

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 23, 2017

Contact Us:

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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

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

Ezekiel's Response to the Culture War of His Day

(continued from last week)

Fifth, Israel abused blessings on loan from God (vss. 16-21). They honored their idols with gifts from God. They made, adorned, and paid homage to the works of their own hands with material endowments from God. Having abandoned all natural affection, they descended into the depths of human depravity by offering their children as sacrifices to their idols. God said these children were "*born unto me*" (vs. 20), and they have "*slain my children*" (vs. 21).

Israel was a steward of the blessings of God and so are all men. Stewardship does not imply ownership. A steward does not own anything. "*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out*" (1 Timothy 6:7). God allows man an accommodative usage of "my money, house, land, cars," but these and all material things are gifts and blessings from God and on loan from God. God is the "*possessor of heaven and earth*" (Genesis 14:19); everything "*under the whole heaven*" (Job 41:11) belongs to Him; "*The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein*" (Psalm 24:1), and all the silver and gold on Earth belongs to God (Haggai 2:8).

David pointed to the material riches that he and Israel had donated for the construction of the temple and asserted, "*But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee*" (1 Chronicles 29:14). Joseph was the steward over Potiphar's house and "*all that he had he put into his hand*" (Genesis 39:4), but not one thing belonged to Joseph. Even a man's children belong to God. "*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward*" (Psalm 127:3). Israel misused blessings and gifts on loan from God and so has the preponderance of humanity from time's beginning.

Sixth, idolatry and sexual sin are twin sins. Illicit sexual conduct inheres in Ezekiel's "*eminent place*" (vss. 24,31,39), his phrase "*opened their feet to everyone that passed by*" (vs. 25), and the "*great of flesh*" (vs. 26) comment that describes the fleshly lewd nature of Egyptian idolatry borrowed and made common in Israel's own idolatrous practices. This chapter pulsates with sexual connotations. Physical whoredom follows spiritual whoredom like the night follows the day. Physical adultery is spiritual adultery's shadow. It is idolatry's cardinal sin. Balaam knew that idolatry and fornication were comrade sins and would bring divine judgment upon Israel that his initial efforts failed to achieve (Revelation 2:14; Numbers 25:1-9). If sexual lust in thought and act was idolatry's only fruit, the worship of idols would yet have been as common in Israel as the rising of the Sun.

Seventh, memory failures beget ingratitude that often ends in spiritual death. The spirit of thanksgiving is as rare as was the good man in Israel (Micah 7:2). In an unsurpassed catalog of massive evils, ingratitude was at the top of the list (Romans 1:21). When a man refuses or neglects to reflect daily on the innumerable wonders of God's love, grace, and goodness, he is paving the road to his own spiritual deterioration. Twice, Ezekiel points to Israel's failure to remember the blessings of God in her national youth as one of the foundational reasons for her idolatry and companioned sins (vss. 22 and 43). Joseph languished two additional years in prison because the chief butler of Pharaoh did not "*remember Joseph, but forgot him*" (Genesis 40:23).

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"Then His disciples came and said to Him, 'Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?' But He answered and said, '**Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.**'"

Matthew 15:12-14

(Continued from page 1)

One negative report from ten spies drained Israel's memory of God's mighty miracles in Egypt onward and left them weeping all night in ingratitude and unbelief (Numbers 14:1-3). "Remember" was one of the key words that Moses used in his final sermon to the second generation from Egypt in the book of Deuteronomy. When David saw Bathsheba bathing, if he had supplanted inquiring about her (2 Samuel 11:3) with reflection and gratitude for God's love and goodness, he would never have consummated his act of adultery. Remembering and thanking God continually for the blessings of 1 Kings 10 would have saved Solomon from the evils and consequences of 1 Kings 11. In conjunction with his wife, Jehoiada saved, protected, preserved, and aided Joash in becoming king and ruling over Judah until he died. At Jehoiada's death, Joash forsook God, embraced idolatry, rejected the preaching and warnings of the prophets, and had Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, stoned to death for rebuking him. Inspiration's report of this tragedy reads, "Thus Joash the king **remembered not** the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done, but slew his son" (2 Chronicles 24:23-25). Memory failures and ingratitude accompany every continuous sin and sin of rebellion.

