

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



December 25, 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.



7 Reasons Why We'll be in Worship on Christmas Day

It happens every few years. Christmas day falls on a Sunday.

Amazingly (and tragically) there are churches that cancel all services on that day or move services to a weeknight. Other congregations decide to only have one worship service or to move the time of services, but they are still meeting on the Lord's Day to worship the Lord.

Still, a lot of families decide that "since it's Christmas" they do not have to attend services on that day. After all, it's a day for family and traditions and it only comes once each year. So, many people will stay at home while the church meets.

However, barring illness or some other unforeseen event, our little family will be in worship on Sunday, December 25. And here are 7 reasons why.

1. **Worship is Commanded by the Almighty.** Our Lord does not make worship something to be chosen by His followers. Hebrews 10:25 makes it clear that we are not to willfully forsake being together for worship. This is not a suggestion, and it does not have caveats for special holidays.
2. **God is More Important than any Holiday.** If I am going to say that "God is first in my life," then there is no holiday that can take His place. There is no holiday that should be able to keep me away from worshipping my Lord.
3. **Our Family Will be Together.** I am amazed at how many people stay home from worship on Christmas so their family will be together. Our little family will still be together, just dressed up and in a church pew; not in pajamas in front of a fireplace.
4. **Our Children Need to Learn Priorities.** "Well, since it's Christmas, we'll stay home." In the mind of children, that translates to, "What you want to do is

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"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ... Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." **Matthew 5:20, 48**



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more important than the commands of God.” He is first, and this is a glorious opportunity to teach that.

5. **I Want to Encourage Every Christian Who Attends.** How discouraging would it be to go to worship and see that a large percentage of your Christian family did not think enough of you to come and encourage you? We are uplifted and encouraged when we attend worship together, and I want to encourage those who make the effort.
6. **We are to Obey Our Elders.** Elders have no right to cancel Lord’s Day worship altogether, or to move it to another day of the week (that’s another article for another time). Many are making the decision to only have one service or to move the time to best accommodate family traditions. They are not making an ungodly decision, so I am commanded to obey them and to let them rule with joy (Hebrews 13:7; 13:17).
7. **There’s Nowhere Else I Want My Family to Be Every Sunday!** Whatever date is on the calendar, I want my little family loading in our car and going together to worship God. There are times when one or more of us has been sick and we have not gotten to worship together. I can’t stand it! Each and every Lord’s Day, I want my family to know the joy and the high privilege it is to join hands and hearts together as we worship.

Christmas is special. Each year, we enjoy all kinds of movies, snacks, get-togethers, and gifts. Having kids makes it even more special, as they get so excited for the holiday. The Grinch is not welcome at our house!

That said, no holiday – Christmas included – can ever top the joy and excitement that should fill our soul as we are allowed into the very presence of God to express our adoration and praise to Him. Every Lord’s Day, we should do that with all our enthusiasm...including December 25.

Adam Faughn (alegacyoffaith.us)

13 Wrong Ways to Approach Bible Study

The method we use to study the Bible is very important. Some never benefit from Bible study because their approach to the scriptures is wrong. There are still others who never profit from their study of God's word because they have a faulty motive for studying the Bible.

Please consider the following wrong ways to approach Bible study:

1. **It is wrong to think the Bible cannot be understood.**
2. **It is wrong to approach the Bible as if it is simply the words of men.** The Bible text was written by those who were divinely inspired to record God's word for men (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
3. **It is wrong to think the Bible is a mystical document filled with secrets and hidden meanings which cannot be understood without direct revelation from the Holy Spirit.** These students tend to think their own desires, wishes or ideas are the will of God.
4. **It is wrong to approach the Bible subjectively.** These students think that the true meaning of a particular scripture can be determined based upon what they feel as they are reading the text. The result is that each student arrives at a different conclusion with each thinking his/her conclusion is the correct understanding. They do not see that God's word is an objective standard with one correct meaning for all who properly read and understand it.
5. **It is wrong to read the Bible trying to confirm preconceived ideas.** This approach looks for verses to support beliefs already assumed to be true.
6. **It is wrong to read the Bible in an attempt to discover some bit of information that no one has found before.** These students do not want to under-

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. 25	Revelation 7-9
Dec. 26	Revelation 10-12
Dec. 27	Revelation 13-14
Dec. 28	Revelation 15-16
Dec. 29	Revelation 17-18
Dec. 30	Revelation 19-20
Dec. 31	Revelation 21-22
Jan. 1	Genesis 1-3; Matthew 1-3

“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)



As we draw to the end of another year, and prepare to embark upon another, we would once again like to express our gratitude for the privilege of working with this wonderful congregation. The combination we have here of peace, unity, and striving for the truth is a rare find. We are truly blessed!

We love and appreciate each and every one of you. We are especially grateful for Billy and Gene for their guidance and oversight, as well as the deacons for their continual efforts for the Lord. May the Lord bless each one in 2017.

