



Contact Us:

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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.



You're Never Finished Obeying the Gospel

It is biblical to speak of "obeying the gospel," although I'm sad to say that the way I've most often used that phrase is not very biblical. I've often said, when someone was baptized, "He obeyed the gospel," as if obeying the gospel was something that was accomplished by being baptized. That is not a very biblical way to speak of someone "obeying the gospel." It is so much more than being baptized, because a person is never finished obeying the gospel.

What is the Gospel?

People often say the gospel is "the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus." 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 is often cited to prove this point. But pay attention to what Paul actually says in that passage:

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

The word "gospel" means "good tidings" or "good news." Paul is reminding the Corinthians about the Good News he preached to them. He does not say the gospel *is* the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, but that these are "of first importance" to the gospel message. The death, burial, and resurrection are certainly **at the heart of the gospel**, but it's not accurate to say "the gospel *is* the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus." That is an oversimplification (of which I too am guilty).

There is a stone in Priene, Turkey on which there is an inscription that dates back to 9 B.C. The inscription speaks of the birth of Augustus Caesar. It says Augustus is a god and the savior of the world. It says his birthday signaled "the beginning of good news for the world." The word used in this inscription for "good news" is the same word the New Testament uses about Jesus (*euangelion*).

If you really want a summary of the gospel, you might consider a passage like Colossians 1:15-20. This is the Good News:

(Continued on page 2)

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." **Matthew 5:17-18**

(Continued from page 1)

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And **He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

The gospel is the Good News that the Son of God came into the world. While in the world, He made peace by the blood of His cross. He was raised from the dead and now He rules over all things. **The gospel is that Jesus is the victorious Messiah, the Anointed One.**

Yes, the death, burial, and resurrection are at the core of that message, but the message is more than just those three things.

Obeying the Gospel

This brings us back to our question, “What does it mean to obey the gospel?” There are three passages that speak of obeying the gospel. Interestingly, all three passages use this phrase in a negative sense. They all speak of the Lord punishing those who “*do not obey the gospel*” (see Romans 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17).

Let’s consider one of those passages. In 2 Thessalonians, Paul is writing to the suffering church in Thessalonica. He himself had witnessed the resistance to the gospel in that city (see Acts 17:1-9). On his second missionary journey, Paul had gone to the synagogue in Thessalonica and reasoned with the Jews, saying, “*This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ*” (Acts 17:3).

But the Jews stirred up a mob and drug some of the disciples before the city officials.

So when Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he said, “*We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure*” (2 Thessalonians 1:4). He assured them Jesus would settle the score when He returned. Saying, He will return “*in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Paul mentions two groups who will be punished. The first, “*those who do not know God.*” This has reference to, “the Gentiles who do not know God” (1 Thessalonians 4:5). And then he mentions, “*those who do not obey the gospel our Lord Jesus Christ.*” This especially refers to the Jews. They were the ones who knew God, in a sense, but **were refusing to submit themselves to the Good News of Jesus’ kingship.**

In fact, the word “obey” here is a present tense verb in the Greek, which indicates ongoing action. Young’s Literal Translation reads, “those **not obeying the good news** of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Keep Obeying the Gospel

Obeying the gospel means accepting the fact that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. It means becoming His disciple. It means being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It means observing all that He has commanded (see Matthew 28:18-20). This was the Good News message the apostles proclaimed to the world.

Obeying the gospel is not something you ever *finish* doing. The gospel is something you are either being obedient to – right now – or you are not. The question isn’t, “Have you obeyed the gospel?” But rather, “Are you living in obedience to the gospel?”