Eighth, the desires of the flesh are insatiable (vss. 28-34). Israel pursued political alliances with the heathen nations and claimed their gods as their own. Pagan nations were jealous and protective of their own gods, but Israel's love affair with idols was indiscriminate. Multiplying gods meant multiplying opportunities for the flesh. When Syria was defeated by Israel, instead of forsaking their gods, the Syrians chose a different location for their conflict, declaring, "Their gods are gods of the hills, therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they" (1 Kings 20:23). Conversely, when Assyria's military proved superior to Israel's, Ahaz said, "Because the gods of the king of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel" (2 Chronicles 28:23).

When a man's life is void of God, it is void of reason. There is nothing rational about the flesh. It feels, but does not think. Severed from God, law, and restraints, it chooses sin's pleasures with reckless abandon. Noah's contemporaries were dominated by the "flesh" (Genesis 6:3) and pursued its ravenous passions until their minds were empty of a single right-

eous thought. A lifetime of fleshly lust cannot quench the fires of its interest. It does not pause to consider its ways. It is ever open to new ways of expression. It is oblivious to shame. Were the prophets, priests, and wise men of Judah "ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jeremiah 8:12). The flesh does not need the darkness to conceal its baseness. It considers it a "pleasure to riot in the daytime" (2 Peter 2:13). It possesses "eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin" (2 Peter 2:14). Israel loved their gods of wood and stone because they allowed the flesh the freedom to pursue its uninhibited desired ends.

Ninth, greater responsibility is attached to superior spiritual advantages that demand a more severe judgment for sin (vss. 44-51). Jesus utilized this principle when He depicted the day of judgment as rendering a more intense degree of punishment for certain Galilean cities "wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not" (Matthew 11:20) as compared with the pagan cities of Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom that did not enjoy such opportunities. Spiritual advantages abounded to the Jewish nation. Paul affirmed that Israel's possession of the law of God was their chief advantage (Romans 3:1-2). Moses asserted that God's statutes and judgments were so noteworthy that even the pagan nations would declare, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people" (Deuteronomy 4:6) because of their possession of the righteous laws of God. Due to their unique spiritual advantages, Israel's sin was highhanded rebellion against God.

In depicting His judgment through Babylon, God said, "Behold I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle" (2 Kings 21:12), and in describing God's judgment on Jerusalem by the Roman army, Jesus said, "For there shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). The severity of their judgment would match the severity of their sin.

Tenth, following the darkness of the night is the comfort and solace of the day's light (vss. 53-63). The deep darkness of sin needs the bright light of redemption. The world of Genesis 1-2 was a world of continuous light. The physical night was bathed in the light of perfection and innocence. Even the

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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

Apr. 23 2 Kgs 24-25; 1 Chron 1; Mt 15-16

Apr. 24 1 Chronicles 2-4; Matt. 17-18

Apr. 25 1 Chronicles 5-7; Matt. 19-20

Apr. 26 1 Chron. 8-10; Matt. 21-22

Apr. 27 1 Chron. 11-13; Matt. 23-24

Apr. 28 1 Chron. 14-16; Matt. 25-26

Apr. 29 1 Chron. 17-19; Matt. 27-28

Apr. 30 1 Chron. 20-22; Mark 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 **35 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Ladies' Day at Comanche this Saturday.** If you plan to attend, please let Cindy McCaghren know.
- ◆ The Teacher's Workshop at Oldham Lane this Saturday turned out to be mainly for Junior High through adult teachers, so we will not be going as a group. However, anyone who would like to attend is still encouraged to do so. You can register on the Oldham Lane website.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 8—Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 15-18—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Dave Rogers
- ◆ November 4—Ladies' Day w/ Lasha Dennis

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ 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 Surles. *"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 (boys, ages 14-18) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ June 6—Summer Youth Series begins
- ◆ June 25-29—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 9-13—"Shine" camp (girls, incoming 7th-12th grade) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit

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darkness of the night carried the brilliance of the day's light in its bosom. The day closed in consummate physical and spiritual serenity and the night welcomed its return in an unaltered state. Genesis 3:6 ruined everything. The Sun was shrouded in sackcloth. Nature wept, and its tears displaced the dew of the Earth. In fig leaves, shame, and dread, Adam and Eve hid among the trees of Eden.

From the grave of despair, arose the resplendent light of redemption. The seed of woman (Genesis 3:15), of Abraham (Genesis 12:3), of Isaac (Genesis 26:4), and of Jacob (Genesis 28:14), was deposited in a small righteous remnant of Israel and Judah, secured in David (Acts 2:30), and assigned to Mary, *"of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ"* (Matthew 1:16), who paid the penalty for the catastrophe of Genesis 3:6 and every subsequent sin until time's end, and became the *"author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* (Hebrews 5:9).

