

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 20, 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.

Barriers to Sin and Hell

The *Encarta Dictionary* (English, North American edition) states that a barrier is "something that obstructs or separates," or physically speaking, a "structure blocking access," such as a fence. On the interstate, highway workers erect barriers to prevent vehicles from going into the wrong lane during road construction. There are also barriers, such as iron fences and gates that prevent intruders from wandering into a gated or secure community. These are safeguards to the occupants living there.

The Law of Moses required parapets (protective walls) to be set up on the roofs of houses to prevent someone from falling to a tragic death. "When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it" (Deut. 22:8). God required this out of love for His children. In like manner, this can be said of all His commandments, because they are for our good, and are not grievous (10:13; 1 John 5:3). God has set up certain safeguards or barriers to keep man from sin and eternal hellfire.

The Word of God

God has given His Word to strengthen man against sin, to lead him to heaven and to keep him out of hell! David declared: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psa. 119:11). The story was related about a mother whose son had come of age and was about to go out into the world. She penned these words in the front of his Bible: "Only this Book will keep you from sin, and only sin will keep you from this Book." How true! God's Word fortifies us against temptation, as Jesus proved when He successfully overcame the tempter in the wilderness. Each temptation was answered with: "It is written" (Matt. 4:4,7,10). The Word of God, the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17), warns us and give us strength to march onward to heavenly Canaan: "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). Yet, if the Word of God is not applied, it cannot help us. One who lives next to the hospital may catch meningitis and die because he refuses to go next door for the antibiotic. In like manner, man who refuses to feed upon the Word of God and to obey it will die in his sins and be lost in hell forever! (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

God has provided an escape route from every temptation. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). The Word of God, like a road map, will help us to find that route! In the long ago, David declared: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105). The Word of God has the power to enable us to overcome the world: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

(Continued on page 2)

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?' But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him."

Matthew 3:13-15



The Fellowship of the Saints

The love and wisdom of God is seen in the organization of His people into a body, the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23). The church is to meet regularly for the study of the Word, the worship of God, and the work of the Lord (Acts 2:42; 20:7; Phil. 3:3). The church of Christ, the house of God, is made up of brothers and sisters in Christ, that is, saints, everyone of whom is important (1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:12-27). As we read the thrilling account of the growth of the early church, one of the things that stands out is the steadfast association of saints together (Acts 2:38-47). Luke records: *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ... Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47).

Consider the picture of hot coals in a fireplace, each flaming red, and yet, the removal of any of them will cause it to cool into an ashen color. Likewise, the child of God who begins to cease association with other Christians cools in his love for Christ. As in all of God’s prohibitions, the command not to forsake *“the assembling of ourselves together”* (Heb. 10:25), is for our own good. Indeed, consistent contact with those who love God, and frequent instruction from the Scriptures, will result in continual exhortation, edification, encouragement, and if need be, warning and rebuke, all of which are barriers against sin and eternal destruction (Heb. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11,14; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:1-2; Col. 1:27-29). The association of Christians provides the opportunity for godly examples and influences to avail, and the occasion to: *“consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”* (Heb. 10:24).

Prayer

One of the great blessings of being in Christ is the privilege of approaching the throne of God through Jesus Christ our great High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16). Moreover, to think, we can do this in boldness and confidence! The Lord plainly taught

that watchfulness and prayer would sustain His disciples against temptation, when He commanded them: *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”* (Matt. 26:41). The Lord Himself, our perfect example (1 Pet. 2:21), approached the heavenly Father in prayer in a time of great trial before His crucifixion (Matt. 26:39-44). His attitude was *“Thy will be done.”*

We are encouraged to make our requests known unto God, which includes the need for spiritual strength against specific weaknesses and temptations: *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”* (Phil. 4:6). Not only this, but we have the privilege of asking our fellow Christians to pray for us, as James taught: *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”* (Jas. 5:16). This is one way that we: *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”* (Gal. 6:2). In His model prayer, Jesus taught us to pray the following to the Father, which will help us to overcome sin and the world: *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”* (Matt. 6:12-13).

Conclusion

God has established several safeguards and barriers to keep us out of sin and hell, and to lead us on to heaven. The love of God, the church of Christ, the prayers of saints, the strength of the Bible, the worship of God, and the godly examples of the faithful, all serve to keep us faithful. However, it is up to each person, as to whether or not he will continue on and be faithful. We have the blood of Christ to cleanse us, and we have many other spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3,7; 2:13; 1 John 1:7). Therefore, if one loses his soul in the lake of fire, he will not be able to blame the Lord (Rev. 20:15). He himself will be to blame. Let us allow the barriers to sin and hell help us to overcome the barriers to eternal life with Christ. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23).

Danny Douglas (Defender, Vol. 45, Num. 4 [April 2012], pp. 1,3-4)

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. 20 1 Corinthians 10-12

Nov. 21 1 Corinthians 13-14

Nov. 22 1 Corinthians 15-16

Nov. 23 2 Corinthians 1-3

Nov. 24 2 Corinthians 4-6

Nov. 25 2 Corinthians 7-9

Nov. 26 2 Corinthians 10-11

Nov. 27 2 Corinthians 12-13

“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 **45 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ We are in need of two homes that would serve as hosts for a congregational “progressive dinner / holiday party.” Questions or to volunteer, see Cindy McCaghren. Probable date—December 10th.
- ◆ The next “Digging Deeper” ladies study and fellowship will be December 6th, 6:30pm, at the McCaghren’s.
- ◆ Next Sunday, Mike Lane and his family will be here filling in for Johnny who will be on vacation.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

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

Out of the Comfort Zone

I was listening to a young person recently talking about an aspect of worship regarding a hypothetical role of women in leadership. This individual suggested that “people need to get out of their comfort zones.”