Johnny & Cindy

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **80 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Next Sunday we will kick off the New Year as we study and worship together, then share a time of fellowship together at our monthly **First Sunday Fellowship Meal**.
- ◆ As you set goals for the New Year, how many do plan to convert to Christ in 2017?

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.

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- stand God's word, they just want to find the rare piece of information they can use to impress others.
7. **It is wrong to treat the Bible's teachings as suggestions which can be accepted or rejected according to one's wishes.** Some accept only those teachings that please them.
 8. **It is wrong to study the Bible with prejudice.** If we are not careful we will allow race, culture, political views or philosophy to corrupt our understanding of the scriptures.
 9. **It is wrong to study the Bible without considering context.** We should be aware of such things as the theme of the book, purpose of the writer, culture, time period, environment, geographical setting and the problems being discussed. If these things are not considered a passage can easily be twisted to mean something which God never intended.
 10. **It is wrong to approach the Bible text as if it is all literal.** We must understand that some of the Bible is written in a poetic style. The scriptures also contain figures of speech and symbols which must be taken into consideration.
 11. **It is wrong to approach the Bible looking to find some flaw or error to discredit it.**
 12. **It is wrong to think that only religious leaders can truly understand the Bible.** We should never be discouraged from reading and studying the Bible for ourselves.
 13. **It is wrong to study the Bible seeking only to please men** (Galatians 1:10). Some refuse to see the true meaning of a particular verse because they fear it might receive a negative response or hurt someone's feelings. Sadly, this is why some preachers no longer preach against specific sins.

WVBS Online Bible School December Newsletter

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. 11, 2016	Dec. 18, 2016
Bible Class	49	38
AM Worship	57	51
PM Worship	48	43
Wednesday PM	44	46
Contribution	\$1,928	\$1,772

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 12/2516		Next Week: 1/1/17		December 2016 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Huckaby / Bland January 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Rafe Smith, Hank Wheeler	James Fuller*, Larry Petty Ryan Rudloff, James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 28 Don Smith	January 4 Prayer Night	January 11 Rafe Smith	January 18 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 December 25, 2016

Sunday Class **Romans 3:27ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

Jesus' Teaching – The Righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:20).

- I. **The Righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees.**
 - A. They Were Known To "Say, and Do Not Do" (Matt. 23:1-4).
 - B. They Were Known To Do Things To Be Seen Of Men (Matt. 23:5-7).
 - C. They Were Known To Neglect Parts of God's Law (Matt. 23:23-24).
 - D. They Were Known To Be Lovers Of Money (Luke 16:13-15).
 - E. Why must our righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees? The righteousness of the kingdom demands more!
- II. **The Righteousness of the Kingdom.**
 - A. We Learn In The Sermon On The Mount That:
 1. We cannot "say and do not" (7:21).
 2. We cannot "do things to be seen of men" (6:1).
 3. We cannot "neglect" any commandments of God's law (5:19).
 4. We cannot be "lovers of money" (6:24).
 - B. This Should Serve As A Warning To Any Who Think They Can Be Faithful Christians, But Do Not:
 1. Combine their profession of faith with suitable deeds (James 2:14-17; 1 John 2:4-6; 3:18).
 2. Keep their personal, private lives consistent with their public appearance and profession (Mark 4:22).
 3. Make diligent effort to observe all that Jesus commanded (Matt. 29:20; John 8:31-32; 2 John 9).
 4. Remain free from the enticement of materialism (1 Tim. 6:9-10; 1 John 2:15-17).
- III. **Examples.**
 - A. Murder (21-26).
 - B. Adultery (27-30).
 - C. Divorce (31-32).
 - D. Swearing Of Oaths (33-37).
 - E. Response to Evil (38-42).
 - F. Treatment of Enemies (43-48).

Psalms 51 – "Pleading for Restoration"

A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- I. **"Have Mercy upon Me" (1-4).**
 - A. David's hope is grounded upon two fundamental truths concerning the character of God – His "lovingkindness" and His "tender mercies."
 - B. "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (2).
 - C. "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight" (4a).
- II. **"You Desire Truth" (5-7).**
 - A. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me"
 - B. "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom" (6).
 - C. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean" (7a).
- III. **"Make Me Hear Joy" (8-10).**
 - A. "Make me hear joy and gladness" (8a).
 - B. "Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (9).
 - C. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."
- IV. **"Do Not Cast Me Away" (11).**
 - A. "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."
 - B. God's "presence" has been central to David's life.
- V. **"Restore to Me the Joy" (12).**
 - A. "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation" (12a).
 - B. "And uphold me by Your generous Spirit" (12b).
- VI. **"I Will Teach Transgressors" (13).**
 - A. We have come to the resolve of the prayer.
 - B. David's aim is to instruct sinners concerning God's ways.
- VII. **"Deliver Me from the Guilt of Bloodshed" (14-17).**
 - A. "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation."
 - B. "And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness" (14b).
 - C. "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise" (15).
 - D. "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it" (16a).
 - E. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit" (17a).
- VIII. **"Do Good...to Zion" (18-19).**
 - A. The psalm turns into a supplication for the nation.
 - B. "Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar."