

# 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 19, 2017

## 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

## Does the Old Testament Still Have Value?

People, including some Christians, periodically question the value of studying the Old Testament. Perhaps they have struggled to understand the point of reading about the construction of the tabernacle. Or maybe they wondered why they should bother trying to figure out all the various sacrifices described in Leviticus. They might have had their eyes glaze over just trying to pronounce some of the names in the various genealogies. These reasons might sound weak on the surface, but they are real issues for many people. However, others object to studying the Old Testament for more doctrinal reasons. They argue that since the Old Testament has been fulfilled and was nailed to the cross (Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:14) it does not apply today and therefore should not be studied or preached. They might also point out that most of the regulations of the Old Law do not apply today for the same reason. We do not follow the same food limitations, health mandates, or feast days. We do not even remember the Sabbath since it was part of the Old Covenant but not part of the new. The Old Testament, they argue, cannot teach us how to be saved from our sins, cannot explain how to worship in spirit and truth, and cannot describe even why to hope. These are all true, as far as they go. But just because the Old Testament does not have value for us in these ways does not mean that it has no value at all. Quite to the contrary.

The early church used the Old Testament quite effectively to demonstrate the truth of Christianity. When Paul approached the Jews in their synagogues, he "*reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ'*" (Acts 17:2-3). Paul discussed the Old Testament with the Jews to show God's plan for the Messiah was for Him to suffer and die and then to be resurrected—contrary to their tradition. Then, by combining this evidence from the Old Testament with the facts about Jesus, he made the case for Jesus Christ and Christianity. This was not an exception for Paul; this was his regular practice. Indeed, Paul pointed out the value of studying the Old Testament Scriptures when he reminded Timothy of its effectiveness in his own early training as a youth, telling him that they played an important role in making him "*wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Timothy's training in the Old Testament prepared him well to accept and enjoy the benefits of the New. So while the apostle Paul wrote extensively about how all people are now accountable to the gospel, he still found great value in the Old Testament.

Despite these biblical reasons, some might assume that the situation is different today. While no one would dispute the relationship between Judaism and Christianity is vastly different from what it was in the first century—by God's design—in principle the value of the Old Testament remains. In fact, the Old Testament provides vital information that no Christian can do without. The Old Testament provides multiples proofs of inspiration. The repetition of "*Thus saith the LORD*" throughout the Old Covenant offers a distinct claim of inspiration that permeates the text. The hundreds of prophecies of the coming Messiah, fulfilled by Jesus, establish a claim on inspiration that cannot be successfully ignored. Beyond this, the prophecies concerning the nations included in the Old Testament and fulfilled in history support not only the authenticity of the Bible but the relevance to all. The Old Testament answers the basic questions of life. It explains the origins of the universe

(Continued on page 2)

"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.."

Matthew 12:43-45

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



(Continued from page 1)

and man (Gen. 1-2) in a way that brings together the sovereign power of Almighty God and the scientific realities of His creation. It explains the existence of morality and how this became a problem. It is in the early pages of the Old Testament that man's purpose in having a relationship with God finds expression, which is then supported throughout the rest of its writings (Eccl. 12:13). The Old Testament offers insight into the nature of sin as a destructive force with terrible consequences and the nature of God who judges sin, offers hope, demands obedience, keeps His promises, and requires a perfect blood sacrifice for the propitiation of sins (Leviticus). The Old Testament points to the coming of Christ by establishing the need for redemption and the scheme of redemption and by pointing to the standard of righteousness in the Law that Jesus Himself would have to fulfill and the pointers in Scripture to all that He would accomplish. "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). Studying the Old Testament is essential to understanding the New Testament. The quotations of the Old Testament included in the New imply the necessity of understanding their context and meaning to appreciate their application. Without studying the Old Testament, a Christian cannot appreciate the misunderstandings of the Jews in the first century, follow Jesus' reasoning in His replies to them, or appreciate the argumentation found in the epistles, especially the reasoning found in Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews. And this does not even account for the numerous allusions to Scripture found throughout the gospel. Even reading the Old Testament helps us appreciate how difficult it is to live perfectly and why we need Christ because the exacting nature of the Law was designed to demonstrate just that. And then we should think about how the Old Testament provides access to centuries of life experience, which was part of Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Does the Old Testament still have value? Absolutely! It had value the moment it was penned. It had value in the first century. It has value today. And it will have value until Judgment Day. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), but it stands on the bedrock of the Old Testament. We ignore it at our own peril. We study it to gain perspective and insight. And we love it because it paved the way for Jesus. "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97).

