

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



November 6, 2016

Contact Us:

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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.

Verses to Keep In Mind When We Vote

No one knows more about what a nation needs than Almighty God. His Word affirms that *"righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"* (Prov. 14:34). Moreover, God breathed out His Word and it contains *"instruction in righteousness"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Thus, if righteousness exalts a nation, and God's Word contains instruction in righteousness, a nation will be exalted if it follows the instructions of God's Holy Word.

As Americans, we live in a country where we are afforded the opportunity to choose our leaders. Consequently, it is imperative that we be informed about what constitutes righteousness so that we may vote for the candidates who most closely mirror the righteous principles of Holy Scripture.

Let us examine some verses to keep in mind when we vote.


Proverbs 16:8 – *"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without justice."*

In other words, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE ECONOMY, STUPID! Lest the reader be offended by my use of the word "stupid," I would remind you of where this language originated. In the 1992 election, advisors to Bill Clinton explained that they needed to narrow the emphasis of their campaign down to one simple formula. Would they focus on foreign policy, on social issues, or on the economy? They decided to zero in on the economy and thus came up with a slogan to remind them to stay on message. The slogan they came up with was, "It's the economy, stupid!" Yet, as you can see from the passage in Proverbs 16:8, God doesn't see it that way!

Of course we all want to live in a nation that has a strong economy; but according to the Holy Spirit, if we had to choose between being "economically strong" and being "morally upright," it would be better to have a little with righteousness than to have great revenues without justice. Perhaps no leader has ever presided over a stronger economy than did Solomon. Read 1 Kings chapters 4-10. You will be astonished at the immense wealth of Solomon's kingdom. 2 Chronicles 1:15 describes the economy of Solomon's day: *"...the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland."*

But there was a problem, *"king Solomon loved many foreign women"* and allowed these women to lead him into idolatry (1 Kings 11:1-4). In spite of a tremendous economy, *"Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David"* (1 Kgs. 11:6). His leadership in economic matters was unparalleled, but he also led a nation into idolatry (1 Kgs. 11:7). Consequently, the Lord was angry with Solomon and took his kingdom away from him (1 Kgs. 11:9-13).

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 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:1-4, 14**

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Let this truth sink in: ***In spite of a booming economy, God voted Solomon out of office!*** What does that tell you about what matters to God when it comes to a nation’s leaders? We need to remember that *“It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness”* (Prov. 16:12).

It is high time, indeed it is past time, for God’s people to put MORALS over MONEY when it comes to casting their votes! Consider these verses...

Proverbs 25:5 – *“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.”*

A leader is often only as good as the counselors with whom he surrounds himself. Wicked counselors who give bad advice to a leader are a blight upon the nation. We all remember what happened to Rehoboam who rejected the wise counsel of the older men and instead followed after the horrible advice of the younger men (1 Kgs. 12:6-15). Consequently, the people mourned. No wonder the Proverbs writer wrote, *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan”* (Prov. 29:2)

It is important for a leader to surround himself with righteous advisers rather than wicked counselors. The views of a President’s cabinet, and the views of the judges whom he appoints, reveal much to us about the wisdom (or lack thereof) of the leader who appointed them. According to Proverbs 25:5, if you take away wicked advisers from a leader, you will help to establish a more righteous government.

Proverbs 20:8, 26 – *“A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes. ... A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them.”*

This passage indicates that the wise leader is tough on crime. He will appoint judgment and justice to be meted out against the wicked. In fact, the phrase *“brings the*

threshing wheel over them” demonstrates that the wise leader deals severely with evildoers. Since leaders set the tone for the nation, a leader that is tough on criminal activity actually helps to create a safer environment.

Proverbs 28:15 – *“Like a roaring lion and a charging bear is a wicked ruler over poor people.”* **Proverbs 29:14** – *“The king who judges the poor with truth, his throne will be established forever.”* **Proverbs 31:9** –

“Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”

These three texts show us that God is concerned about equitable treatment of the poor and needy. God expects for a leader to deal justly with the poor and needy. Now, some would misinterpret this to mean that the leader of the government should give free handouts to all poor people without regard to their work ethic. However, God does not contradict Himself, and we know that the same God who authored the three verses above also wrote that *“if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”* (2 Thess. 3:10). To vote for a candidate who pledges to give handouts to those who won’t even try to find a job, is to vote against the righteous principle of Holy Scripture that if a man won’t work, neither should he eat. There is something very motivational about hunger, and if we reward the lazy with food they have not worked for, we are perpetuating their lifestyle of lethargy.

Of course, there are many who are legitimately disabled and others who are unemployed through no fault of their own. In fact, it is important that we not go to an extreme and act as if there are no legitimately poor people. The leader of a nation ought to be concerned about the needs of all men, both rich and poor. A righteous leader will not attack the rich or the poor. He will fight for the rights of both. He will not punish those who are reaping the rewards of their hard work. And at the same time, he will fight against policies that would unfairly oppress the poor and needy.

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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

Nov. 6 Acts 16-18

Nov. 7 Acts 19-21

Nov. 8 Acts 22-24

Nov. 9 Acts 25-26

Nov. 10 Acts 27-28

Nov. 11 Romans 1-3

Nov. 12 Romans 4-6

Nov. 13 Romans 7-9

“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 **43 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today at noon.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting this week at Bangs.** See bulletin board for details.
- ◆ **Ladies “Digging Deeper” Bible study and fellowship** will be at the McCaghren’s Tuesday evening at 6:30. All ladies are encouraged to attend, even if you have not been participating in the study.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

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

He Must Increase

It hurts when you have worked hard and been overlooked, or when you have toiled in anonymity and were never thanked.

There is humility, and then there’s false humility. The Bible demands one, but actually, not the other.

“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you, do not think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment ...” (Romans 12:3).

There are two extreme reactions to this: There is false humility, where we cry, “I’m useless, I can’t contribute anything.” If you are a good song leader, (or Bible class teacher, or soul winner) go ahead and tell the congregation that you are willing to lend your talents. The church needs your talents. As a good steward of God’s gifts, you are obliged to offer them.

Arrogance: “I am the essential element in this congregation; they couldn’t do without me.” You are not the church’s essential ingredient. I like the words of the older, wiser missionary to a new arrival: “Son, God was working here before you arrived, he will work while you are here, and will continue to work when you’re gone.”

Both arrogance and false humility are wrong.

John the Baptist had it right when he said of the reciprocal relationship he had with Jesus: *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:30). The more you saw of John, the less you saw of Jesus; the more you saw of Jesus, the less you saw of John.

We cannot, dare not, get in the way of people’s vision of Jesus. We must point beyond ourselves to him. That is precisely what a disciple does: He lets his light *“shine before men”* that they may *“glorify”* God (Matthew 5:16).

There is another side to not getting the credit for hard work. Sometimes the quiet or “little” people you serve (the elderly, children, the poor, the lost) did notice, but are unable to thank you. The Lord also suggests that if we are humble, he (yes, the Lord himself) will exalt us (James 5:6). That’s better than getting in the headlines anyway. And, what is more, faithful service is known by the one who truly, eternally matters.

He won’t say “Thank you.” Instead, he will say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). That might be worth a little, don’t you think?

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), **Canyon Edwards (6), Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8)**, Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Terry Teague (17), Christy Edwards (24), Marcia Turnbull (24).

November Anniversaries: **Gene & Barbara Bannister (6)**, Jack & Judie Turner (18).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 23, 2016	Oct. 30, 2016
Bible Class	51	54
AM Worship	75	77
PM Worship	47	68
Wednesday PM	46	41
Contribution	\$2,157	\$1,905

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 11/6/16		Next Week: 11/13/16		November 2016 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family December 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Larry Petty John Barnum, Ryan Rudloff	Tom Wilcox*, Allen Bland Hank Wheeler, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Hank Wheeler	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 9 Don Smith	November 16 Joe Dennis	November 23 Allen Griffith	November 30 Tom Wilcox

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 November 6, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 3:1ff**
 Wed. Class **What Does It Mean to be Just a Christian?**

<u>Who Is Jesus? – Other Titles Jesus Wore</u>	<u>Psalms of Thanksgiving</u>
<p>I. Lord.</p> <p>A. The second most often used designation for Jesus is Lord.</p> <p>B. It is hard for Americans to grasp the full significance of the title Lord.</p> <p>C. The Greek word kurios was used several ways in the ancient world.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In its most common usage, it functioned as a polite word for sir. It was a title given to slave owners of the aristocratic class. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus is called "Master" by His disciples. "Paul, a bondservant (slave) of Jesus Christ." One who had absolute sovereignty over a group of people. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Greek translation of the OT used the word kurios to translate Adonai – a title used for God which called attention to God's absolute rule over the earth. In the NT, Jesus is the one who is elevated to the right hand of God and receives the title Lord (Adonai). <p>II. The Son of God.</p> <p>A. God was zealous to announce that Jesus Christ was His Son.</p> <p>B. Jesus' sonship carries with it an intimacy with the Father.</p> <p>C. The primary significance of sonship is in its reference to obedience.</p> <p>III. The Logos.</p> <p>A. The common meaning is simply "word, thought, or concept."</p> <p>B. Logos had an exalted meaning as well.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In God Himself there is coherence, unity, consistency, and balance by which all things in this world hold together under His rule. The ancient Greeks coherence, unity, consistency, and balance of the universe. John dropped a bombshell on the philosophical landscape by looking at Jesus, not as an impersonal concept, but as the incarnation of the eternal Logos. <p>IV. Savior.</p> <p>A. No title captures Jesus' work more completely than Savior.</p> <p>B. God Himself named Jesus – "...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).</p> <p>C. Here is where the relevance of Jesus collides with our lives – each person must ultimately face the personal issue squarely – "What do I do about my sin?"</p>	<p>These were normally a part of formal worship.</p> <p>This type of psalm would usually have the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction – in which the person acknowledged that he has suffered in the past or has had general misfortune. A discussion of why he is now before God praising Him – He has delivered me. A concluding word of praise – because of His care and love for me, I recognize the hand of God in my life. <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual - 30, 34, 40, 52, 66, 92, 116, 138. Communal 65, 67, 107, 118, 124. <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 30 – Thanksgiving When a Disaster Has Passed</p> <p>I. The Writer's Perception (1-3).</p> <p>A. "You have lifted me up" and "healed me."</p> <p>B. Notice the personal note in the Psalm – "my God" (2).</p> <p>C. "The grave" [Sheol] (3) is equivalent to the NT word "hades."</p> <p>II. The Writer's Praise (4-5).</p> <p>A. "Sing praise...give thanks" (4).</p> <p>B. "For His anger is but for a moment" (5).</p> <p>C. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."</p> <p>III. The Writer's Presumption (6-7).</p> <p>A. "Now in my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved.'"</p> <p>B. There were two things that David acknowledged (7).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "By Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong." "You hid Your face, and I was troubled." <p>IV. The Writer's Prayer (8-10).</p> <p>A. "I cried out to You, O Lord" (8) – His heart was penitent.</p> <p>B. "What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit?" (9)</p> <p>C. "Lord, be my helper!" (10)</p> <p>V. The Writer's Peace (11-12).</p> <p>A. There is a sudden change in the tone of the Psalm.</p> <p>B. "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness" (11).</p> <p>C. Blessings call for thanksgiving and praise to the One Who gives to all.</p>