

# 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



April 9, 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.

## The Ripple Effect of Sin

Sin often begins as a tiny ripple of thought—an internal temptation—that swells into a tidal wave of catastrophe destroying virtually everything in its wicked wake (Jas. 1:14-15). Many lives are swept up in the chaotic consequences created by another's sinful choice. Because of one person's sin, spouses and children weep while families are destroyed, friendships are rent asunder, godly influence is traded away for a selfish desire and souls are often lost for eternity.

Sin always has a devastating impact upon the one who commits the action (Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:20). Sin creates a division between the individual and the Creator (Isa. 59:1-3). Yet, the devastation rarely stops there. In a selfish attempt to minimize and excuse sinful actions, many will claim the transgression never hurt anyone else or never affected other aspects of their lives. The deceitfulness of sin hardens our hearts and blinds us to the reality of the utter destruction caused by our actions (Heb. 3:13).

In 2 Samuel 11-12, we see the devastation that started out as one man's lustful thought. David allowed a tiny ripple of sin to flood his life. A moment of unrestrained lust led to adultery, lies, deception, conspiracy and murder. David's sin devastated his relationship with God and his personal life. However, David's sin did not only affect him. His choice to fulfill his lust impacted the lives of Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, his own son and ultimately an entire nation.

Just like David, our own sin, when allowed to grow and fester, will create a series of unanticipated and unintended consequences. Failure to truly acknowledge and repent of sin will harden our hearts and compromise our ability to make good decisions. David's sin of adultery could have stopped there. However, because David was unwilling to honestly face his own actions, he resorted to lying and murder in an attempt to cover up and escape the consequences of his actions. In fact, the tiny ripple from a sinful thought and the catastrophic wake that followed could have been prevented altogether (1 Cor. 10:13). He could have chosen to look away and go back into his home.

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we are able to see hope in this mess created by sin. Nathan, the prophet, was convicted in his obedience to God enough and compassionate toward David's soul enough to confront the king and expose the sin that David had tried so hard to conceal (Gal. 6:1-5). David confessed his sin both privately (2 Sam. 12:13) and publicly (Psalm 32), even writing about the devastation that he had caused (Psalm 51). Just as sin has a ripple effect, so does righteousness. By one man's courage, conviction and compassion, David's heart was once again able to be softened.

Like David, we all sin and fall short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23), but we need to humbly submit to God's will and not to allow our hearts to become hardened. Like Nathan, we must have the courage, conviction and compassion to confront sin and promote righteousness. *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"* (Heb. 3:13).

Peter Ray Cole

(Gospel Gazette Online, Vol. 19, Num. 3, p. 15)

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."  
**Matthew 13:44-46**



# Struggles in Life

A little girl walking in a garden noticed a particularly beautiful flower. She admired its beauty and enjoyed its fragrance. "It's so pretty!" she exclaimed. As she gazed on it, her eyes followed the stem down to the soil in which it grew. "This flower is too pretty to be planted in such dirt!" she cried. So she pulled it up by its roots and ran to the water faucet to wash away the soil. It wasn't long until the flower wilted and died.

When the gardener saw what the little girl had done, he exclaimed, "You have destroyed my finest plant!" "I'm sorry, but I didn't like it in that dirt," she said. The gardener replied, "I chose that spot and mixed the soil because I knew that only there could it grow to be a beautiful flower." Often, we murmur because of the circumstances into which God has placed us. We fail to realize that He is using our pressures, trials and difficulties to bring us to a new degree of spiritual beauty.

The apostle Paul reminded in 2 Corinthians 5:1-7,

*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the*

*Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Christian, there will be struggles, trials, temptations and moments of pain in this life. It is important to develop and maintain a Christian attitude in the midst of our suffering. Remember in Romans 8:37, "... *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*"

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. Every day, he prayed intently for God to rescue him, but it seemed He just wasn't listening. He eventually managed to build himself a hut out of driftwood to protect him from the weather and store what few possessions he had managed to salvage. Then, one day after scavenging for food, he arrived 'home' to find his hut was on fire after being struck by lightning. The worst he could imagine had happened. Everything he had was lost. He would surely just give up and die now.

"God, how could you do this to me!" he cried. Early the next morning, as he lay on the shore distraught, he was startled by a group of men who had arrived by boat to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" he asked. They replied, "We saw your smoke signal."

