



Contact Us:

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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.

Why Christians

“Are Not Under Law but Under Grace”

When the children of Israel were going into the Promised Land, God gave them a law. The law was part of His covenant relationship with them. But after Jesus came, many Jewish Christians wanted to know what role the law should continue to play in their lives. Were Christians obligated to keep the law? If not, what was to keep them from living sinfully? The apostle Paul boldly claimed that *Christians “are not under law but under grace”* (Romans 6:14). Could that really be true? If so, what would that look like? What would that mean?

The Purpose of the Law

In Galatians 3:23-29, Paul explained that the law of Moses was a “*paidagogos*,” which is translated schoolmaster, tutor, or guardian. In the Greco-Roman world, the son of a wealthy man would be cared for by a *paidagogos*, a slave who was given the responsibility of watching over his master’s son. This guardian would watch over the boy constantly; taking him to school, keeping him out of trouble, guiding him, guarding him, and teaching him. In the life of a young boy, a *paidagogos* was a good thing. However, when the boy became a man, he no longer needed a *paidagogos*. He was set free from this tutelage.

Paul said the law was just like that in the life of Israel. Its end-goal was to bring the nation of Israel to a state of maturity and faith, where they would accept Jesus as their Messiah. And once they came to faith in Jesus, like a boy who became a man, they would no longer need the law in the same way.

“Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, **the law was our guardian until Christ came**, in order that we might be justified by faith. **But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian**, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith” (Galatians 3:23-26).

A young boy does what is right because his guardian tells him to, but **a man does what is right because he is an heir of his father’s household**. When a young boy is under a guardian, he is just like a slave (Galatians 4:1-2). And Paul makes the point that the Jews were slaves under the law. But when Christ came, the law was lifted – at least for those who accepted Jesus as their Messiah – because that was the whole purpose of the law.

The son of a king doesn’t need a law to tell him to do the king’s will. The son of a king – in many ways – is exempt from the law, but he does the king’s will because he loves the king and because the king is his father. He does the king’s will because the king’s will has become his will. This is what being a Christian is all about.

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 *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”*
Matthew 7:13-15

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"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are **no longer a slave, but a son**, and if a son, then an heir through God" (Galatians 4:4-7).

Not Under Law but Under Grace

Paul has a very similar discussion with the church in Rome. He tells them that they are made right with God, not by keeping the law (which everyone had already failed to do), but by putting their faith in Christ. We are made right with God, because God is gracious and put forward His only begotten Son as a sin offering on our behalf.

In Romans 6, Paul anticipated the likely objections. He knew many wouldn't accept this message of grace and not law, because they feared everyone would run amok. "If we're not under Law," they would object, "won't everyone just go on sinning?"

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4).

You cannot be a child of God, free from the burden of the law, so long as you still live to sin. That kind of a person is unconverted and is still a slave of sin. That kind of a person needs to be under law. But the true convert, has died to sin and has been baptized into the death of Christ.

Paul asks again, in verse 15, "*Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?*" And again answers, "*By no means!*" Through the power of the cross, and the work of God's Holy Spirit, Christians have become slaves of righteousness. We do what is right, not because of a law written on stone tablets, but because we truly want to please our heavenly Father. Our hearts and minds have been converted by God's grace.

The Bottom Line

God expects your entire life to be a grateful response to His

grace. When your heart and mind are transformed by His mercies, you will know His will and will present your whole body to Him as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). This won't be motivated by law, but motivated by His grace.

When you live in response to the gospel and walk by the Spirit, your life will be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). This kind of life not only does not violate God's law, but it actually fulfills the law of Christ because you are loving others and helping to bear their burdens (Galatians 6:2).

It couldn't be stated more clearly than this:

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Some Questions to Ask of an Activity

We have all observed the extraordinary pull of peer pressure on our children. There are totalitarian regimes in central Asia that offer more freedom of thought and expression than junior highs. Joseph Stalin allowed more dissent than these kids! Which is to say that it's not easy being a Christian young person. And, if we older people are honest, peer pressure affects us, too.

John urges us not to "*love the world*" (1 John 2:15-17). But how should we respond to activities offered to us? How can we tell if they are wholesome and good for us spiritually? Here are some practical questions to ask before taking part in any form of entertainment or activity, to "*test all things*" and to "*hold fast what is good*" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Question # 1: Does this activity force me to cave in to the world's standards?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

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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 (Gbntv.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

Jan. 8 Genesis 22-24; Matt. 22-24

Jan. 9 Genesis 25-27; Matt. 25-27

Jan. 10 Gen. 28-30; Mt. 28; Mk. 1-2

Jan. 11 Genesis 31-33; Mark 3-5

Jan. 12 Genesis 34-36; Mark 6-8

Jan. 13 Genesis 37-39; Mark 9-11

Jan. 14 Genesis 40-42; Mark 12-14

Jan. 15 Gen. 43-45; Mk. 15-16; Lk. 1

"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)



Opportunities to Serve:

- ◆ Pray for **opportunities** to teach the lost about the salvation available in Jesus Christ, the **wisdom** to see the doors the Lord has opened, and the **boldness** to speak the truth in love.
- ◆ Make a list of people you would like to bring to Christ in 2017, then work to make it happen!