Frank Chesser (apologeticspress.org)

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

	Apr. 9, 2017	Apr. 16, 2017
Bible Class	40	50
AM Worship	60	75
PM Worship	45	43
Wednesday PM	43	45
Contribution	\$2,005	\$1,989

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 4/23/17		Next Week: 4/30/17		April 2017 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister Lisa Greer May 2017 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: John Barnum Family
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Don Smith*, Allen Bland Larry Petty, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ryan Rudloff		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 26 Joe Dennis	May 3 Prayer Night	May 10 Rafe Smith	May 17 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 April 23, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 5:17ff**
 Wed. Class **After Baptism, Then What?**

Blind Leaders of the Blind (Matthew 15:12-14)

The Bible does not always speak highly of religious leaders.

- Paul warned about "savage wolves" not sparing the flock of God (Acts 20:29-30).
- Peter wrote of "false teachers" bringing in destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2).

Not all those who mislead do so knowingly – however, the result is still the same.

I. Characteristics of a Blind Leader.

A. Holding to the Traditions of Men.

1. This was the case of the Pharisees in our text (15:3, 6, 9).
2. Blind leaders today will do the same.

B. Making Distinctions Where God Has Made None.

1. This was the case of the Pharisees in chapter 23 – making fine distinctions between such things as the types of oaths one could swear (16-22).
2. Blind leaders will often do the same today.

C. Leaving Commands of God Undone.

1. Again, the Pharisees were guilty of this – leaving undone the "weightier" matters of God's law, they "strain out a gnat and swallow a camel" (23:23-24).
2. Blind leaders today often do the same, but oftentimes in reverse.

D. Focusing Only on the Outer Man.

1. The "blind Pharisee" worked only on the outside (23:25-28).
2. Today, blind leaders are happy with the appearance of success.

E. Other Characteristics.

II. How Not to Be Misled by Blind Leaders.

A. Listen to Them Carefully.

1. We need to have the same attitude as the Bereans (Acts 17:11).
2. We must first give all teachers a fair and careful hearing.

B. Search the Scriptures Daily.

1. This was another noble quality of the Bereans (Acts 17:11).
2. Unfortunately, many today are Biblically illiterate.
3. Failure to read and study the Bible daily leaves one in a blind condition.

What will be the end of blind leaders, and those who follow them? They will be "uprooted" (13). They will both "fall into a ditch" (14).

Who are to blame, if people are misled by blind leaders? The blind leader will be held accountable, but the blind followers will also be accountable!

"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear" (13:16).

1st Timothy – Paul's Thanksgiving for His Salvation (1:12-20)

I. The Pattern of Paul's Past (12-16).

- A. Paul was thankful to Christ who regarded him as faithful and placed him in the ministry of preaching God's word!
- B. This was done in spite of Paul's wicked past, prior to his conversion.
- C. Paul described his past as: "blasphemer", "persecutor," and "insolent."
- D. In spite of his sinful behavior, he obtained mercy because he did these things in ignorance and unbelief.
- E. The thought is reinforced in v. 14 – "the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant".
- F. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."
- G. Paul stated that he obtained mercy to show the longsuffering of Jesus.

II. A Doxology in Response to God's Grace (17).

1. "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible".
2. "To God who alone is wise" – He is the only God, and He is wise.
3. "Be honor and glory forever and ever".
4. "Amen".

III. Paul's Charge to Timothy Revisited (18-19a).

- A. Paul charged (commanded) Timothy to wage (conduct) the good warfare.
- B. Paul was talking about the spiritual battle which each of us must conduct against Satan and his forces (Eph. 6:10-17; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).

IV. A Warning Regarding Two Who Had Become Lost (19b-20).

- A. Paul said that two Christians, Hymenaeus and Alexander, had rejected faith and a good conscience.
 1. These Christians had fallen away from their previous faithfulness.
 2. Can there be any doubt that a Christian can fall from grace? (Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22)
- B. Paul delivered Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan so that they might learn not to blaspheme (1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Thess. 3:15).
- C. Notice Paul did not hesitate to identify these two false teachers by name!

It is important to respond appropriately to God's favor, His mercy toward us, by exalting Him and praising His name with thanksgiving just as we see that Paul did here.

As long as this earth stands, there will be false teachers "whose mouths must be stopped" (Titus 1:11).