

# 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 30, 2017

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
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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.

## Lessons from a Life Wasted

On Wednesday morning, April 19, 2017, the sports world woke up to find out that Aaron Hernandez, former football player for the New England Patriots, was found dead in his prison cell. Aaron Hernandez was a name that had been in the news all throughout 2013, when his arrest and imprisonment for the murder of Odin Lloyd sent shockwaves through the sports community. He quickly became one of the most hated and despised men in the history of American sports. Although he came up in the news a handful of times over the next few years, Hernandez's name was essentially forgotten by most people as he sat in prison...until a week ago. Upon completion of the autopsy, medical examiners pronounced Hernandez's death as a suicide. Aaron Hernandez's brief 27-year life will forever be viewed with a mixture of hatred, disgust, and sadness.

While the average Christian will find it impossible to relate to a man like Aaron Hernandez, I believe his life holds some incredibly valuable lessons for us as Christians. In our Americanized, pleasure-driven society, many people often have their priorities in life completely backward. From the time kids are old enough to talk, they're being taught to get a good education so they can get a high-paying job, marry the most attractive person they can find, and spend every waking hour trying to upgrade to a bigger house or a nicer car. The bottom line is that Americans grow up constantly under the false impression that life is about pleasing **themselves**.

I'm sad to say that this impression doesn't just exist with people in the world. This delusion has crept into the New Testament church as well. I'm not at all arguing that working a high-income job or upgrading your house is wrong. But this mindset that obsesses over worldly possessions is completely contrary to Scripture. In Matthew 6:19-21, we find Jesus telling His disciples, "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

In this passage, Jesus makes it incredibly clear that no matter how much wealth we accumulate in this life, no matter how nice our new boat is, or no matter what kind of iPhone we have, on judgment day it will all be worthless. Take Aaron Hernandez for example. This was a man who was one of the premier athletes in the world. He won a national championship in college and became one of the best players in the National Football League, making millions of dollars. By worldly standards, this guy couldn't have been more successful. And yet, where did he end up? All that fame, all that wealth, and he ended up hanging himself in his prison cell.

There have been many historical examples of individuals who achieved incredible wealth and fame, and yet their lives were empty and miserable. There was a void in their lives that money and worldly pleasure couldn't fill. Oftentimes people don't realize until it's too late that nothing can fill that void, other than God. That's why the Hebrew writer tells Christians, "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'*" Is wanting a new car wrong? Not at all. Is making a lot of money wrong? Absolutely not. But if you're seeking to fill an emptiness in your life with worldly pleasures, in the end you will fail. Unfortunately, it takes men like Aaron Hernandez to show us that laying up treasures on this earth will profit us nothing.

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"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, '**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**'"

**Matthew 16:16-18**



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There's one final point I'd like to bring up regarding the life of Aaron Hernandez. Obviously, this was a man who was at an exceptionally low point. Here he was sitting in a prison cell for murder, hated by everyone, and facing the reality that his freedom would forever be on a leash. It's hard to imagine anyone in this world who would sympathize with such an evil man. And yet when I picked up my phone on Wednesday morning, and I saw the news story, I felt a pang of not just sorrow, but also sympathy. Because Aaron Hernandez was a man who had completely lost hope.

Despite the horrendous acts that he committed, Aaron Hernandez was still offered the gift of God's grace. Despite being viewed with disgust by everyone around him, God's love and grace never left him. Sadly, he rejected that gift of grace, and elected to kill himself. His story reminds me of another story of another criminal who was killed while serving his prison time. Jeffrey Dahmer is a man who might challenge Aaron Hernandez for the title of the most despised and hated man in recent memory. Jeffrey Dahmer was a man who raped and killed seventeen people. When people refer to some of the most evil men in our nation's history, Dahmer's is a name that is frequently brought up. And yet, Dahmer's story has quite a different ending than Aaron Hernandez's story.

In May of 1994, while serving his prison time, Jeffrey Dahmer was baptized into Christ and became a Christian before being killed by a fellow inmate six months later. I can't think of a more powerful example of a Christian's hope than that of Jeffrey Dahmer. A man who committed some of the most brutal and inhumane acts against other human beings that we've ever seen, and yet at his lowest point, he accepted God's gift of grace, and died a repentant, baptized believer.

I pray that we as Christians will continually look to the example of men like Aaron Hernandez and Jeffrey Dahmer. Hernandez was a man who put far too much stock in earthly pleasure, and as a result it cost him his life. As Christians, we would be wise to learn from his horrendous example. Laying up for ourselves treasures here on this earth will certainly result in our spiritual death. Instead, we should constantly take joy in the fact that we have the eternal hope that Paul tells the Corinthians about in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Will Harrub (April 24, 2017 - focuspress.com)

## Teach This to Your Children

It's all relative these days. Men can be women and women can be men. Or they can switch back and forth minute by minute. People can decide what race they are. People can decide what age they are. Who are we to disagree or say that they're wrong? That would be judging people, and the only thing that's wrong is to judge. Or so the wisdom of today's world says.

