

# 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



January 15, 2017

## 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.

## Changing the Trend of Moral Digression

***The Bible, God's holy inspired Word, is the only means of slowing down and/or stopping the downward trend of departure from the Truth.***

Those who claim to be "some-what" in worldly thought and deed think of themselves as ever increasing to higher and higher degrees of social achievement. Truth be known, they are the champions of leading the world into an ever-increasing downward spiral of digression in every realm, both socially and spiritually. It has always been this way (while some generations are better or worse than others). The apostle John was inspired by God to write these words: "*the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one*" (1 John 5:19). That was God's assessment in the first century. How could it be any different than the world of today?

The Bible, God's holy inspired Word, is the only means of slowing down and/or stopping this downward trend of departure from the Truth. It has the power to transform minds, which in turn transforms lives. Heaven tells us, "*...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...*" (Rom. 1:16). Those who read its pages and absorb its precepts are those who exhibit decency, morality, uprightness, honesty, veracity, integrity and honor. These are the only people who are truly fostering and advancing this world to be a better place. Modernism, liberalism, progressivism makes no sense whatsoever! These concepts and practices lead away from God, not toward God.

*Liberalism* can not and will not make the world a better place, no matter how much they weep and wail. Progressivism can not and will not do it, no matter how much they protest, demonstrate, burn and destroy. They don't have the truth on their side, and as a matter of fact, they don't believe there is such a thing as truth!

When Pilate had the very embodiment of truth standing directly in front of him (Jesus himself), his words of shame and disgust were, "what is truth?" (John 18:38). He did not believe such existed. Nor do the "elites" of today believe it exists. But the Bible, particularly the New Testament, is this world's absolute standard of truth – right and wrong! Those who differ with it will find themselves on the wrong side of God at the judgment and throughout all eternity. Why won't they learn? Why won't they accept it? Why won't they make an honest investigation into it? Isn't the answer to these questions in the fact that they don't want the truth? They don't want any restraint of their excessive and immoral behavior.

(Continued on page 2)



"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ... Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." **Matt. 7:21, 24-25**

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus said he came into the world to “bear witness to the truth” and that “everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37). Those who do not listen to Jesus do not know the truth. And, more tragically, they do not love the truth. Truth exposes and brings to light the evil works of darkness. This is exactly what every Christian must also do according to Ephesians 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.” Paul says to expose the unfruitful works of darkness, take away the mask that hides it, shed light upon it and show it for what it really is. A bandage covers the most gruesome, ghastly, repulsive wound. But when removed, a horrible injury can make us turn away our face and not look upon it. The truth does the same thing to every vice and wickedness perpetrated within the human race. It removes its covering so we can see what is underneath and be horrified. Why would anyone not want to see the truth that exposes its adversary (error)? I don’t understand. Do you? Jesus said, “...he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God” (John 3:21).

Jesus taught the way of God in truth (Matt. 22:16) because he always told the truth (Luke 4:25; 9:27; 12:44; 21:3; John 8:40,45; 16:7). Ephesians 4:21 says, “the truth is in Jesus.” He was full of grace and truth and both came by him (John 1:14,17). As a matter of fact, Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life” and no man comes unto the Father, but by him (John 14:6).

Forgiveness of sins is only found in the shed blood of Jesus the savior (Eph. 1:7). Those who turn from their sins in humble obedience can be saved from the penalty of their sins. Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the author of salvation to all who **believe** (Rom. 1:16) and **obey** Him (Heb. 5:8-9). The KEY to forgiveness of sins is one’s **faith** and **obedience**. One without the other is useless and void. By inspiration, James recorded the words of the Holy Spirit, “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... But do you want to know, O

foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ... You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:17,20,24,26).

Jesus said, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)? He also said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven**” (Matt. 7:21). “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **‘If you abide in My word, [then] you are My disciples indeed.** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). First Peter 1:22 says, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the **truth**....” James 1:18 records these words from heaven, “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of **truth**....”

The “word of truth” sets us apart from the rest of the world (John 17:17). Worship is only acceptable to God when it’s according to “truth.” Notice what Jesus said to the woman at Jacob’s well. “...true worshippers... worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth**” (John 4:23-24). Jesus told her that worship, in order to be approved and accepted by God, is in “spirit” (from the heart, genuine) and that is must be done according to “truth” (God’s word, the Bible). It’s not enough to be sincere in worship. It must also involve actions authorized by the Holy Scriptures (the New Testament).

Men can become so deeply captivated by error, so accustomed to evil, that truth is seen as a radical concept. Truth is strange – so outside “their box” they can’t imagine it. Paul encountered this reaction while preaching at Athens. “Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, ‘What does this babbling want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be

(Continued on page 3)

### 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

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

**Jan. 16** Genesis 46-48; Luke 2-4

**Jan. 17** Gen. 49-50; Exod. 1; Lk. 5-7

**Jan. 18** Exodus 2-4; Luke 8-10

**Jan. 19** Exodus 5-7; Luke 11-13

**Jan. 20** Exodus 8-10; Luke 14-16

**Jan. 21** Exodus 11-13; Luke 17-19

**Jan. 22** Exodus 14-16; Luke 20-22

“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)



Congratulations to our young people who participated in the Brown County Youth Fair this week!

### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **44 contacts** were made.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

### Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ March 26-29—75th Homecoming Lectures at Dripping Springs.
- ◆ 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.