Wes McAdams (www.radicallychristian.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

Dec. 18	1 Peter 2-5
Dec. 19	2 Peter 1-3
Dec. 20	1 John 1-3
Dec. 21	1 John 4-5
Dec. 22	2 John, 3 John, Jude
Dec. 23	Revelation 1-3
Dec. 24	Revelation 4-6
Dec. 25	Revelation 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 **34 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Ladies, see Cindy McCaghren for your new “Digging Deeper” study sheets.
- ◆ The Ladies from Bangs have invited our ladies to join them tomorrow evening for their Christmas Party. For more information see Tammy Rudloff.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Jan. 8-12—Brown Trail Alumni Lectures (Bedford)—“*Twisted Scriptures*”
- ◆ March 5-8—Gospel Meeting at Rising Star w/ Mike Bonner.
- ◆ March 12-19—Young Men’s Development Conference at Bryan/ College Station.
- ◆ April 2-5—Gospel Meeting at Hamilton w/ Denny Wilson.
- ◆ April 9-12—Gospel Meeting at 9th & Main (San Angelo) w/ Jason Rollo.
- ◆ April 16-19—Gospel Meeting at Bangs w/ Ronnie Hayes.
- ◆ April 30-May 3—Gospel Meeting at Gordon w/ Jessie Dickison.

Do you love me?

After Jesus’ resurrection and appearances during the week following his crucifixion, the disciples did as he had instructed and went back to Galilee. While waiting, Peter decided to go fishing.

Much of the fishing on the Sea of Galilee was done at night. Many have tried to delve into why Peter went fishing while waiting for Jesus, but the simple answer seems to be that he was a fisherman. There was a lake full of fish in front of him and he had time on his hands – “*I am going fishing*” (John 21:3).

Early the next morning, as day was breaking, a man was seen on the seashore. He asked if they had any fish. It was common for people to approach the fishermen as they came in from fishing to purchase fish for their meal that day. Unfortunately, it had not been a good night – they had nothing.

The man suggested that if they were to cast their nets on the right side of the boat they would find fish. Again, this was probably not an unusual happening because sometimes those on the shore could see the disturbance of water due to schools of fish swimming just below the surface.

The net was cast and it became so full of fish that they could not haul it into the boat! This was unusual! One of the fisherman was the “*disciple whom Jesus loved*” (John 21:7). He recognized that it was Jesus who was on the seashore. Peter, a man known for leaping into action, put on his outer garment and immediately jumped into the lake and swam to Jesus.

When all the group arrived with the bulging net of fish, they found that Jesus already had a breakfast of fish cooked over charcoal and bread ready for them. None of them questioned where Jesus got the fish nor did they question who it was – they all knew it was Jesus.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter, “*Do you love me more than these?*” This would have been the fourth time that Jesus had appeared to Peter (it was the third time he had appeared to all the disciples plus the time he appeared only to Peter – see John 21:14 and Luke 24:34).

What was Jesus talking about? Although some suggest he was asking if Peter loved him more than fishing, that doesn’t seem to fit what is happening.

If you remember, just before they went to Gethsemane, Peter had bragged, “*Lord...I will lay down my life for you*” (John 13:37) Yet, later that night after Jesus had been arrested, he had denied that he was one of Jesus’ followers and even said that he didn’t know him.

I’m sure Peter felt the impact of Jesus asking three times, “*Do you love me?*” when he had three times denied his Lord. Each time he replied, “*You know that I love you*” and the last time he added, “*Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.*”

There is a possible word play going on as Jesus used *agape* in his question and Peter responded with *phileo*. There may or may not be anything in this, but I think we can see that Peter no longer was going to claim to love Jesus more than anyone else. Besides telling Peter to take care of his sheep, he told Peter, “*Follow me.*”

Do we love Jesus? If we do it will be seen in our lives as we, too, take care of each other and follow our master.

Jon Galloway (www.forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: Estelle Guthrie (7), Laverne Thomas (13), **Kaci Churchwell (18)**, Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), John McCaghren (27).