Kevin W. Rhodes

(Christian Worker, Vol. 103, Num. 3 [March, 2017], pp. 1,7)

## The Purpose of the Old Testament

*What then is the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise hath been made (Gal. 3:19a).*

A proper understanding of the role that the Law of Moses played in the overall scheme of redemption is important to an appreciation of the relationship of the Old Law of Moses to the New Law of Christ Jesus. In addition, such an understanding would go a long way toward eliminating foolish appeals to the Old Testament for authority for what we do in worship to God today. Galatians chapter three addresses three important truths regarding that Old Testament Law: (1) Its relationship to the promise, (2) its temporary nature regarding the particulars, and (3) its purpose in the overall scheme of things. Consider each of these.

First, there is the relationship of the Law of Moses to the promise given to Abraham. Paul points out that the Law came "four hundred and thirty years after" the promise (Gal. 3:17). It is impossible, therefore, for the Law to justify. The Law did not "disannul so as to make the promise of none effect." The argument of Paul is astonishing. The Judaizing teachers were teaching that justification came through the Law of Moses. Their doctrine implied that Abraham was not justified in the sight of God, since the Law came many years after the promise was given to Abraham, and after it was stated that Abraham's faith "was counted unto him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6).

Second, the particulars of the Old Testament were "abolished in his flesh...even the law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Eph. 2:15). Christ "blotted out the bond written in ordinances...and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross" (Col. 2:14). It is impossible to appeal to the Old Testament for authority in matters of religion today, and at the same time respect the force of the words "blotted out" and/or "abolished." The particulars of the Old Testament, including all of the ceremonial laws given to Israel, ceased to be binding upon God's people at the time Jesus died on the cross. Any appeal to that Old Testament for authority in matters pertaining to worship today is equivalent to an appeal to British Law for authority in the upper New England States that constituted the original thirteen colonies.

Third, consider the purpose of the Law in the overall scheme of God's divine plan. It is to this point that Paul proposed the question in Galatians 3:19: "What then is the law?" Paul was not seeking to answer the question as to what the Law is, but rather why it was given. We might say, "Why then the Law? What purpose does it serve? Is the law, then, to be regarded as nothing? Does it serve no

(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

**Mar. 19** Judges 21; Ruth 1-2; Heb. 1-2

**Mar. 20** Ruth 3-4; 1 Sam. 1; Heb. 3-4

**Mar. 21** 1 Samuel 2-4; Hebrews 5-6

**Mar. 22** 1 Samuel 5-7; Hebrews 7-8

**Mar. 23** 1 Samuel 8-10; Hebrews 9-10

**Mar. 24** 1 Samuel 11-13; Heb. 11-12

**Mar. 25** 1 Sam. 14-16; Heb. 13; Jas. 1

**Mar. 26** 1 Samuel 17-19; James 2-3

*"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 **40 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ The ladies will have a short meeting following services this morning concerning Ladies' Day.
- ◆ Our **Gospel Meeting** with Russel Bell begins next Sunday!
  - A sign up sheet to **host Russel and Jean for meals** is on the back table.
  - **Flyers** are available at both auditorium exits. Please take these and invite your friends and neighbors.
  - Fellowship meal Sunday.
  - Snacks after services Monday and Tuesday.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ **March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.**
- ◆ August 8—Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 15-18—Fall Gospel Meeting with Dave Rogers

### Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ 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. *"I Stand in Awe."*
- ◆ 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 29—Teacher's Workshop at Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ April 29—Ladies' Day at Comanche.
- ◆ 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 6—Summer Youth Series begins
- ◆ June 25-29—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit

(Continued from page 2)

purpose?" To these questions Paul now turns his attention.

