



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

Why My Main Goal in Life is Not, “Go to Heaven When I Die.”

People tell me all the time, their main goal in life is to go to heaven when they die. In fact, I'm quite certain I've said the exact same thing before. I've always thought that was the very best goal a person could have, but I've changed my mind. The more I think about that phrase, and especially the context in which it is usually stated, the more I think it often reveals a misunderstanding deep in our hearts. Here are a few thoughts on having heaven as our main goal in life.

Making it to Heaven

What exactly do we mean when we talk about our goal of making it to heaven? When we have a goal, we must have some way we hope to achieve that goal, right? If I told you that my goal was to lose 15 pounds, then you might ask me, “**How do you hope to achieve that goal?**” And then I would answer with a list of all the good behaviors I was going to implement in order to try to accomplish my goal. Sadly, many of us think this way about going to heaven.

We tend to think of all of our good behaviors as an attempt to be good enough to make it to heaven. Which leaves some of us feeling pretty confident we've done all that God requires to make it to heaven. But more often, it leaves many of us in constant fear that because of our imperfection, we've not been good enough to make it to heaven. Some are trying to do the minimum and others are trying to do the impossible.

These are indications that many of us simply do not understand the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Understanding Grace

We live in a culture (thankfully) where if we want something, we can usually save up our money until we can afford to purchase it. But in biblical times, there were many things which the average person simply could not purchase. These things would be inaccessible to people on the lower rungs of the social ladder.

If the average person needed something which he could not purchase, he would ask for “favor” from a generous person in upper-class society. If this wealthy person chose to grant the request, he would become the man's patron or benefactor. The favor he bestowed was known as “charis,” which is the Greek word we translate “grace.”

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Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.



“Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.” **Matthew 10:5-10**

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This favor that was granted, came with certain expectations. If someone showed you grace, it became your life-long duty to spread their fame and also loyally serve them whenever they needed you. This was NOT an attempt to repay the favor; it was simply the proper response of a grateful recipient.

The New Testament says, *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...”* (Ephesians 2:4-5). This is how salvation works, God gives it as a gift (vs. 8). God is the unbelievably generous and wealthy benefactor who shows favor to sinners who desperately need what only He can give – pardon and forgiveness.

Understanding Good Works

In the first-century world, one of the worst things you could be was ungrateful. If you accepted someone’s “charis,” but you were not faithful to him, you would become a social outcast. No one would want to show you any additional favor, because you had proved yourself to be an ungrateful recipient.

The idea of grace and gratitude are inextricably linked. In fact, it’s not hard to see that even in modern English, the words “grace” and “grateful” have the root. This is because “grace” used to be not only the word for the gift that was given, but also for the proper response to the gift. We still sometimes call praying before a meal, “saying grace.” And in Spanish, the word for “thank you” is “gracias.” When someone shows you grace, you respond gratefully.

That is what our obedience to God is all about. That is why we do good works. That is why we sing His praises. That is why we tell our neighbors about the Gospel. **We are NOT trying to make it**

to heaven. We are showing our gratitude, because he has “made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).

Doing the will of God must NEVER be seen as an attempt to make it to heaven, but should be seen as works of gratitude because he has given us a seat in heaven by grace. We should want to do whatever God wants us to do, because we are incredibly grateful for what He has given us.

Don’t Be an Ingrate

An “ingrate” is someone who does not show gratitude for the things he has been given. An ingrate is someone who either lives in a way that dishonors his benefactor or he boasts as if he has earned the things he has. Ingrates will find themselves cut-off from God’s grace.

There were Christians in Galatia who showed themselves to be ingrates by accepting a false gospel, which taught that a person could justify themselves through law-keeping. Paul wrote, *“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace”* (Galatians 5:4). Rather than gratefully accepting the gift (of justification), they tried to earn it through their own efforts.

Similarly, the Hebrew writer said, *“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries”* (Hebrews 10:26-27). When we continue deliberately in sin, we prove ourselves to be ingrates, unworthy to receive the gifts God has promised to His children.

Bottom Line

If we have – in repentant faith – put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:27), then God has graciously

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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 (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

Feb. 12 Numbers 10-12; Rom. 10-12
Feb. 13 Numbers 13-15; Rom. 13-15
Feb. 14 Num. 16-18; Rom. 10; 1 Cor. 1-2
Feb. 15 Numbers 19-21; 1 Cor. 3-5
Feb. 16 Numbers 22-24; 1 Cor. 6-8
Feb. 17 Numbers 25-27; 1 Cor. 9-11
Feb. 18 Num. 28-30; 1 Cor. 12-14
Feb. 19 Num. 31-33; 1 Cor. 15-16; 2 Cor. 1

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **33 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Ladies—if you plan on going to the **Ladies Day at Cherokee Home for Children** on **Saturday**, please let Cindy McCaghren know today, so she can RSVP.
- ◆ There will be a **Men’s Fellowship** Thursday evening at Cross Plains. It will begin at 6:30 at the church’s activity center on Hwy. 36. Supper will be provided.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **Feb. 18—Ladies Day @ Cherokee Home for Children w/ Cathy Messecar, “Choosing Frontier Faith.”**
- ◆ 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 Bangs w/ Ronnie Hayes.
- ◆ April 2-5—Gospel Meeting at Hamilton w/ Denny Wilson.
- ◆ April 9-12—Gospel Meeting at 9th & Main (San Angelo) w/ Jason Rollo.
- ◆ April 9-12—Gospel Meeting at Windmill (Weatherford) w/ various speakers.
- ◆ April 30-May 3—Gospel Meeting at Gordon w/ Jessie Dickison.