It is so easy to get discouraged when **things are going wrong** when we are facing many trials. We may even blame God for the things that happen, or complain because He doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want. However, God is always at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your **hut is burning**, it may be a **smoke signal** given by the grace of God. He loves you and cares for you even if you can't always see it.

Mark T. Tonkery

(Gospel Gazette Online, Vol. 19, Num. 3, p. 12)

## 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

**Apr. 9** 1 Kings 4-6; Revelation 9-10  
**Apr. 10** 1 Kings 7-9; Revelation 11-12  
**Apr. 11** 1 Kings 10-12; Rev. 13-14  
**Apr. 12** 1 Kings 13-15; Rev. 15-16  
**Apr. 13** 1 Kings 16-18; Rev. 17-18  
**Apr. 14** 1 Kings 19-21; Rev. 19-20  
**Apr. 15** 1 Kgs. 22; 2 Kgs. 1-2; Rev. 21-22  
**Apr. 16** 2 Kings 3-5; Matthew 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 **34 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ This evening we will be beginning a **new study for Sunday evenings—1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus.**
- ◆ **Thank you** to the men who worked Wednesday morning repairing and organizing the storage shed.
- ◆ **Gospel Meetings** this week at **9th & Main** in San Angelo, and at **Windmill** outside of Weatherford.
- ◆ All of our teachers are encouraged to attend the **Teacher’s Workshop** at Oldham Lane **April 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please let Cindy Proud know if you plan to attend.

**Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart**

- ◆ August 8—Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 15-18—Fall Gospel Meeting with Dave Rogers

**Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

- ◆ **April 9-12—Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main (San Angelo) w/ Jason Rollo. “Ready to Give Answer: Bible Basics”**
- ◆ **April 9-12—Gospel Meeting @ Windmill (Weatherford) w/ various speakers.**
- ◆ April 28-29—Heart of Texas Ladies’ Retreat (Brady).
- ◆ April 29—Teacher’s Workshop @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ April 29—Ladies’ Day @ Comanche w/ Cheryl Ginnings. “God’s Special People”
- ◆ April 29—Ladies’ Day @ Colleyville w/ Erynn Sprouse & Denise Surlles. “Hope: Anchor of the Soul.”
- ◆ April 30-May 3—Gospel Meeting @ Gordon w/ Jessie Dickison.
- ◆ May 6—Cherokee Day Open House & Food Drive
- ◆ May 6-11—Focal Point (San Marcos).
- ◆ May 20—Ladies’ Day @ Dublin w/ Evelyn Bonner. “Cooking New Creations”
- ◆ 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

## Don’t Bury Live People!

When a person replaces the direct command to be baptized **for the remission of sins** (Acts 2:28) in favor of man’s command to be baptized as **an outward sign of an inward change**, there is a condemnable contradiction of doctrine. If a person is saved before baptism (“**an outward sign of an inward change**”), then **baptism becomes an act of burying a live person.**

**Warning:** That is illegal both on earth and in heaven!

Study Romans 6:3-4. Submit to the death, burial and resurrection **for the remission of sins!**

## Celebrate

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

**April Birthdays:** Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), **Jimmie Claborn (9), Kristi Maninger (9), Becky Smith (9), Darlene Smith (10),** Caroline Dennis (30).

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

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



## Records

|              | Mar. 26, 2017 | Apr. 2, 2017 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bible Class  | 53            | 44           |
| AM Worship   | 75            | 62           |
| PM Worship   | 53            | 44           |
| Wednesday PM | 53            | 40           |
| Contribution | 2,367         | 1,946        |



# Privileged To Serve

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

| This Week: 4/9/17             |  | Next Week: 4/16/17                                    |                        | <b>April 2017</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>Ken Maninger<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>Maninger Family<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>Mike & Patti Bannister<br>Lisa Greer<br><br><b>May 2017</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>Gene Bannister<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>Tom & Carol Wilcox<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>John Barnum Family |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday AM:</b>             | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                                    | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                           |                        |   |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Mileen & Ashley Kahlich  | John & Tina Barnum                                    |                        |   |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Gene Bannister   | James Fuller  |                        |   |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Allen Griffith*, Larry Petty<br>Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell | James Thomas*, Rafe Smith<br>Allen Bland, John Barnum |                        |   |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | John Barnum  | Ken Maninger  |                        |   |
| <b>Attendance Cards</b>       | Jaceten Evetts   | Aaron Smith   |                        |   |
| <b>Sunday PM:</b>             | Song Leader: James Fuller                                      | Song Leader: Joe Dennis                               |                        |   |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Randy Huckaby  | Don Smith   |                        |   |
| <b>Scripture Reading</b>      | Ryan Rudloff   | Allen Griffith  |                        |   |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Allen Griffith   | James Thomas  |                        |   |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | James Fuller   | Gene Bannister  |                        |   |
| <b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b> | April 12<br>Prayer Night                                       | April 19<br>Don Smith                                 | April 26<br>Joe Dennis | May 3<br>Prayer Night   |