The Old Testament Law *"was added because of transgressions"* (vs. 19b). The Law did not replace the promise, nor was the Law given to somehow complement or complete the promise. *"And the law came in besides"* (Rom. 5:20) in an attempt to get Israel to recognize the seriousness of sin. The late Guy N. Woods pointed out that it was "not added to complete, but given independently and additionally. It was the apostle's purpose to show...that the law came along after the promise and was added, not to embellish the promise, but to give man a greater awareness of sin" (Questions and Answers, vol. 2, p. 176).

The specific purpose for which that Law was *"added"* was, according to Paul, *"because of transgressions"* (Gal. 3:19). The law was given to point out sin. It was NOT to reveal a way of justification, but a means of teaching and informing with regard to the nature of sin. It did this by showing the consequences of sin. The Law acted as a magnifying glass. That device does not actually increase the number of dirty spots on a garment, but makes them stand out more clearly. In the same manner, the Law magnified sin by showing the full consequence of that sin. Paul put it like this: *"I had not known sin, except through the law: for I had not known coveting, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet"* (Rom. 7:7). Hence, the Law was designed to bring about a recognition of sin with its consequences. It did this by (1) showing man what God required of them. Without that communication, men could not come to understand their obligation toward the Creator; (2) showing man the nature and extent of sin, and showing how far he has departed from the law; (3) showing the just penalty of sin, thereby revealing the true nature of sin; (4) producing conviction of sin, so as to impress upon our minds how bitter transgression is; and (5) showing its inability to justify. Law makes no provisions for forgiveness; it merely passes judgment. If someone is arrested for breaking the speed limit, he is brought before the magistrate, and the fine is imposed. All the law can do is point out what the crime might be and, if violated, impose the penalty for that violation. To illustrate, let me assume I planned to visit some country. I read about some law that forbids the chewing of gum, the violation of which carries a \$500.00 fine. The law has revealed the serious nature of the transgression, thereby giving me fair warning as to the serious nature of the crime.

The practical result of the law, then, was to demonstrate that every man who attempted to keep the law had failed, and stood condemned and in need of justification by some system other than law. That "system" is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tom Wacaster

(Christian Worker, Vol. 103, Num. 3 [March, 2017], pp. 3-4)

## 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

	Mar. 5, 2017	Mar. 12, 2017
Bible Class	43	39
AM Worship	63	64
PM Worship	38	44
Wednesday PM	41	38
Contribution	2,621	2,119

This Week: 3/19/17		Next Week: 3/26/17		March 2017	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith		Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller		Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas*, Allen Bland Allen Griffith, Tom Wilcox		Rafe Smith*, James Fuller Larry Petty, Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum		Willie Henderson		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts		Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>		Song Leader: Joe Dennis		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister		Matthew Hairston		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Hank Wheeler		Joe Dennis		
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas		Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby		Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	March 22 Rafe Smith	March 29 Tom Wilcox	April 5 Prayer Night	April 12 Don Smith	

**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

## 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 March 19, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 5:7ff**  
Wed. Class ..... **After Baptism, Then What?**