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given us a seat with Him in heaven (Ephesians 2:6). In Christ’s death, He has already accomplished what was necessary to get us to heaven; so we need to get a new goal! Our goal needs to be to show Him gratitude through undying praise and faithful service.

If we persevere in grateful service, we have nothing to worry about because we are saved by His merits...not ours.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

(I hope Wes’ article helps to clarify what we have been seeing in our study of Romans 4. We must “do” the will of the Father [Mt. 7:21], but what is the motivation for our “doing”? To earn something [put the Lord in our debt], or to express our gratitude for what He has done for us? If it is to “earn” our salvation, we are doomed to fall woefully short. *Johnny*)

Celebrate

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

February Birthdays: Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Peggy Chism (3), Carol Wilcox (5), Sue McAnear (6), Lunday Maninger (8), **Patti Bannister (14), Larry Petty (18)**, Aaron Smith (21), Jack Turner (22), Jonathan Fuller (28).

February Anniversaries: Billy & Peggy Chism (26).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Jan. 29, 2017	Feb. 4, 2017
Bible Class	47	45
AM Worship	59	68
PM Worship	42	44
Wednesday PM	38	52
Contribution	2,352	2,017

This Week: 2/12/17		Next Week: 2/19/17		February 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Dennis Family March 2017 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller Jessica Stultz
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger		
Communion	James Thomas*, Larry Petty Hank Wheeler, Randy Huckaby	Tom Wilcox*, Allen Bland Ryan Rudloff, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Matthew Hairston		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Samuel Hairston		
Communion	James Thomas	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	February 15 Rafe Smith	February 22 Tom Wilcox	March 1 Prayer Night	March 8 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 February 12, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 4:16ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

Jesus' Principles of Evangelism (Part 1 of 2) – Matthew 10:5-10
 From Jesus' instructions concerning the "Limited Commission," we can glean some great "Principles of Evangelism."
I. Utilize the Power of Synergy (working together, combined effort).
 A. The Apostles Were Sent Out Two-By-Two (5a).
 B. Two or more teachers working together can do more than by working separately (Eccl. 4:9-10; Jn. 8:17).
 C. Application Today.
 1. This practice should be encouraged.
 2. Small congregations in the same area can combine their efforts.
 3. Seek out a companion for visiting, personal evangelism, etc.
II. The Practice of Specialization.
 A. The Apostles Were Sent to the House of Israel (5-6).
 B. Certain skills, backgrounds, circumstances, etc., may make us more suitable to a certain area of endeavor.
 C. Application Today.
 1. Teachers may choose to focus on certain areas or groups.
 2. Congregations may focus on certain areas for which it is well-suited.
III. Proclaim the Word of God.
 A. The Apostles Were Sent to Teach the Word (7).
 B. This Should Be Our Theme.
 C. Application Today.
 1. Teachers need to avoid things which entertain, rather than teach.
 2. Churches should consider what message they are presenting.
IV. Offer Our Services Freely.
 A. The Apostles Were to "Freely Give." (8)
 B. We preach a gospel of salvation offered as a gift (Rom. 6:23).
 C. Application Today.
 1. Teachers must be careful.
 2. Churches should consider what they offer the community.
V. Support Those Willing to Work.
 A. The Apostles Were Allowed Monetary Support (9-10).
 B. Illustrates the Principle of Supporting Workers.
 C. Application Today.
 1. Teachers may rightly receive support for their labors.
 2. Churches have an important role in such support.

Psalm 24 – "Celebrating the Presence of God"
 A major theme of the psalm is the character required of the worshiper.
I. "The Earth Is the LORD's" (1-2).
 A. The psalm begins by proclaiming the sovereignty of the Lord.
 B. The writer declares at the outset the fact of God's extensive rulership.
 C. What is the rationale for such an inclusive declaration of ownership?
 1. "For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters."
 2. God owns all because He has made all.
II. Who May Worship? (3-4).
 A. "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?"
 1. On the outward side of the question, the should have "clean hands" and has not "sworn deceitfully."
 2. On the inward side of the question, it is said that the worshiper is to have "a pure heart" and a truthful soul.
III. The Blessed Worshiper (5-6).
 A. The psalm turns to the perks that the worshiper will receive.
 1. Beautiful rewards come to those who seek to worship God sincerely and properly – "He shall receive blessing from the LORD."
 2. He shall be granted "righteousness from the God of his salvation."
 B. "This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face."
IV. Reverence and Glory (7-10).
 A. This section presents the reverence and the glory that is due the God of heaven, the Warrior King of Israel.
 B. After a pause (*Selah*), a call is given for the top of the gates (the lintels) to be lifted up so that the great King of Israel can enter.
 C. Those who approach the Lord to worship Him are to be characterized by respect and awe.
 D. "Who is this King of glory?" "The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle."
 E. When the gates are thrown open, the ark is brought in and set in its place in the midst of the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle.
 F. The latter part of the psalm may typify the coming of Jesus – upon His return from His earthly mission – into God's presence in heaven.