One example that's getting a lot of press: in his new Netflix show, "Bill Nye Saves the World." Nye dedicates an entire crude, blasphemous episode to promote the idea that gender is not a male/female distinction determined genetically by our chromosomes, but a broad spectrum that includes all kinds of sexuality. His scientific backing? Because transgender people say so.

All of this is the result of a tidal wave of belief in subjective truth that's been growing for years, and we're starting to see the natural results that relativism causes.

What relative truth leads to:

- Doctrine is compromised for what "feels right" or what culture tells us to believe.
- Jesus can be framed into whatever a person wants Him to be.
- We can be "spiritual" on our own terms without the framework of the church.
- Pressure from culture and peers affects what we believe about God, the Bible, science, and any number of other important issues.
- Long understood terms like marriage are redefined.
- Morality is (inconsistently) defined on an individual basis and many will refuse to take any moral stands.
- Gender is made a choice – and a shifting one at that.

The funny thing is, nobody actually believes in relative truth when push comes to shove. Ask Bill Nye about evolution or climate change and he'll only give one answer. In fact, he thinks anyone who disagrees with him should be imprisoned. When discussing people who believe in the two genders, he insists that our feelings about the matter are our only foundation for our argument. (How's that for irony and hypocrisy?) In saying that, he

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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

<b>Apr. 30</b>	<b>1 Chron. 20-22; Mark 1-2</b>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 23-25; Mark 3-4</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 26-28; Mark 5-6</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>1 Chr. 29; 2 Chr. 1-2; Mk. 7-8</b>
<b>May 4</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 3-5; Mark 9-10</b>
<b>May 5</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 6-8; Mark 11-12</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>1 Chron. 9-11; Mark 13-14</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>1 Chron. 12-14; Mark 15-16</b>

*"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 **39 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ **Gospel Meeting** this week at **Gordon** w/ **Jessie Dickison**.
- ◆ **Cherokee Day is this Saturday** at Cherokee Home for Children. It starts at 11:30, with a BBQ lunch served at noon. All are invited to come early or stay after and take a tour of the campus.
- ◆ Johnny and Cindy will be gone to Focal Point next Sunday and the following Wednesday evening. Gene Bannister, Joe Dennis, and James Fuller will be bringing the lessons.

**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**

- ◆ 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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insists we’re wrong – meaning truth isn’t relative to everybody, just those who decide they’re a different gender.

The fact of the matter is, everybody has moral standards, regardless of what they say they believe about judging and individual preference. I hold the Bible as the ultimate moral standard. Bill Nye and his like believe that their ever-changing laws of tolerance are the ultimate standard. Any Christian parent, minister, or elder who doesn’t realize that there’s an all-out war being fought by these two sides is failing their child or fellow Christian. Sadly, there are plenty of Christian young people who have fallen to relativism because they have been pressured to endorse the world’s beliefs. I’ve heard from a few people like this, those raised in the church and should know better, who now tell me that I’m hurting the church by standing by the Bible with regard to creation, sexuality, or various other culturally disputed topics.

This is why it’s important that Christian families don’t merely teach your children what to believe, but how to weigh what they believe and find truth. That’s why churches have to be willing and able to succinctly and truthfully answer the questions the world is putting before us. Basic apologetics are an absolute must in our churches today. By the time a Christian youth heads out on their own they need to be able to find answers to Bible questions and have a mentor figure to talk to when they have doubts or struggle understanding.

The world attempts to lure Christians (and especially children of Christian homes) with enormous peer pressure and does not make room for debate or consideration. Instead, they merely shout down any dissenters and shame anyone who isn’t in-step with the ever-changing moral truths of the day. We absolutely have to be the ones who can point to God’s unchanging standard and prove why it must be followed. Any time we don’t, we are risking another loss to moral relativism, and with it another crack in our society’s decaying grasp of reality and reason.

*Jack Wilkie (April 28, 2017—focuspress.org)*

**Celebrate**

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

**May Birthdays:** **Caroline Dennis (4/30), Aliyah Rayon (3), Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), David Milam (7), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Boyd (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Settles (15), Billy Chism (15), Zelma Leslie (16), Gracen Hardy (30).**

**May Anniversaries:** **Joe & Lasha Dennis (6), Ryan & Tammy Rudloff (7).**



**Records**

	Apr. 16, 2017	Apr. 23, 2017
Bible Class	50	48
AM Worship	75	65
PM Worship	43	45
Wednesday PM	45	46
Contribution	\$1,989	\$2,030

# Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 4/30/17		Next Week: 5/7/17		<b>April 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Maninger Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister Lisa Greer  <b>May 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, Allen Bland Larry Petty, Hank Wheeler	Randy Huckaby*, Jack Turner Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Mike Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 3 Prayer Night	May 10 Rafe Smith	May 17 Tom Wilcox	May 24 Don 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)*