<p><b>Jesus' Teaching – The Danger of An Empty House (Matt. 12:43-45)</b></p> <p>Using the example of demon possession, Jesus warned it is not enough to go through an initial period of repentance and removal of sin – unless reformation continues and something positive is put in place, the end might prove worse than the beginning!</p> <p><b>I. The Danger of An Empty House.</b></p> <p>A. <b>Our Heart Is Like a House</b> – in it can reside good or evil.</p> <p>B. <b>When We Come to Christ, Our House Is Cleansed.</b></p> <p>C. <b>We Are Expected To "Fill" Our House.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indeed, God gives us His Spirit to dwell in our hearts (Gal. 4:6).</li> <li>Through faith Christ Himself is to dwell in our hearts (Eph. 3:17).</li> <li>God's peace and grace are to fill our hearts (Col. 3:16-17).</li> <li>Even God's law is to be written in our hearts (Heb. 8:10).</li> </ol> <p>D. <b>What Happens When We Do <u>Not</u> "Fill" Our House.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember the maxim: "<i>Nature abhors a vacuum.</i>"</li> <li>Consider the example of the Corinthians (1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 12:20-21).</li> <li>Consider the example of the false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1, 20-22).</li> </ol> <p>E. <b>How Things Can Become Worse Than at The First.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the case of the false teachers, they had: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forsaken the right way (2 Pet. 2:15).</li> <li>Eyes full of adultery, hearts trained in covetousness (2 Pet. 2:14).</li> <li>Become "accursed children", "brute beasts" (2 Pet. 2:12, 14)</li> <li>Even denied the Lord who bought them (2 Pet. 2:1).</li> </ol> </li> <li>Our hearts can become "hardened" (Heb. 3:12-13).</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Filling the House of Your Heart.</b></p> <p>A. <b>In Principle.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts (1 Pet. 3:15).</li> <li>Be selective as to what goes into your mind (Col. 3:1-2, 16; Ps. 101:3-4; Phil. 4:8).</li> <li>Transformation of character begins with renewing the mind (Rom. 12:1-2).</li> </ol> <p>B. <b>In Practice.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize every opportunity to study God's word (1 Pet. 2:1-2).</li> <li>Fill your heart with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19).</li> <li>Let your mind dwell on things that are worthy of praise and virtue (Phil. 4:8).</li> <li>Choose your friends carefully (1 Cor. 15:33).</li> </ol> <p>What is the condition of your "house" (heart)?</p>	<p><b>Imprecatory Psalms – Psalm 69 – "Does Prayer Avail?"</b></p> <p>Does the prayer of a righteous person avail anything? Yes!</p> <p>The value of prayer has two sides – <u>what prayer does for us</u> as we pray and <u>what God does for us</u> in response to our prayers. Prayer, in and of itself, changes us.</p> <p><b>I. A Desperate Heart (1-4)</b> – David's situation seems utterly overwhelming.</p> <p><b>II. A Man of Folly (5-7)</b> – David acknowledges he is a man of "foolishness" and sin.</p> <p><b>III. Many Trials Have Come (8-12).</b></p> <p>A. "<i>I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children.</i>"</p> <p>B. "<i>Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.</i>"</p> <p><b>IV. Praying for Help (13-15).</b></p> <p>A. Discouraged by his troubles, David asks God to come to his rescue – "<i>...my prayer is to You, O LORD, in the acceptable time...in the multitude of Your mercy, hear me...deliver me</i>"</p> <p>B. David describes his disaster with four figures: "<i>the mire,</i>" "<i>the deep waters,</i>" "<i>the floodwater,</i>" and "<i>the pit</i>" – all of which convey violent circumstances.</p> <p><b>V. "Do Not Hide Your Face"</b> (16-19) David's appeal to God's mercy.</p> <p><b>VI. Broken and Forsaken (20-21).</b></p> <p>A. "<i>Reproach has broken my heart...I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.</i>"</p> <p><b>VII. An Imprecatory prayer (22-28)</b> – David's sevenfold request.</p> <p><b>VIII. A Righteous Resolve (29-31).</b></p> <p>A. At long last, emerging in David's prayer is the confidence of his faith in God.</p> <p>B. "<i>I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.</i>" The prayer itself has helped David, bringing to his mind who God is and what His faithfulness means.</p> <p><b>IX. Let All Praise Him (32-36).</b></p> <p>A. Prayer should take us into the heart of God and give us a renewed vision of God's great compassion.</p> <p>B. Having begun with a complaint, he now ends in praise – "<i>Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.</i>"</p> <p>C. God never loses sight of the individual in the bigness of His plans, nor does He lose sight of His overall plan as He cares for each individual.</p>
--	--