December Anniversaries: Allen & Linda Griffith (20), David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 4, 2016	Dec. 11, 2016
Bible Class	42	49
AM Worship	73	57
PM Worship	48	48
Wednesday PM	44	44
Contribution	\$2,018	\$1,928

		This Week: 12/18/16	Next Week: 12/25/16		
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller	December 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland	
Greeters	Fuller Family	Dennis Family			
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister			
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Larry Petty Ryan Rudloff, Jack Turner	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Rafe Smith, Hank Wheeler			
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby			
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Chase Churchwell			
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller	January 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family	
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith			
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	John Barnum			
Communion	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis			
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith			
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 21 Don Smith	December 28 Joe Dennis	January 4 Prayer Night	January 11 Rafe 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 December 18, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 3:25ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

Who Is Jesus? – His Teaching – Jesus and The Law (Matt. 5:17-19)

Jesus corrects any false impression some may have had about His relationship with the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

I. He Came Not To Destroy, But To Fulfill.

- A. Some may have thought Jesus intended to totally disregard the Law.
- B. On the contrary, His purpose was to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.
 1. They foretold the coming of the Messiah/Christ (Deut. 18; Isa. 53).
 2. They foretold the coming of the kingdom of God (Dan. 2:44).
 3. They also foretold the establishment of a new and different covenant for the people of God (Jer. 31:31-34; confirmed in Heb. 8).
- C. Therefore, until the Law and the Prophets were fulfilled, Jesus taught that...
 1. The Law would be as permanent as the heavens and the earth (18).
 2. A person's treatment of the Law (while still in force) would affect their standing in the kingdom (19).
- D. Did Jesus fulfill the Law?
 1. If He did not:
 - a. He failed His purpose in coming to this earth!
 - b. We had better observe the Law in its strictest sense!
 2. If He did:
 - a. He accomplished His purpose!
 - b. We should not be surprised to find a new Law or Covenant governing God's people today.
 3. Jesus must have fulfilled the Old Law.
 - a. There has been changes (priesthood, Law itself, etc [Heb. 7]).
 - b. As the Law foretold, it has been replaced by a New Law (Heb. 8).

II. The Contrast Made By Jesus.

- A. Was Jesus simply contrasting the old with the new?
- B. Jesus was contrasting *the traditional interpretation and application of the Law with the righteousness of the kingdom* Jesus would require of His disciples!
 1. The "old vs. new" view would seem strange in light of v. 19.
 2. "You have heard" and "it has been said" vs. "it is written."
 3. Jesus refers to statements not even found in the Law of Moses!
 4. The "Law and the Prophets" were just as concerned with the inner thoughts of the heart as the Law of Christ is (Deut. 6:4-7; Isa. 29:13-14).

Psalm 17 – A Prayer for Protection

The content of this psalm indicates that David is in imminent danger. From beginning to end, the psalm is a petition to God, having as its chief characteristic supplication.

David asks God to hear him on three grounds:

- Because of David's integrity,
 - Because of God's grace, and
 - Because of the future David wants to have with God.
- I. "Hear My Prayer" (1-5).
- A. The psalmist appeals to God to help him because of his integrity.
 - B. "Hear a just cause, O LORD" (1).
 - C. He is fervent in his prayer – "hear," "attend to my cry" and "give ear to my prayer."
 - D. His prayer does not come "from deceitful lips."
 - E. He pleads for God to render "vindication" regarding his case (2).
 - F. "You have tested my heart" (3).
- II. "Show Your Lovingkindness" (6-12).
- A. "I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God" (6).
 - B. "Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech."
 - C. Another ground for the psalmist's prayer is the grace of God.
 1. He asks God to "show Your marvelous lovingkindness" (7).
 - D. As a sinner, David knows that he should not base his prayer solely on his innocence – extolling God's goodness, he asks Him to respond to his need out of His infinite lovingkindness.
 - E. He asks God to keep him as "the apple of [His] eye" (8).
 - F. Using another figure, he asks God, "hide me under the shadow of Your wings."
- III. "Arise, O Lord" (13-15).
- A. He needs a divine defense – "Arise, O LORD, confront him, cast him down" (13).
 - B. Those seeking David's life are "men of the world who have their portion in this life" (14).
 - C. David vows that he will be different from these men – "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness" (15).
 1. "I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."
 2. Faith is trusting God for all his needs – both present and future.