact that the biblical writers were believers and were zealous to persuade others, counts for their reliability. Theirs was indeed a record of redemptive history. <p>B. The historical Jesus did not live in a vacuum — He is known by the way He transformed those around Him.</p> <p>III. Gaining a True Picture of Jesus.</p> <p>A. We must look at Jesus as He is presented to us in the NT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Virtually all we know about Jesus is recorded in the Scriptures. If these sources are ignored or rejected — we are left with speculation and speculation alone. <p>B. Any attempt to understand Jesus must take into account the dangers imposed by our own minds.</p> <p>C. We also must be aware that Jesus is no mere figure of historical interest whom we can study dispassionately.</p> <p>D. The New Testament writers give us an eyewitness account of Jesus of Nazareth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Psalms of Praise – Psalm 115 – "To God Be the Glory"</u></p> <p>One of six "Egyptian Hallel Psalms" (113-118).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These psalms were used during the feast times of Israel. As the Jewish home observed the Passover meal, Psalms 115-118 were sung at the conclusion of the meal. <p>The key theme that the song pursues is the unique glory of God.</p> <p>I. God, the Faithful God (1).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory.</i> <i>Because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.</i> The petition is that God — as the great God of mercy and truth — will come to their defense. <p>II. God, the Living God (2-8).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" (2).</i> The answer to the question is simply — <i>Our God is in heaven (3).</i> The true God is in heaven — He is not on earth contained in or even being represented by a statue. The writer engages in a mocking satire of the whole idea of idolatry. <p>III. God, the Caring God (9-15).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An admonition is given — <i>O Israel, trust in the Lord (9).</i> A reason for such trust follows — <i>He is their help and their shield.</i> <i>O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord (10).</i> <i>He is their help and their shield.</i> <i>You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord (11).</i> <i>The Lord has been mindful of us (12).</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>He will bless us.</i> <i>He will bless the house of Israel.</i> <i>He will bless the house of Aaron.</i> <i>He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great (13).</i> <i>May the Lord give you increase more and more, you and your children</i> <i>May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth (15).</i> <p>IV. God, the Lord of All (16-18).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men (16).</i> <i>The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence (17).</i> <i>But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore (18).</i> <i>Praise the Lord!</i>