

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



May 28, 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

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

You've got baptism all wrong...

...if you think baptism will remove temptation.

Those who believe this are in for a rude awakening. Perhaps Jesus faced the greatest amount of temptation immediately after His baptism (cf. Matt. 3:13-4:11). Since a servant is not greater than his Master (cf. John 16:13), we shouldn't expect the devil to treat us any differently. **The same temptations we experienced before baptism will be present after baptism.**

Temptation is still a reality for every Christian (cf. Gal. 6:1). "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15). Yet, Christians are promised a "way of escape" (1 Cor. 10:13) from temptation (though the "way of escape" might not always be easy).

...if you think baptism will solve all of life's problems.

Baptism isn't a "cure-all" for all of your problems. **Your marriage problems, financial problems, health problems, and bad habits won't magically disappear.** The problems you had before will still exist after you become obedient to the Lord. **Christians are not immune to life's trials** (1 Pet. 1:6-7), but Christians have a different attitude toward trials when they arise. "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [...] But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:31, 33).


...if you think baptism will save someone who isn't a penitent believer.

To be saved, one must be born of both "water and the Spirit" (John 3:5), not merely "of water." Just as we are not saved by "faith alone" (Jas. 2:24), we are not saved by "baptism alone." Scriptural baptism is for the person who has believed in Jesus Christ (John 8:24; Rom. 10:10) and has repented of his/her sins (Acts 2:38). **If you are unwilling to rid your life of sin, your baptism will be in meaningless.**

...if you think baptism assures eternal salvation.

Baptism will not do diddly-squat if you resume living a life of disobedience to

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 "Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.'" **Matthew 18:2-5**

Spiritual Maturity in Philippians

From his place of detention in Rome the apostle Paul, through the Holy Spirit, called on the Christians in Philippi, and by implication Christians throughout the ages, to be perfectly minded by saying, “Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, be thus minded...” (Phil. 3:15). This great epistle calls us to have a specific mind geared towards eternity (Phil. 2:2-5, 4:2) and the author detailed those things which make for a perfect mind. In chapter one the idea of perfection is seen in a Christian who acknowledges heaven as gain and this life as one dedicated to His service (Phil. 1:21-23). Chapter two notes that the perfect mind thinks like Christ in its humility and selfless action (Phil. 2:2-5). Chapter three discusses perfection as one who counts this world and its glory as a personal loss for all things pertaining to Christ (Phil. 3:7-8). Chapter four explains perfection as a Christian who finds contentment despite present circumstances (Phil. 4:11-12).

The English term “perfect” in Philippians 3:15 (ASV 1901 and KJV) can sometimes cause confusion because it brings to mind sinless perfection or something of that sort; this simply is not the case with the original word. A further explanation of this perfection can be seen in an alternate translation of Philippians 3:15 where the NKJV translates the same word “mature.” If we wanted to dig deeper into this word we would study 1 Corinthians 13:9-11 and Ephesians 4:12-14 to see that the word is further described as being an adult. To be perfect or spiritually mature is to be a spiritual adult; to put off childish things; to become a man (or woman); to be stable; to be steady; to be like Christ.

To fully understand the idea of Christian maturity or perfection as seen in the letter to the saints in Philippi, the Bible student can settle in chapter three and see a description of this type of mind, attitude, and life.

Spiritual maturity is...

1. **Aware of potential dangers (3:1-2, 17-19).** A perfect Christian is not blind to the possibility of himself or others being lead astray. Because of this fact the mature Christian will not ignore the snake in the grass nor will he choose to allow others to step on it without warning.
2. **Confident in the glory of Christ (3:3-6).** While many Christians have impressive resumes like Paul that include

past experiences, family or personal name recognition, academic credentials, the ability to name drop, and amazing past deeds/works/careers/etc., no perfect Christian will put their faith in these things. No mature Christian will put pride in these things. No adult in the faith will see these passing, temporary achievements as the definition of their life. Neither letters like Ph.D. or M.D., nor bank accounts with seven zeros, nor whom you know, nor what you know is of any account before Him with whom we have to do.