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **32 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Gallon milk jugs with lids needed** for youth fair next week. Please give to Cindy Proud or leave in workroom. Needed no later than this evening.

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 12-15—Gospel Meeting at Lake Shore Drive (Waco) w/ Jeff Jenkins.
- ◆ 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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Question # 2: Does this activity place me among evil companionship?

“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Question # 3: Does this activity either hurt a brother or lead him into sin? Sorry, our actions do affect those around us. You might wish otherwise, but it’s a fact.

“Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died” (Romans 14:15).

Question # 4: Am I fooling myself into doing something wrong by excusing my participation? We are, after all, most susceptible to our own excuses. *“The heart,”* after all, *“is deceitful above all things.”* You might fool your folks, and you might fool your minister; just make sure you don’t fool yourself. Believe it or not, it’s easier than doing the other things!

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Question # 5: If Christ is really living in me, then could I consciously take Jesus with me on this activity?

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Question # 6: Does this activity bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ?

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

Adapted from an article by Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Rachel Smith (15), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceten Evetts (20), Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).

January Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

Dec. 25, 2016	Jan. 1, 2017
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Bible Class	51	57
AM Worship	63	75
PM Worship	30	55
Wednesday PM	39	32
Contribution	\$1,612	\$2,273

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/8/17	Next Week: 1/15/17	January 2017	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Make Announcements: John Barnum	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family	
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Tom Wilcox	Clean Building: McCaghren Family	
Communion	Don Smith*, Jack Turner Rafe Smith, Hank Wheeler	Randy Huckaby, Larry Petty Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Everts	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 11 Rafe Smith	January 18 Tom Wilcox	January 25 Don Smith	February 1 Prayer Night

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 January 8, 2017

Sunday Class Romans 4:1ff
Wed. Class After Baptism, Then What?

Have You Been Deceived Into Taking the Wrong Way?

Each one of us is on a spiritual journey as we travel through life. Many think that the ways we can travel are many – but there are only two. Where are you in your spiritual sojourn? Are you on the right way?

I. The Two Ways (7:13-14).

A. There Are Two Gates.

1. The Wide Gate – leads to destruction.
2. The Narrow Gate – leads to life.

B. There Are Two Ways.

1. The Broad Way.
2. The Difficult Way.

C. There Are Two Groups.

1. The Many.
2. The Few.

D. There Are Two Destinations.

1. Destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
2. Life (Matt. 25:46; Rom. 6:22-23).

II. Beware of Those Who Would Deceive You Into Taking the Wrong Way! (7:15-20)

A. There Will Be False Prophets.

1. As Paul Warned (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-9).
2. As Did Other NT Writers (2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1; Jude 3-4).

B. We Can Identify False Prophets.

1. By Examining the Fruit of Their Life.
2. By Examining the Fruit of Their Teaching.
 - a. Taking notice of their methods (2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:13).
 - b. Taking notice of their doctrine.
 - 1) How they twist and pervert the scriptures (Gal. 1:7-9).
 - 2) How they teach what is clearly contrary to Scripture (Deut. 13:1-4).
3. This presumes that our knowledge of God’s word is sufficient – otherwise we will be no different than Israel, of whom God said: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” – Hosea 4:6.

Jesus says to be a citizen of the kingdom and receive eternal life, we must take the road less travelled.

- How is your journey going?
- Are you following the many to destruction, or the few to eternal life?

Trust Psalms – Psalm 3 – “A Morning Cry”

The trust Psalms basically have four elements to them. The third Psalm serves as a fitting illustration of these elements.

1. An expression of anxiety (3:1,2).

2. An expression of confidence (3:3,4).

3. The reaction to or the result of that confidence - a feeling of peace and contentment (In Psalm 3 it is sleep. No tossing and turning [3:5,6]).

4. Often reflect on God’s deliverance in times past (3:7,8).

A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son (2 Samuel 15).

I. The Complaint (1-2).

A. David’s life-threatening circumstance has turned his mind to his only source of salvation – he begins his prayer with a plea for deliverance, addressing God out of his desperation, “LORD.”

B. David believes that a host of enemies have surrounded him.

C. “Many are they who say of me, ‘There is no help for him in God.’”

1. These enemies are speaking disparagingly to David, seeking to discourage his spirit, and his confidence in God.

2. Thankfully, he does not listen to these negative voices.

D. Selah – “Pause and think about this thought.”

II. A Contemplation of His God (3-4).

A. Pressed by the troubles around him, David turns to the God who has blessed him in the past – “But You, O LORD, are a shield for me.”

B. He has prayed in the past, and God has heard him – “I cried to the LORD with my voice, and He heard me.”

III. A Trusting Calmness (5-6).

A. David relates what he had done – “I lay down and slept.”

B. What kind of confidence has his praying instilled in him? “I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, who have set themselves against me all around.”

IV. A Call for Help (7-8).

A. In intense prayer, David urges, “Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God!”

B. David declares that the Lord will be his Commander in Chief.

C. The heart of the psalm is that “salvation belongs to the Lord.”

D. David ends his request by remembering the Lord’s people, the kingdom in which he is serving – true spiritual prayer does not end with the needs of the one praying, but with the needs of others.