



## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

## 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.



"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." **Matthew 11:28-30**

## Why It's Wrong to Keep Truth and Grace in Balance

We want to be balanced people. It is considered a good thing to have a balanced diet or to keep a healthy balance between work and pleasure.

But **sometimes, balance is a bad thing.** For example, finding a balance between fidelity and infidelity in marriage – or between honesty and dishonesty – doesn't make any sense.

With this in view, sometimes people express the funny notion that grace and truth somehow need to be kept in balance. "We want a preacher who will preach about grace as much as he preaches truth," says the preacher search committee. "Grace is a wonderful thing, but you have to keep grace and truth in balance so you don't go to extremes," says the Bible study teacher. (After all, no one wants to be thought of as an *extremist!*)

The problem with this reasoning is that it separates grace from truth – as if they are opposed to one another.

**Grace and truth are not opposites; they are conjoined twins!** You cannot have one without the other.

Grace *is* truth, and truth *is* grace.

Both are perfectly united in Jesus, who is the "*only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*" (John 1:14). Thus, we have "*grace and truth through Jesus Christ*" (John 1:16).

### You can't talk about grace without talking about truth.

What does grace without truth even look like?

It is a mistake to emphasize God's grace while neglecting the necessity of obedience. If a church hears not much more than a constant drivel of "self-help" and "God is love" sermons, it won't be long before the members start to conclude that costly obedience is not very important.

But this wouldn't really be "grace" in the first place. If God's grace is taught in any way that somehow lessens the seriousness of sin, undermines the importance of obedience, or cheapens the necessity of holiness – that isn't grace; that's license (Rom. 6:1, 15; Jude 4).

**You cannot have grace without truth.** By God's grace, He has saved us and instructed us how to live obediently to Him. Note Paul's words:

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

*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** (Titus 2:11-12).*

Those who do not love the truth of God’s Word – both the “hard” parts and the “easy” parts – have forfeited God’s grace. Knowledge of the truth of God’s Word is what gives us freedom (John 17:17; John 8:32). The fact that God has extended His grace to those who are perishing, and has given us instruction on how to be free from the slavery of sin, is truth!

### **You can’t talk about truth without talking about grace.**

**The core of Christianity is God’s grace.** That’s why Paul refers to salvation in Christ as a “*grace*” system (Rom. 6:14).

To preach that we are saved purely by perfect law-keeping and therefore need no grace is error; It is a false gospel (Gal. 1:8; 5:4).

Yes, we must obey God from the heart (John 14:15). Yes, we must obey 100% of God’s commands to the best of our ability (Heb. 10:26). Yes, we will be in some way “*judged according to our works*” (Matt. 16:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:23; 20:12-13). **Grace, after all, is only found through the obedience of faith** (Eph. 2:8).

But **why** do we obey? Because of God’s grace. “*We love Him because He first loved us*” (1 John 4:19). And – even after our best efforts to obey the truth – we will still be “*unprofitable servants*” (Luke 17:10). **God, by His grace, still cleanses us of sins and shortcomings** (1 John 1:7). That is why the gospel is still the good news for Christians!

Thank God for His glorious grace, which makes me want to obey Him even more!

### **They aren’t opposites.**

The lie that we need to somehow find a balance between grace and truth might sound good to those who don’t know any better, but it is a devastating idea.

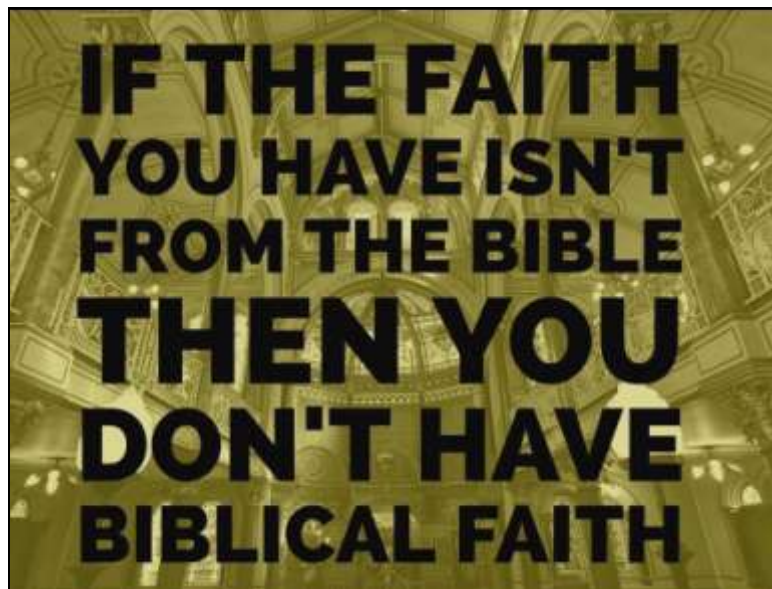
Grace and truth are not opposite sides of the coin – they are on the same side!

If you’re going to draw a line, draw it between **rebellious, immoral living** and **thinking you can make it to heaven simply by our own meritorious works**. And in that case, both are equally wrong (and we don’t need to find a balance between them).

Thus, we begin to see that there is technically no such thing as being too far to the “right” or too far to the “left.” Moderation, or “balance,” between these two is just a mirage. There is only right and wrong, and we must be fully committed to the grace & truth that is found only in the last will and testament of Christ.

Grace and truth are synonymous because they are both found in Jesus. Therefore, **let us be 100% committed to both**.

*Ben Giselbach* (plainsimplefaith.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**

**Feb. 26** Deut. 16-18; Galatians 1-2

**Feb. 27** Deut. 19-21; Galatians 3-4

**Feb. 28** Deut. 22-24; Galatians 5-6

**Mar. 1** Deut. 25-27; Ephesians 1-2

**Mar. 2** Deut. 28-30; Ephesians 3-4

**Mar. 3** Deut. 31-33; Ephesians 5-6

**Mar. 4** Deut. 34; Joshua 1-2; Phil. 1-2

**Mar. 5** Joshua 3-5; Philippians 3-4

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



◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **32 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. *“The Light of God in the Midst of Darkness”* See bulletin board.
- ◆ March 10-12—Gospel Meeting at 5th & Grape (Abilene) w/ Robert Dodson. *“A Living Sacrifice.”*
- ◆ March 12-15—Gospel Meeting at Lake Shore Drive (Waco) w/ Jeff Jenkins. *“The Christian Life: What Should It Look Like?”*
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ May 6-11—Focal Point (San Marcos).
- ◆ June 25-29—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp

# Sell Your Soul to the Devil?

“The quickest way to sell your soul to the devil,” a Wicca website explains, “is to join the church of Satan.” As the teenagers sometimes say, “well, duh!”



This organization, established in 1966, “teaches members to take pride in having the strength and dedication to implement the tools of Satan and the wisdom to recognize the Unseen in our society.” It goes on, “You don’t need to give some other organization your hard-earned money to sell your soul ... understand that there is no such thing as a soul.”

Reading this is suck-your-breath in scary. The chilly, matter-of-fact way they offer their wares makes it even more so.

But the sad fact is that humans have been selling their soul to the devil for millennia, not since 1966! In fact, the number of people who have chosen to serve Satan rather than God is the overwhelming majority of humanity. No pentagram or tarot needed; just a selfish will and an attitude of rebellion against God’s ways!

But if a trade is being made, please be on alert that it is a very poor trade indeed. You are selling your soul for a price that is stunningly below market!

Jesus asks it this way: *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?”* (Matthew 16:26).

A soul is by far the most precious thing on earth. The gold mines of Johannesburg can’t compare with it, the wealth of Bill and Melinda doesn’t come close. Lloyds of London can’t insure it – there’s just not enough equity in the galaxy. The unborn and the senior citizen, princes, presidents and just folks, we are all, individually, the most precious thing is existence.

As J.B. Phillips tellingly translates, “What would a man offer to buy back his soul if he lost it?”

What indeed.

Yes, there is such a thing as a soul; it is eternal; but note this: Satan doesn’t buy; he takes.

*Stan Mitchell* (highergrounds.live)

## Celebrate

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

**March Birthdays:** Jonathan Fuller (2/28), Ken Maninger (4), Wayne Kahlich (9), Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28).

**March Anniversaries:** Billy & Peggy Chism (2/26), James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Feb. 12, 2017	Feb. 19, 2017
Bible Class	46	45
AM Worship	63	65
PM Worship	50	44
Wednesday PM	43	45
Contribution	1,966	2,326

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 2/26/17		Next Week: 3/5/17		<b>February 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> Dennis Family  <b>March 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby <b>Clean Building:</b> James & Cindy Fuller Jessica Stultz
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith		James Fuller	
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Tom Wilcox*, Don Smith John Barnum, Larry Petty		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		Randy Huckaby	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts		Aaron Smith	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Matthew Hairston		Allen Bland	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Samuel Hairston		Allen Griffith	
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis		Tom Wilcox	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby		Gene Bannister	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	March 1 Prayer Night	March 8 Don Smith	March 15 Joe Dennis	March 22 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 February 26, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 4:24ff**  
 Wed. Class ..... **After Baptism, Then What?**

#### Jesus' Tender Invitation – Matthew 11:28-30

*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

#### I. To Whom Does Jesus Extend This Invitation?

A. "All You Who Labor and Are Heavy Laden"

- To those who are burdened by sin.
- This invitation, then, is really for everyone!

B. Sadly, Many Are Too Proud to Admit Their Burden.

C. If you are not too proud to face the fact that you are a sinner and need Divine help, then "Jesus' Tender Invitation" is especially designed for you!

#### II. What Is Jesus Offering?

A. "I Will Give You Rest... You Will Find Rest for Your Souls"

B. Jesus Offers Rest.

- Which includes a removal of the guilt of sin!
- Which includes a removal of the side effects of sin!
  - To remove anxiety, Jesus offers peace to calm the troubled heart.
  - To remove depression, Jesus offers joy to lift our spirits.
  - To remove fear, Jesus offers love which casts out fear.
  - To remove doubt, Jesus offers hope for facing the future.

#### III. What Does Jesus Expect of Those Who Wish to Respond?

A. "Come to Me"

B. "Take My Yoke Upon You"

C. "Learn from Me"

#### IV. How Difficult Is It to Accept This Invitation?

A. As Jesus Taught Elsewhere, It Does Require:

- That we observe all that He commanded (Matt. 28:19-20).
- That we abide in His doctrine (John 8:31).

B. But as Stated Here, "My Yoke Is Easy and My Burden Is Light."

- John said: "His commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).
- What helps lighten our burden is the strength Jesus Himself gives (Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13).

C. Certainly, the burden Jesus places upon us is lighter than the burden sin lays upon us!

#### Psalms 110 – "The Sovereign Lord"

This psalm focuses on David's Lord – the true sovereign Lord, the Messiah. The king mentioned in the psalm will fill two roles – that of a king and a priest.

#### I. A Rule from Heaven (1).

A. "The LORD said to my Lord."

B. "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

- "The LORD" (YHWH) told David's "Lord" ('Adon) to "sit" at His "right hand" until His "enemies" are made "a footstool" for His feet.
- These words become the centerpiece of the psalm's message.

#### II. A Powerful Rule (2-3).

A. The Messiah will begin His rule from Jerusalem, receiving His scepter directly from Yahweh – "The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion."

B. "Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power."

- His subjects will confess Him, voluntarily and joyously, as Lord and King.
- Reluctant servants and hesitant followers will be unknown to this King.
- His soldiers will be clad in the beautiful garments of holiness.
- The fulfillment of these prophecies, as indicated by Peter, is undoubtedly seen in the establishment of the kingdom/church.

#### III. A Victorious Rule (4-7).

A. The emphasis now moves from the announcement (1-3), to the appointment and battle of the Messiah.

B. This coming King will be made a priest by a special appointment of God.

C. "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

- "Melchizedek" means "king of righteousness."
- He was the "king of Salem," which in turn means "king of peace."
- Chronologically, Melchizedek was "a priest of God Most High" (Gen. 14:18) 700 years before the Levitical priesthood was ever created.

D. "The Lord is at Your right hand."

E. "He shall judge among the nations."

F. "He shall drink of the brook by the wayside. ... He shall lift up the head"

G. Jesus' reign is presented in terms of a physical battle and a singular victory.

- Its picture of His triumph is inspiring.
- The Messiah would come in the complete approval, empowerment, and conquering power of God.