3. **Sacrificial of self (3:7-8).** Since the spiritually mature Christian is not depended on self and selfish accomplishments; since we have crucified that old man; since we have a transformed mind; now we can live our lives in selflessness.
4. **Dependent on the righteousness of God (3:9).** No longer dependent on my education, career title, my bank account, my past experiences, my ability to call names or to be associated with certain schools, congregations, professors, or anyone but Christ, I can place my full confidence in and dependence on Him. This is growth – this is maturity.
5. **Hopeful for an eternity in heaven (3:10-11, 20-21).** The perfect Christian knows that this life is so very temporary, seemingly a vapor, just a few days long, and an imperfect home. Instead, we, with citizenship in heaven, a home with foundations, a village that is a city four square, live this life giving regard to the next life. We know that attaining to the resurrection of the dead is gain.
6. **Persistent in reaching for the prize (3:12-14).** Finally, the true mark of perfection, while confident in Christ and concerned about eternal things while holding on to our present salvation, is to know that we have not achieved total perfection; that is to say, absolute, complete spiritual maturity. Spiritually mature Christians will continue to reach for the prize, continue to grow, continue to stretch and strive, not to satisfy other men nor to satisfy the desires of our own belly, but because of the highly exalted One whom we serve. In fact, this is the very rule or standard by which we will, in maturing growth, walk each and every day.

Trent Kennedy (Christian Worker, Vol. 103:5 [May 2017], 6-7)

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

May 28	Job 6-8; John 17-18
May 29	Job 9-11; John 19-20
May 30	Job 12-14; John 21; Acts 1
May 31	Job 15-17; Acts 2-3
June 1	Job 18-20; Acts 4-5
June 2	Job 21-23; Acts 6-7
June 3	Job 24-26; Acts 8-9
June 4	Job 27-29; Acts 10-11

“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 **36 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Next Sunday will begin a new quarter for our Bible classes. On Wednesdays, all classes (except adult) will be combined for the summer “Time Travelers” program.
- ◆ Next Sunday will be our monthly First Sunday Fellowship Meal.

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

- ◆ June 4-9—Preacher Training Camp (boys, ages 14-18) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ June 5-8—VBS @ Bangs
- ◆ June 6—Summer Youth Series begins
- ◆ June 25-29—Junior Camp
- ◆ June 30-July 2—Gospel Meeting @ Meridian w/ D.J. Stucky, “The Great High Priest”
- ◆ July 1—Youth Day @ Meridian
- ◆ July 9-13—“Shine” camp (girls, incoming 7th-12th grade) @ Oldham Lane (Abilene).
- ◆ July 16-21—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 2-4—VBS @ Hamilton (All ages)
- ◆ August 6-9—Gospel Meeting @ North Main (Weatherford) w/ Wade Webster
- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit

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the Lord. In other words, you’re not “once saved, always saved” after baptism. Of course, baptism is how we get “into” Christ (Gal. 3:26-27), but Christians can forfeit their salvation. The Bible communicates this in no uncertain terms. *“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability”* (2 Pet. 3:17). See also Hebrews 3:12-19; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:21-22.

...if you think baptism occurs after one is saved.

Sadly, many are under the illusion that one must simply “believe” in order to be saved (that is, “believe” as in “merely mentally accepting Jesus as Savior”). Proponents of this teaching argue that baptism is a ‘work,’ and that because we aren’t saved by ‘works,’ baptism cannot be essential to salvation. Yet they will teach that baptism is an important step of obedience for two reasons: (1) it is how you make your salvation public, and (2) it is how you ‘join’ the church of your choice.

Yes, we are saved by belief (cf. John 3:16). **Yet, to believe, as taught in the Bible, means to trust and obey. Belief and obedience are inseparably connected** (cf. John 3:36). While works of merit cannot save anyone (Eph. 2:1-10), by God’s grace we are saved by means of faithful obedience to Him (Jas. 2:14-26).

How can one be saved if he/she refuses to obey the Lord’s plan of salvation? **Baptism is necessary in order to be saved.** Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), brings newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4), puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27), and brings salvation (1 Pet. 3:21). Those who “repent and are baptized” are “added to the church” by the Lord (Acts 2:47).