## 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 April 9, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 5:12ff**  
 Wed. Class ..... **After Baptism, Then What?**

#### The Value of Jesus' Kingdom – Matthew 13:44-46

The key theme of Jesus' preaching and teaching was "the kingdom of Heaven." He taught many parables to illustrate great truths about this kingdom.

#### I. What Is the Kingdom of Heaven?

##### A. It Involves Four Interrelated Ideas.

1. God's kingship, rule, or recognized sovereignty.
2. This rule of heaven is spiritual in nature.
3. Its visible manifestation today is in the form of the Lord's church.
4. It has a future element as well as a present one.

##### B. The Kingdom Is Therefore Both Present and Future.

#### II. What Is the Great Value of This Kingdom?

##### A. It Is a Refuge from The Powers of Darkness (Col. 1:13).

1. Outside the kingdom, one is in the kingdom of Satan! (Eph. 2:1-13)
2. In the kingdom of Christ, we find deliverance and refuge.
  - a. Set free from sin to serve God (Rom. 6:17-18).
  - b. God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to bear (1 Cor. 10:13).

##### B. It Is a Domain of Righteousness, Peace and Joy (Rom. 14:17).

1. **Righteousness** which comes through faith in Christ (Phil. 3:8-9).
2. **Peace** from God through prayer which surpasses understanding (Phil. 4:6-7).
3. Abiding joy in the Lord, no matter the circumstances (Phil. 4:4; 2:17-18).

##### C. It Is an Unshakable Kingdom (Heb. 12:25-29).

1. It will never be destroyed (Dan. 2:44).
2. Of this kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:33).
3. It is truly an everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:10-11).

##### D. It Will Be Presented to God When Christ Returns (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

1. At that time, those who are now "sons of the kingdom" will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:41-43).
2. Then those in this kingdom will dwell in the presence of God (Rev. 21:1-7).

The kingdom is truly one of great value.

- It was established through its purchase by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
- Can we expect the Lord to accept anything less than our utmost devotion for the privilege of being in His eternal kingdom?

Our actions will demonstrate whether we value the greatness of this kingdom.

- By whether or not we obey the gospel!
- By whether or not we remain zealous and faithful in our service to the God!

#### 1 Timothy – Background & Introduction

#### I. Authorship.

- A. God is the author of this book, through His Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- B. The human agent whom God used was the apostle Paul (1:1).
  1. Modernist and liberal scholars have questioned Pauline authorship.
  2. However, the testimonies of those much closer to the 1<sup>st</sup> century are overwhelming in support of Pauline authorship.

#### II. When Written.

- A. Probably sometime around A.D. 65.
- B. This would have been after Paul was released from his first two-year (Acts 28:30-31) imprisonment in Rome.

#### III. To Whom Written – Timothy (1:2).

#### IV. Purpose of The Epistle.

- A. To give instructions and encouragement to Timothy and all other men who would preach the Gospel.
- B. To stress the necessity of preaching and teaching the sound doctrine (i.e., the Gospel of Christ, without adding to or taking away from it).
- C. To identify the need to wage the good spiritual warfare against Satan, including resisting and rebuking those who teach false doctrine.
- D. To give some instructions on prayer, as well as the dress and submission of women.
- E. To give the qualifications men must meet to serve as elders and deacons.
- F. To provide instructions on proper treatment of older and younger men and women, including widows and elders.
- G. To issue strong warning and exhortation to those who desire to be rich and to those who actually are rich in this world's goods.

#### V. Should 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus Be Called The "Pastoral Epistles"?

- A. This title is based upon the fact that these epistles contain instructions to preachers of the word of God – whom the religious world calls "pastors."
- B. In the NT, the word translated "pastor" refers to elders, not to preachers!
- C. Thus, in order for these letters to properly be called, "The Pastoral Epistles", they would have to contain instructions to elders of the Lord's church.
- D. Since these letters do not contain such instructions, it is not proper to refer to them as "Pastoral Epistles."