I thought: “You want to get out of your comfort zone? Commit to five years mission work in Papua New Guinea. Work in a community shelter in Chicago, Illinois.”

But fudging on God’s instructions is not the place to “get people out of their comfort zones.” (I’m not even sure where this idea that getting people out of their comfort zones has been proven to be beneficial. Is this some area of human behavior I am unaware of that has been demonstrated to have psychological benefits?). I have noticed that it is rarely the speaker who offers to move out of his/her comfort zone; Instead, he/she wants to force friends and colleagues to do so.

I am certain the individual speaking was neither a behavioral therapist nor a biblical scholar.

God’s instructions on the role of women in worship is, as the young people like to say, “a thing” (1 Cor. 14:34,35; 1 Tim. 2:10,11). As Christians, we need to grapple with it, not ignore it, ask where it applies, not brush it aside.

John urges us “not to go ahead” and “not abide in the teachings of Christ” (2 John 1:9). Jesus calls on us to leave “father and mother,” to “take up our cross, and follow him” (Matthew 10:36,37).

Please note this: Following Jesus’ teachings is the most challenging thing you will ever do. His word will challenge you, change you, and without question take you out of your comfort zone. And as for getting people “out of their comfort zones”? I hope we are always uncomfortable with going outside the lines of God’s word.

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

	Nov. 6, 2016	Nov. 13, 2016
Bible Class	50	44
AM Worship	64	64
PM Worship	41	56
Wednesday PM	34	40
Contribution	\$1,678	\$1,684

		This Week: 11/20/16	Next Week: 11/27/16		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		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters		John Barnum Family		Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer		Allen Griffith		John Barnum		
Communion		James Fuller*, Don Smith Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer		Gene Bannister		Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards		Ian Barnum		Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer		Tom Wilcox		Allen Bland		
Scripture Reading		Hank Wheeler		Tom Wilcox		
Communion		James Fuller		Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer		James Thomas		Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:		November 23 Allen Griffith	November 30 Tom Wilcox	December 7 Prayer Night	December 14 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 November 20, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 3:15ff**
 Wed. Class **What Does It Mean to be Just a Christian?**

Who Is Jesus? – His Life – Jesus' Baptism

- I. The beginning of Jesus' public ministry was marked by His coming to the Jordan River and presenting Himself to John the Baptist for baptism.
- II. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight."'" (Matt. 3:1-3).
 - A. The NT narrative does not begin with the public ministry of Jesus, but rather with the public ministry of John the Baptist.
 - B. The last prophecy found in the last paragraph of the OT reads - "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Mal. 4:4-6).
 - C. The figure of John the Baptist was a strange one – the style of Elijah.
 - D. The public response to John the Baptist was electric.
 1. As the masses poured out to see him, the Sanhedrin sent delegates to the Jordan River to investigate.
 2. When Jesus was asked the same question about John the Baptist, He declared to His disciples, "he is Elijah who is to come" (Matt. 11:14).
- III. John used two important metaphors to call attention to the urgency of the hour – "the ax is laid to the root of the trees" and "His winnowing fan is in His hand" (Luke 3:9,17).
- IV. The baptism John initiated had many similarities with the later baptism Jesus instituted – but they were not precisely the same.
 - A. John's baptism was designed and directed exclusively for Israel – to call the Jewish nation to readiness for the coming of their king.
- V. "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15).

Thanksgiving – Psalm 40 – "The Ever-Present God"

- The reader is presented with two pictures of God – the God who has acted in the past and the God who helps in the present – an ever-present God.
- I. **God Heard My Prayer** (1-3).
 - A. The writer begins by praising God for what He has done for him.
 - B. When troubles came, he prayed for help and then "waited" on the Lord to answer him (1).
 - C. God's response to his prayer was a major rescue – God lifted him out and placed his feet upon solid rock (2).
 - D. In light of what God has done, he rejoices God (3).
 - II. **How Wonderful to Trust in the Lord!** (4-5).
 - A. From a joyous heart, he must pronounce a blessing upon the person who trusts in the Lord, who "does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies" for his strength (4).
 - B. The writer's praise of God moves from a specific event to a general listing of events that reflect the "wonderful works" of God – which are "more than can be counted" (5).
 - III. **God Has Heard My Prayer** (6-10).
 - A. Thanksgiving involves more than the lips – it requires being obedient to God from the heart (6).
 - B. Obedience is paramount to the servant of God – "Then I said, 'Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me'" (7).
 - C. The servant of God does not find submission a burden – "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (8). (In Heb. 10:5-7, these words are used to picture Jesus' obedience).
 - D. True religion expresses itself (9-10).
 - IV. **The God of the Present** (11-12).
 - A. God is not just a God of the past.
 - B. The writer returns from joyous thanksgiving to a cry for immediate help C. He sees two problems that will necessitate God's guidance and grace – evil all around him and evil within him (12).
 - V. **An Appeal to the Lord** (13-17).
 - A. He prays for God to come quickly to his aid (13).
 - B. An imprecatory petition (14-15).
 - C. He includes the righteous in his prayer (16).
 - D. His prayer ends with a personal petition (17).