<i>Studies for the week of April 30, 2017</i>	Sunday Class ..... <i>Romans 6:1ff</i> Wed. Class ..... <i>After Baptism, Then What?</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>"I Will Build My Church" (Matthew 16:13-20)</u></b></p> <p>In 16:13-17, Jesus questioned His disciples concerning His identity. He then used this opportunity to speak of His church (18-19). Anyone who believes in Jesus should have a vital interest in His church.</p> <p><b>I. The Church Jesus Built.</b></p> <p><b>A. The Church Defined.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Greek word is <i>ekklesia</i> – "an assembly, a congregation."</li> <li>The church "<i>universal</i>" – the whole assembly of people who are saved.</li> <li>The church "<i>local</i>" – a company of saved people in a geographical area who work and worship together as a local congregation.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. The Church Characterized.</b></p> <p><b>C. The Church Established.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The church was not established at the time Jesus spoke (18).</li> <li>The Bible clearly teaches that the church began on the day of Pentecost.</li> </ol> <p><b>D. The Church Visible.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The church "<i>universal</i>" is a spiritual body known only by the Lord Himself.</li> <li>The church "<i>local</i>" is the only visible sign of the church.</li> </ol> <p><b>E.</b> That assembly of people who respond to the gospel in faith and obedience.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Wherever faithful disciples of Christ assemble to work and worship as a local congregation, a church of Christ is found (cf. Rom. 16:16).</p> <p><b>II. The Foundation of His Church.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Jesus is the "<i>Cornerstone</i>".</p> <p><b>B.</b> The confession, "<i>You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,</i>" is the "<i>Rock</i>".</p> <p><b>C.</b> The church is built on the foundation of Christ and His apostles (Eph. 2:20).</p> <p><b>III. The Authority of His Church.</b></p> <p><b>A. Authority Was Promised to the Apostles.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To Peter was promised "<i>the keys of the kingdom</i>" (19).</li> <li>To the apostles was promised the power "<i>to bind</i>" and "<i>to loose</i>".</li> <li>This presumes the guidance of the Spirit, to lead them into all truth (Jn. 16).</li> </ol> <p><b>B. The Early Church Recognized This Authority.</b></p> <p><b>IV. The Ultimate Victory of His Church.</b></p> <p><b>A. The "Gates of Hades" Will Not Prevail Against It.</b></p> <p><b>B. We Can Share in the Ultimate Victory of His Church.</b></p> <p>Don't you want to be a part of the church of Christ?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Salvation Through One Mediator (1 Timothy 2:1-7)</u></b></p> <p><b>I. Prayer: Kinds, For Whom, Purpose (1-2).</b></p> <p><b>A. Paul exhorted Christians to pray</b> and he used the following four words:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supplications</i> – requests or pleas for needs.</li> <li><i>Prayers</i> – the general word for requests addressed to almighty God.</li> <li><i>Intercessions</i> – prayers on behalf of other people.</li> <li><i>Giving of thanks.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>B. Paul instructed Christians concerning for whom prayers should be offered.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First, we should offer prayers for "<i>all men</i>".</li> <li>Second, Christians should pray for "<i>kings and all who are in authority</i>".                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So that Christians can "<i>lead a quiet and peaceable life</i>".</li> <li>Furthermore, Christians should live "<i>in all godliness and reverence</i>".</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>II. God's Desire – Man's Salvation (3-4).</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> God "<i>desires all men to be saved</i>".</p> <p><b>B.</b> God also wants all men "<i>to come to the knowledge of the truth</i>".</p> <p><b>III. Jesus: The One Mediator (5-7).</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> In v. 5, Paul said that there is only "<i>one God</i>" (i.e., true and living God).</p> <p><b>B.</b> Furthermore, there is one and only one "<i>Mediator between God and men</i>".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mediator is one who goes between two parties who are separated.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work efficiently, the mediator must be familiar with both parties.</li> <li>Our Mediator, Jesus, is both the Son of God and Man!</li> </ol> </li> <li>The fact that there is one and only one mediator approved by God eliminates all other mediators through whom people pray to God.</li> </ol> <p><b>C.</b> Jesus, as the one Mediator, "<i>gave Himself as a ransom for all</i>".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus paid that ransom price "<i>Himself</i>".</li> <li>Jesus paid that ransom price "<i>for all</i>" people.</li> <li>This fact (giving Himself as ransom) was to be, "<i>testified in due time</i>".</li> </ol> <p><b>D.</b> Paul pointed out that he was appointed "<i>a preacher and an apostle...a teacher</i>" to tell others about this manifestation of God's wonderful love, mercy and grace in His Beloved Son.</p> <p><b>E.</b> Paul taught the Gospel, "<i>in faith and truth</i>" – two attributes every man who preaches the Gospel and every person who teaches God's word must have!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We must have a complete and undying faith in God.</li> <li>We must speak the pure truth of God – not adding to or taking from it.</li> </ol>