

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



March 5, 2017

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

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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

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHRISTIAN COLLEGES, SCHOOLS OF PREACHING, AND BIBLE INSTITUTES

This letter is written in sincere love and deep appreciation for all faithful Christian secondary schools, colleges, universities, Schools of Preaching, and Bible Institutes. I am a beneficiary of a Christian education (both high school and college), and have long been a proponent and supporter (financially and otherwise) of Christian education. Therefore, nothing that is said in this "Open Letter" is to be construed to mean that I am opposed to an academic education that takes place in institutions that are dedicated to providing a genuine Christian education (i.e., an education that honors the teaching of the divinely inspired word of God).

A cursory examination of the history of the schools that have been started by those dedicated to the restoration of apostolic Christianity reveals that many of them no longer are true to the principles on which they were founded, including nearly all of these established in the 19th century. In fact, many of the 19th century schools no longer exist. In the last forty or so years, we have seen several formerly very faithful Christian colleges/universities depart from the principles on which they were established. If those who founded them could know what is being taught in those schools now, they would, as we often say, "roll over in their graves."

Several schools among us now have within their Bible Departments and Schools of Theology professors who no longer hold to the validity of the restoration plea and the New Testament concept of the church. To them, the church is just another denomination, the Bible is not inerrant, baptism is not necessary to the remission of sins, baptism is not exclusively immersion, instrumental music in worship is not wrong, women may preach and take other leading roles in the work and worship of the church, the homosexual lifestyle is defensible, the New Testament does not set forth a pattern that is to govern the people of God throughout all the ages, ad infinitum.

The Bible lectureships (which in some cases are no longer billed as Bible lectureships but as "Celebrations," "The Summit," etc.) of some of the schools have become platforms for denominational speakers to set forth their corrupted versions of "Christianity." A female Episcopal priest, a female Lutheran pastor (and an ardent defender of the LGBTQ agenda), and an Anglican Bishop have been among those used by some of the schools in just very recent times. Denominationalists serve in the administration of at least one of the schools.

Other schools have not gone as far as those mentioned above, but some of them seem to be flirting with the possibility of moving in that direction. Some seem to be quite uncertain as to whether they will stay true to the principles on which they

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"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
Matthew 12:35-37



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

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were founded or capitulate to the religious pluralism of the age. NONE (and I do mean NONE, not even the most conservative schools among us) is immune to the danger of compromise and the very real threat of apostasy!

The Bible lectureships of our Christian colleges, universities, Schools of Preaching, and Bible Institutes need, in my judgment, to be times of faithful preaching of the word of God and deep, rich Bible study. They should not be planned and conducted as public relations events in order to see how many different speakers can be invited to fill as many different slots on the program as possible. Able, seasoned gospel preachers need to be invited to speak several times during the course of the lectureship, addressing on a daily basis a relevant biblical theme. Some of my fondest memories of the Freed-Hardeman University Bible Lectureship are of hearing on a daily basis such Bible stalwarts and scholars as Gus Nichols, G. K. Wallace, Franklin Camp, Guy N. Woods, Thomas B. Warren, Roy Deaver, Alan Highers, William Woodson, and others. I would make an earnest appeal to Freed-Hardeman and other loyal schools to again incorporate this kind of format into their lectureship programs.

In 1950, the theme of the Harding College (now University) Bible Lectureship was "Restoring the New Testament Church – A Present Need." I wonder if it is not time for this theme to again be addressed by all of our Christian colleges and universities! It has been a long time since I have seen this as a theme for any of our schools' lectureship programs. Will Lipscomb do it? Will Abilene? Will Pepperdine? Will Harding, Oklahoma Christian, Faulkner, Freed-Hardeman? Will our Schools of Preaching and Bible Institutes do it?

A host of relevant topics could be developed: The Church in God's Eternal Purpose, The Church in Prophecy and Preparation, The Church Established, Who/What is the Church?, Getting a Clear, Biblical Concept of the Church, The Singularity and Unity of the Church, The Identify of the Church, Is the Church of Christ Just Another Denomination?, Overcoming Denominational Tendencies and Terminology (I know a former Head/Chairman of the Bible Department/Religious Division of one of our schools whose language is rife with denominational terminology, yet he does not rec-

ognize it or else he has too much pride to admit it), Non-denominational Descriptors of the Church, The Organization of the Church, The Work of the Church, The Worship of the Church, The Role of Women in the Church, The Church Victorious, etc., as well as a thorough examination of the validity and relevance of the restoration plea.

Tell us, school administrators and lectureship directors, why such a theme would not be exceedingly relevant in our day! Tell us why able, seasoned men could not be found to address these subjects, some of them in serial, in-depth fashion during several days of the lectureship program! Would not such a program be a great boon to the effort to restore and be the undenominational church of the Bible? Are we not facing a desperate need for such in our own day and time?

My wife and I recently heard a fine young man, an associate minister of a good church (he has since been selected to be the regular preacher for a fine congregation), deliver an outstanding sermon on "Jesus and the Samaritan Woman" (John 4:1-26). He did not attend a Christian college or study in the Bible Department or School of Theology of one of our schools. He did not attend a School of Preaching or a Bible Institute. He graduated from one of our large state universities. Yet, his exposition of the text and application of it was "spot on." His observations about true worship were true to the Book. He had done his Bible homework! My wife and I both remarked what a contrast his sermon was to what we sometimes hear from young men coming out of our Christian colleges and their Bible Departments and Schools of Theology (even the most highly respected and conservative of them).

The church of our Lord can and will survive without a single one of the schools. All of them can apostatize if they so choose, but the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church. But what an asset the schools could be if they would remain rooted in the Scriptures rather than being so enamored of denominational theologians, denominational theology, and denominational divinity schools, and if they would stay true to the principles on which they were founded!

The apostle Paul warned that "in the last days perilous times will come" (II Timothy 3:1). Morally, doctrinally, relig-

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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

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

Mar. 6 Joshua 6-8; Colossians 1-2

Mar. 7 Joshua 9-11; Colossians 3-4

Mar. 8 Joshua 12-14; 1 Thess. 1-2

Mar. 9 Joshua 15-17; 1 Thess. 3-4

Mar. 10 Josh. 18-20; 1 Thess. 5; 2 Thess. 1

Mar. 11 Joshua 21-23; 2 Thess. 2-3

Mar. 12 Josh. 24; Judges 1-2; 1 Tim. 1-2

"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 **32 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ First Sunday Fellowship Meal following this morning's worship.
- ◆ **Gospel Meetings** this week at **Rising Star** (Sun.—Wed.) w/ **Mike Bonner** (*The Light of God in the Midst of Darkness*) and at **5th & Grape** [Abilene] (Fri.—Sun.) with **Robert Dodson** (*A Living Sacrifice*).

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ 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 (Age 18-27, give or take) Development Conference at Bryan/College Station.
- ◆ March 26-29—75th Homecoming Lectures at Dripping Springs.
- ◆ March 26-30—Gospel Meeting at Colleyville w/ Cody Westbrook. "*Justified: An Overview of the Book of Romans.*"
- ◆ March 31-April 2—Gospel Meeting at Marlin w/ various speakers. "*In the Blood of Christ, There Is...*"
- ◆ April 1—Ladies' Day @ Hwy. 36 (Abilene) w/ Amanda Kelly. "*Living on the Bright Side*"
- ◆ 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/ vari-

ous speakers.

- ◆ April 29—Ladies' Day at Colleyville w/ Erynn Sprouse & Denise Surles. "*Hope: Anchor of the Soul.*"
- ◆ April 30-May 3—Gospel Meeting at Gordon w/ Jessie Dickison.
- ◆ May 6-11—Focal Point (San Marcos).
- ◆ June 4-9—Preacher Training Camp (Ages 14-18) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ June 25-29—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp

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iously, and spiritually we are in such times. Those who serve on the Boards of our schools have a great responsibility to see that the schools stay true to the faith of the gospel. Board members need to be held accountable for the decisions they make regarding those who will lead these institutions and for the direction of the schools. The presidency of our schools seems to be changing with greater frequency than in former days. This makes for instability in the school. The kind of man chosen to head a school is vital to the future spiritual safety, soundness, and integrity of the school.

In the June 1, 1893 issue of the Gospel Advocate, V. M. Metcalf wrote, "May God grant that the church related schools today remain loyal to the ideal for which they were established." Was there concern even back then over the direction of some of the schools?

In Sincere Christian Love,

Hugh Fulford
January 24, 2017



Celebrate

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

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

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Feb. 19, 2017	Feb. 26, 2017
Bible Class	45	52
AM Worship	65	63
PM Worship	44	44
Wednesday PM	45	43
Contribution	2,326	2,063

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 3/5/17		Next Week: 3/12/17		March 2017 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller Jessica Stultz April 2017 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister Lisa Greer
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Don Smith John Barnum, Larry Petty	Rafe Smith*, Hank Wheeler Ryan Rudloff, Samuel Hairston		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Allen Bland	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Willie Henderson		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	Rafe Smith		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 8 Don Smith	March 15 Joe Dennis	March 22 Rafe Smith	March 29 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 February 26, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 5:2ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

Every Idle Word – Matthew 12:36-37

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Speech is important, for it reveals the heart of man (Matt. 12:34-35).

I. Idle Words for Which We Shall Be Judged.

A. Some Obvious Examples of Unacceptable Speech.

- Using the Lord's name in vain (Exod. 20:7).
- Words that are evil (1 Peter 3:10).

B. Other Examples of Unacceptable Speech.

- The overuse of words (Jas. 1:26; Prov. 10:19; 13:3).
- Words spoken in haste (Prov. 29:20; Jas. 1:19).
- Speaking evil of others.
 - Of those in authority (Exod. 22:28; Jude 8).
 - Of those around us (Matt. 5:21-22).
- Flattery (Psalm 12:1-4; Rom. 16:18).
- Rash oaths (Matt. 5:33-37; James 5:12).
- Any unwholesome word (Eph. 4:29).

C. Our speech reflects what has been allowed to reside in the heart.

II. Some Principles of Acceptable Speech.

A. Two Basic Guidelines.

- Our speech should lead to edification (Eph. 4:29).
 - That which encourages and builds up.
 - That which extends grace to others.
- Our speech should be characterized with thankfulness (Eph. 5:3-4).
 - An attitude becoming of saints (Col. 1:12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2).
 - Murmuring and complaining is not becoming (Phil. 2:14-15).

B. Such Speech Requires Forethought.

- The righteous will give careful thought to his speech (Prov. 15:28).
- The righteous will be concerned about what comes out of his mouth.
 - For his speech reflects the true condition of the heart (Matt. 12:34-35; 15:17-20).
 - He looks to God for help, even accepting the rebuke of others (Psalm 141:3-5).

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

Imprecatory Psalms

Imprecatory – to invoke or call down (evil or curses), as upon a person. Psalms appealing to God for a judgment, curse or destruction of the Psalmist's adversaries (ex. 69:22-28; 109:6-16).

I. Unsatisfactory Solutions:

A. They Are Uninspired, Vindictive Expressions of Sinful Men.

- Ignores the teaching of 2 Sam 23:2 that David was inspired by the HS.
- Ignores that Jesus quoted these Psalms, confirming their inspiration.
- Ignores the use of these Psalms by inspired New Testament writers.
- Ignores the often charitable attitude displayed by David (to Saul, etc.).

B. They Indicate an Inferior Ethical Standard.

- The OT prohibited personal vengeance (Deut. 32:35; Prov. 25:21-22).
- The OT did not allow one to bear a grudge (Lev. 19:18).
- The OT taught to deal kindly with others (Ex. 23:3-4; Job 31:29-30).
- The NT also includes imprecations (Rev. 6:10; Gal. 5:12; 2 Tim. 4:14).

C. They Are Merely Predicting What Will Happen to Wicked Men.

- The actual wording of the Psalms usually do not indicate a future event.
- The imprecations are prayers to God.
- There are also imperatives involved in the imprecations.

D. They Are Reflecting the Desire That God Be Just and Condemn the Wicked as He Has Promised.

- Difficult to explain the desire for the destruction of children for justice.
- Psalms use poetic language, including exaggeration and overstatement.
- Psalmists were spiritual men who desired that God's name be glorified. They saw wickedness as an affront to the reputation of God.
- The Psalmists were spiritual men who truly were appalled by the wickedness of their contemporaries.
- "Perhaps we would not find these prayers so strange if we took right and wrong more seriously. The self-centered person who faces God and yet deliberately turns away...can only come into judgment."* (Kelley)

II. Purposes of the Imprecatory Psalms.

- Demonstrate how the righteous truly desired vindication for their choices.
- The righteous hoped temporal punishment would evoke repentance.
- The righteous are continually concerned about the sovereignty of God.