**All Things Praise Thee**

- **The SOURCE of Praise**
  - All Things in heaven: Psalm 148:1-4
  - All Things on earth: Psalm 148:7-12
- **The REASON for Praise**
  - Who God is: Psalm 148:13
  - What God had done: Psalm 148:5, 14

(Continued from page 2)

a proclaimer of **foreign gods**, because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, 'May we know what this **new doctrine** is of which you speak? For you are bringing some **strange things** to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean'" (Acts 17:18-20). Years later while Paul was making his defense before Agrippa and Festus, he reasoned with them concerning the resurrection of Jesus, and while doing so "Festus said with a loud voice, 'Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!'" To them, the resurrection of the dead was ridiculous — to the point of madness! Paul's response was to point them to the fact that he was not "mad" (insane) but speaking "words of truth and reason" (Acts 26:22-25).

When one learns the truth (John 6:44-45) and obeys it (Heb. 5:8-9) to become a Christian (Mark 16:16), their whole life changes. Peter reminds us "that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, **they think it strange** that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Peter 4:2-4). To the ungodly world, living a moral, honest, decent, upright life is "strange." They can't imagine it. Yet, it's the only way to heaven.

Are you living according to the truth or according to error? Only truth will save you from the penalty of your sins. Are you ready to obey the Lord according to truth? **Hear** the Gospel (Rom. 10:17), **Believe** it and what it says about Jesus the Son of God (John 8:24), **Repent** of your sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30), **Confess** Him as the Son of God and Savior of the world (Rom. 10:9-10), and be **Baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). You must then **Live Faithful** to him all your life (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

Garland M. Robinson

(Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 28, Num. 1 [Jan., 2017], pp. 2-3)

## 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

	Jan. 1, 2017	Jan. 8, 2017
Bible Class	57	42
AM Worship	75	62
PM Worship	55	40
Wednesday PM	32	50
Contribution	\$2,273	\$2,268

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 1/15/17		Next Week: 1/22/17		<b>January 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghren Family <b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren Family  <b>February 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> Joe Dennis Family
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Randy Huckaby, Larry Petty Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	John Barnum*, Allen Bland Ryan Rudloff, Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 18 Tom Wilcox	January 25 Don Smith	February 1 Prayer Night	February 8 Joe Dennis

## 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 15, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 4:3ff**  
 Wed. Class ..... **After Baptism, Then What?**

#### A Rock-Solid Foundation

Most people believe they will go to heaven when they die. Are such hopes well-founded? Have we laid a rock-solid foundation for such hope?

#### I. Who Will Enter the Kingdom of Heaven? (Matt. 7:21-23)

A. Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord".

1. There are some who teach that as long as one believes in Jesus, they will be saved.
2. But there is such a thing as "an unsaved believer."

B. Not Everyone Who Does Many Good Works.

1. We are saved by the grace of God, not our good works.
2. Are the works we are doing authorized?

C. Those Who Do the Father's Will.

1. Here is the dividing line: those who do the Father's will!
2. Is this legalism?

#### II. The Foundation of One Entering the Kingdom of Heaven. (7:24-27)

A. The Houses Represent Our Lives.

1. Each of Us Is Building A "Life".
2. We Are Building These "Lives" Upon A Foundation.

B. The Storms Are Things Which Threaten Our Well-Being.

1. This May Involve Literal Storms (tornado, flood, fire, etc.).
2. It May Also Involve Figurative Storms (illness, financial loss, etc).
3. Then There Is the Final "Storm" Of Life.
  - a. That of death and the final day of Judgment (Heb. 9:27; Rom. 2:4-6).
  - b. Which will be the truest test of our "house" (2 Cor. 5:10-11).
  - c. The Lord will describe the kind of "builder" we have been.

C. Obeying Jesus Is the Key to Withstanding the Storms.

1. Being A "Hearer" Only Is Not Sufficient.
2. We Must "Do" What Jesus Says.
3. How the Sayings of Jesus Help Us Withstand the Storms.
  - a. His saying regarding where to lay up treasure (6:19-21).
  - b. His saying regarding what to seek first (6:33).
  - c. His sayings provide the basis for a solid foundation in which to build a life (5:20 - 7:20).

What kind of foundation are you building your "house" (life) upon?  
 Just as Jesus is the rock-solid foundation of the church (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4-6), so let Him be the rock-solid foundation of your life!

#### Trust Psalms – Psalm 4 – "An Evening Prayer"

#### I. A Plea for an Answer (1).

- A. "Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!"
- B. David calls to mind God's past mercy for encouragement in dealing with his present trial – "You have relieved me in my distress; have mercy on me, and hear my prayer."

#### II. Meditating Out Loud (2-3).

- A. "How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame?"
- B. "How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood?"
- C. He observes, with faith, that God is always showing His strength in behalf of the godly.
  1. "But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly."
  2. "The Lord will hear when I call to Him."

#### III. A Prayer for His Enemies (4-5).

- A. David now turns to special requests for the enemies themselves.
- B. "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness."
- C. "And put your trust in the Lord."

#### IV. Let Your Light Fall (6-8).

- A. "There are many who say, 'Who will show us any good?'"
- B. "Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us."
- C. "You have put gladness in my heart."
  1. He believes that the sunshine of God's presence brings more joy than the combined benevolent forces of the world.
  2. "For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."
- D. He proclaims that the trusting people have the greatest joy, even "more than in the season that their grain and wine increased."
- E. The psalm has been moving to a grand conclusion – "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep."
  1. A complete and total serenity.
  2. "For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

#### V. The Gifts of Trust.

- A. Deliverance in time of trouble (1).
- B. Confidence that one's prayer will be heard (1).
- C. The gracious favor of God (3).
- D. Joy unspeakable that money cannot buy (7).
- E. Peace in the midst of trial (8).

How attractive the righteous life is! See that you rest in peace tonight!