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Gracen Hardy (5/30), Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), Tiffany McCaghren (22), Donnie Evetts (24), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 14, 2017	May 21, 2017
Bible Class	45	40
AM Worship	60	60
PM Worship	50	52
Wednesday PM	40	44
Contribution	\$2,038	\$1,976

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 5/28/17		Next Week: 6/4/17		May 2017 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: John Barnum Family June 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby Karen Bland
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Don Smith Hank Wheeler, Ryan Rudloff	James Thomas*, Allen Bland Larry Petty, James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ryan Rudloff		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Rafe Smith		
Scripture Reading	Rafe Smith	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Randy Huckaby	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 31 Joe Dennis	June 7 Prayer Night	June 14 Rafe Smith	June 21 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 May 28, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 6:6ff**
 Wed. Class **Prayer**

Jesus and the Children (Matthew 18:1-14)

One of the more touching and endearing scenes during the life of Jesus was when He used a little child to teach His disciples some lessons.

I. The Necessity of Conversion (1-4).

A. Without Conversion, There Is No Salvation.

1. "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven".
2. Note that this process of conversion is passive: "are converted" – it is something you must allow to be done to you.

B. A Conversion Involving Childlike Humility.

1. This was the concern of Jesus in v. 4.
2. Those who submit to the working of God in their lives will produce this kind of humility necessary for salvation (cf. Col. 3:12-13).

II. The Sin of Stumbling Blocks (5-7).

A. Who Are the "Children"?

1. "Child" (paidion) can refer to one as old as at least 12 years (cf. Mk. 5:39-42).
2. Jesus is discussing children old enough to believe, old enough to sin (6).

B. The Horror of Causing Children to Sin.

1. It would be better to be killed by drowning (6).
2. Why so terrible? Because it is a sin against Christ Himself!

C. How One Can Put Stumbling Blocks in a Child's Way?

III. The Reality of Future Punishment (8-9).

A. Some Deny Punishment After Death – But Not Jesus.

1. Jesus taught the reality of an eternal, suffering place of torment!
2. His disciples also taught this place.

B. We Should Take Sin Seriously.

IV. The Value of God's Children (10-14).

A. Their Angels Always Behold God's Face.

1. What this may involve, one can only speculate.
2. Our text speaks of their presence before God (10).

B. The Son of Man Came to Save Them.

C. The Father Doesn't Want to Lose Even One.

Let the example of childlike trust and humility be a guide as to how we should serve God and one another!

The Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

I. Verses 8-10.

- A. In these verses, God began to list the qualifications which a man must meet in order to serve as a deacon in the Lord's church.
- B. Notice that He began v. 8 with the word "likewise".
- C. "Deacon" means a servant, attendant or one who ministers.
 1. Each individual Christian is a deacon in the general sense of that word.
 2. However, in this passage, "deacon" refers to a special class of servants.
- D. This special class of servants must have the following characteristics.
 1. *Reverent* [grave – KJV] – one who is dignified and serious minded.
 2. *Not Double Tongued* – not speaking with two voices.
 3. *Not Given to Much Wine* – not to turn one's mind to, attend to, or give oneself up to much wine.
 4. *Not Greedy for Money* – same as for elders in v. 3.
 5. *Holding the Mystery of the Faith with a Pure Conscience.*
 - a. He must hold to the mystery of the faith.
 - b. He must hold on to the Gospel, "with a pure conscience".
 6. *First Be Proved...Being Found Blameless.*
 - a. He must meet the qualifications "first," then serve as a deacon!
 - b. He must first be "proved" – "to test, examine, scrutinize as metals."
 - c. He must be proved and found, "blameless".

II. Verse 11.

- A. Paul discusses the qualifications of wives – the wives of elders and deacons.
- B. *Reverent* – conducting herself in a way which deserves the love and respect of others.
- C. *Not Slandervers* – not a gossip, or one who spreads false accusations.
- D. *Temperate* – self-control, self-discipline.
- E. *Faithful in All Things* – worthy of trust, honest, dependable – "in all things"

III. Verse 12.

- A. He must be *the husband of one wife.*
- B. And he must *rule his children and house*, i.e., family, well.

IV. Verse 13 – two benefits of serving well as a deacon.

- A. He obtains for himself, "a good standing".
- B. He obtains, "great boldness in the faith".