

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



August 6, 2017

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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.



And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull...they crucified Him. ... And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ... And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.
Matthew 27:33, 35, 46, 50

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES HOLINESS AND OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

WHEN

August 8, 2017
7pm

WHERE

4th & Stewart
church of Christ
3201 4th Street, Brownwood, TX

**GOOD SINGING, A GOOD LESSON FROM GOD'S
WORD, AND GOOD FELLOWSHIP WITH A HAM-
BURGER COOKOUT WITH ALL THE FIXINGS.**

**IMITATING CHRIST
CALLED UNTO HOLINESS**



Our guest speaker is **Trent Kennedy**. Trent serves as a campus minister at the McCarty Student Center on the campus of Texas State University, under the oversight of the eldership of the University church of Christ in San Marcos. He began full-time work with the University congregation in 2007, after graduating from the Southwest School of Bible Studies in Austin. Trent now teaches at SWBS as an adjunct faculty member.

He is married to the former Lisa Veazey, and they have four children: Ella, Troy, Luke, and Annie. Trent holds a master's degree from Texas State and a bachelor's degree from Angelo State University.

Trent has conducted mission work in the U.S.; and participated in foreign mission efforts in Mexico, Cambodia, Jamaica, and Paraguay. In the summer of 2015, the Kennedy family lived and worked in Asuncion, Paraguay, where Trent served as visiting faculty for the *Academia Bíblica Asuncion*. Trent has coordinated and led evangelistic campaigns in Jamaica each of the past ten years.

6 Apologetics Mistakes to Avoid

Every Christian is at some point involved in the task of defending the faith. We should always be prepared to “*make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect*” (1 Pet. 3:15). Unfortunately, sometimes we can do more harm than good while trying to defend the faith or reach out to a skeptic.

I in no way consider myself an expert apologist, but I was an atheist before converting to Christianity and I have some insight into what works and what doesn't. The list below is filled with things that would make me roll my eyes when I was an atheist and make me cringe when I hear them employed today as a former skeptic.

“Just Have Faith”

That's kind of the problem. As an atheist, I didn't feel I had the rational explanation to warrant putting my faith in God. While faith is ultimately a choice, those who hold skeptical positions through their own rational thought processes aren't willing to just drop their philosophy to become a Christian. It takes more than simply deciding one day to have faith. We of all people should know this. Unfortunately, “just believe!” is often a last-ditch effort when we don't know what else to say.

We shouldn't present a Christianity that is haphazardly entered by a blind leap. We convince no one and defend nothing when our only response to a skeptic is “you just got to believe.” Now, I am not saying that all skepticism is rational or that everyone can be convinced. But, we should at least be able to present skeptics with substantive, rational reasons to believe in the God of the Bible. If they choose to reject those reasons, that is fine, at least we did more than asking them to “just have faith.”

When Peter preached the first recorded gospel sermon at that Pentecost after Jesus' death, his go to line wasn't, “Household of Israel, just have faith that Jesus was who he said he was.” Instead, the conclusion of Peter's message was, “*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified*” (Acts 2:36). Further, this conclusion only came after reasoning from the scriptures, firsthand tes-

timony, and even empirical evidence (Acts 2:22, 25-29, 32, 34-35).

Lines of Circular Reasoning

Circular reasoning can kill your faith and stop any fruitful discussion regarding apologetics. Some popular examples are: “I know the Bible is true because it is inspired, and I know the Bible is inspired because it is true (Ps. 119:160; Jn. 17:17)” and “I know God exists because the Bible tells me so, and I can trust the Bible because it is inspired by God's word!” The Bible is inspired and God does exist, but these two statements did nothing to prove those claims.

Instead of being a peddler of circular reasoning, we should present skeptics with logically sound reasons to retire skepticism and embrace God and His Word. Instead of running in circles we should show and explain the necessary and sufficient characteristics that the Bible exhibits of supernatural origin and demonstrate the existence of the Divine through teleological, ontological, and moral means.

If you don't know enough about these reasons for belief to present them, study them! They will enrich your faith and help you to avoid circular reasoning.

Unnecessary Political Dogmatism

When I was an atheist, the only thing I loathed more than Christianity was Republicanism. And, in my mind, they often went hand in hand which only compounded my disdain for both. Christians need to do a very serious personal inventory of what is more important to them: reaching the lost or convincing their political enemies. I am not telling you that you cannot have a political opinion, but use it wisely.

As an atheist, If I went to a recommended apologetics website and saw articles about why America shouldn't let Syrian refugees into the country, any influence you may have had over me would be gone. The decision we sometimes make to let our political opinions spoil our influence is lamentable. If you want to take reaching skeptics seriously, there is no need for political dogma in conversations of apologetics. Further, the goal is to convert souls to Christ,

(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

Aug. 6 Proverbs 6-7; 1 Peter 3-4
Aug. 7 Prov. 8-9; 1 Pet. 5; 2 Peter 1
Aug. 8 Proverbs 10-11; 2 Peter 2-3
Aug. 9 Proverbs 12-13; 1 John 1-2
Aug. 10 Proverbs 14-15; 1 John 3-4
Aug. 11 Prov. 16-17; 1 John 5; 2 John
Aug. 12 Proverbs 18-19; 3 John; Jude
Aug. 13 Prov. 20-21; Revelation 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 **39 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ **We host the Summer Youth Series Tuesday evening.** We will need help ahead of time to set up.
- ◆ There will be a **Back to School Family Game Night** Friday evening. Leftovers from SYS, plus fill in where necessary. Will announce food needs Wednesday evening.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting** this week at **North Main in Weatherford with Wade Webster.**

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ August 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit
- ◆ September 15-17—Marriage & Family Seminar @ Granbury Street (Cleburne) w/ John & Carla Moore
- ◆ October 5-7—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady. See bulletin board for registration information.

(Continued from page 2)

not Republicanism or any other political platform.

Fringe "Conspiracy" Apologetics

Not all evidence is good evidence. NASA's alleged confirmation of a day missing on their timeline from when God made the sun stand still, the "archeological evidence" of Nephilim, and Noah's ark still sitting atop Mount Ararat are examples of what I refer to as "conspiracy apologetics." These lines of evidence are dubious at their absolute best and unneeded. Pieces of evidence like these are never good to bring into a conversation with a skeptic and should be avoided.

Argumentum ad Nauseum

Latin for "please stop talking before I throw up." More literally, *argumentum ad nauseum* refers to an argument that has continued for far too long, to the point of inducing nausea. It is a logical fallacy when it appears in the form of *argument from repetition*. No, God's existence isn't proven by the same argument stated over and over and over and over again. An argument can be made repeatedly to the point that nobody wants to discuss it anymore.

I am not saying that a hefty amount of support for the claim of God's existence is a bad thing. But, when Christians simply repeat the same arguments to the same people, again and again, the result is a shutdown.

Superman Syndrome

It's okay not to know something. Don't feel like you always have to give an immediate answer to every question to faithfully live out 1 Peter 3:15. Sometimes somebody will ask us a question we don't know the answer to, and that's okay. Simply saying "That's a good question. I don't know the answer, but I am going to think about it and look into it and get back to you" is always better than making things up or scratching to find an answer on the fly. Nobody is Superman (or Wonder Woman) and we don't have to act like we are. Some things we just don't know, can't know, or haven't studied yet!

Unfortunately, sometimes we can do more harm than good while trying to defend the faith.

Again, I do not consider myself an expert apologist and am not trying to pose as such. I'm simply striving to help the faithful defend their faith. Take it from me, the six things above won't help our effort. Seek to share the faith, but do so wisely. I pray this will help our efforts in being every day apologists.

Forest Antemesaris – former atheist (1stcenturyfaithtoday.com)

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (9), Rafe Smith (11), Jessica Dennis (13), Brandi Kite (14), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Ryan Rudloff (20), Roy Dodson (29).

August Anniversaries: Chipper & Susan Bridges (1), Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), Terry & Pam Teague (16), Don & Darlene Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 23, 2017	July 30, 2017
Bible Class	47	47
AM Worship	69	69
PM Worship	47	52
Wednesday PM	55	45
Contribution	\$1,998	\$2,165

Privileged To Serve

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

		This Week: 8/6/17	Next Week: 8/13/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	Maninger Family		James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith		Gene Bannister		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Larry Petty, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox		John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts		Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Allen Bland		Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum		Don Smith		
Communion	Ken Maninger		James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith		James Thomas		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 9 Don Smith		August 16 Joe Dennis	August 23 Rafe Smith	August 30 Don Smith

August 2017
Make Announcements:
 Don Smith
Prepare Communion:
 Randy & Laura Huckaby
Clean Building:
 Dennis Family

September 2017
Make Announcements:
 Ken Maninger
Prepare Communion:
 Maninger Family
Clean Building:
 Fuller / Stultz

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 August 6, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 7:15ff**
 Wed. Class **Christian Morals**

The Crucifixion of Jesus – Matthew 27:32-50

- I. "The Crucifixion of Jesus" is **The Condemnation of Sin.**
 - A. **Jesus Died Because of Sin.**
 1. As foretold, He died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3; Isa. 53:5-6).
 2. He gave Himself for our sins (Gal. 1:4).
 3. He bore our sins on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24).
 - B. **Jesus Killed Sin.**
 1. He condemned sin in the flesh through His death (Rom. 8:3).
 2. Making it possible for sinners to destroy their own body of sin, when united with Him by baptism into His death (Rom. 6:3-6).
- II. "The Crucifixion of Jesus" is **The Revelation of Love.**
 - A. **Jesus Died Because of Love.**
 1. The love of the Father for a lost world (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
 2. The love of the Son (Eph. 5:2).
 - B. **Jesus Thereby Demonstrated What True Love Is.**
 1. We now understand what true love is (1 John 3:16; John 15:13).
 2. It is this love which is the pattern for our love (John 13:34-35; 15:12).
- III. "The Crucifixion of Jesus" is **The Redemption of the World.**
 - A. **Jesus Died for All.**
 1. God desires all men to be saved, not desiring any to perish (1 Tim. 2:3-6; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 2. Therefore, He offered Jesus as a propitiation for all (1 John 2:1-2).
 - B. **Jesus Is the World's Only Hope.**
 1. He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).
 2. Only in His name is there salvation to be found (Acts 4:12).
 3. Deny the Son, and one does not have the Father (1 John 2:23).
 4. Abide in His doctrine, and one has both the Father and the Son (2 John 9).
- IV. "The Crucifixion of Jesus" is **The Inspiration of Sacrifice.**
 - A. **Jesus Provided the Example.**
 1. His death demonstrated the mind of humility (Phil. 2:3-8).
 2. His suffering demonstrated the example of suffering patiently (1 Pet. 2:20-24).
 - B. **Jesus' Sacrifice Is Designed to Inspire Us.**
 1. To walk in love (Eph. 5:2).
 2. To walk in humility (Phil. 2:3-5).
 3. To suffer patiently when mistreated for doing good (1 Pet. 2:20-24).
 4. To give of ourselves to others (2 Cor. 8:9; 1 John 3:16-18).

Not Ashamed of the Gospel – 2 Timothy 1:6-12

- I. **Loving Zeal (6-7).**
 - A. Paul reminded Timothy to "stir up the gift of God which [was] in [him] through the laying on of [Paul's] hands".
 - B. Paul reminded Timothy that God has not given us "a spirit of fear".
 1. The word translated "fear" means cowardice, timidity.
 2. Rather than a spirit of fear, God has given Christians a spirit "of power, and of love and of a sound mind".
- II. **Courage (8-12).**
 - A. Paul exhorted Timothy "do not to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (Rom. 1:14-16), "nor of me His prisoner".
 - B. Paul also urged Timothy, "nor of me His prisoner".
 1. Rather than being ashamed, Paul invited Timothy to "share with me in the sufferings for the gospel".
 2. Those who stand with God's word will "suffer" for doing so (v. 12).
 3. Paul exhorted Timothy to share with him in these sufferings for the Gospel, "according to the power of God" – through or by virtue of.
 - C. Paul referred to God, "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling".
 1. This calling is, "not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace".
 2. This grace was given to us, "in Christ Jesus before time began".
 - a. All spiritual blessings are only located in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
 - b. God had made up His mind beforehand to make grace available to man in Christ Jesus, when He brought Him into the world.
 - c. Grace in Christ was finally "revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ" on this earth in the first century.
 - d. At which time Jesus, "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel".
 - e. Paul was "a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher" of that Gospel.
 - D. Paul said that he "suffered" for being a preacher, apostle and teacher, "nevertheless I am not ashamed".
 - E. Paul was not ashamed because he knew the One in whom he believed.
 - F. Paul was certain that God was able to keep what Paul had committed to Him until that day, i.e., until the judgment day.