

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 13, 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.

A Crash Course on God's Providence

There's some confusion about God's providence. To be frank, I don't quite understand it that well myself. That is not to say, however, that the Bible doesn't lay out some parameters in our understanding of providence. However we understand God's providence, we need to make sure it is in harmony with God's Word. Consider the following principles regarding God's providence.

First, God will never providentially operate in a way that is contrary to His nature or His Word.

God is holy (Lev. 19:2) and righteous (Psa. 145:17), and therefore will not providentially operate in a way that is inconsistent with His being. While God may manipulate nature and orchestrate events, He will never tempt people to do evil. (Jas. 1:13-14).

Second, God will never providentially operate in a way that violates man's freedom of choice.

Contrary to the teachings of Calvin, Augustine, and Zwingli (all of whom taught that mankind is unable to choose righteousness without being forced to do so by God), the Bible teaches that man is free to choose whether to obey or disobey God (cf. Josh. 24:15; Matt. 23:37; John 5:39-40; Rev. 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19; 22:17). Therefore, God will not force someone to choose to do right or wrong. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35) and will not nebulously ordain that some obey Him while coercing others to disobey Him. He can, however, override the outcome of someone's evil decision and use it for good.

For example, God used the murderous intentions of Joseph's brothers to deliver Israel (Gen. 50:19-20). God used the greedy slave owners who threw Paul and Silas in prison to bring the gospel to that region (1 Thess. 2:1-2). God orchestrated the cowardly, corrupt Pilate, the evil Jewish leaders, and the crooked Judas to bring about the crucifixion of Jesus, resulting in the gift of salvation to the whole world (Acts 5:30-31). God used the martyrdom of Stephen in Acts 7 to cause a widespread dispersion of Christians into the world to further spread the gospel (Acts 8:1).

Third, God's providence must be distinguished from God's miracles.

God's **miracles** (a) are observable and quantifiable, (b) supersede natural law, and (c) teach an underlying truth. God's **providence**, on the other hand, does not fit into any of these categories. Miracles are observable and quantifiable in that they can be seen and distinguished from natural events, such as a resurrection from the dead (John 11:43-44), floating disembodied fingers writing on walls (Dan. 5:5), and a dozen baskets of leftover food (John 6:13). Such examples are all undeniably supernatural events. Miracles supersede natural law in that they cannot be explained

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But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here; for He is risen**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ... So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy. **Matthew 28:5-6, 8**



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by natural phenomena. Additionally, miracles teach an underlying truth in that they are designed to elicit a faith response (e.g. Heb. 2:3-4). For instance, when Jesus healed a paralytic, He explained the reason why was so that we “*may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins*” (Mark 2:10).

Consider an example of how God’s providence is different than God’s miracles. First, note that when Mary was still a virgin she “*was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit*” (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-37) – a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy (Isa 7:14). Mary’s conception while still a virgin cannot be explained naturally, thus it was a miracle. On the other hand, Hannah, of the Old Testament, was unable to conceive because her womb had been “*closed*” (1 Sam. 1:6). Yet she “*prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly*” (1 Sam. 1:10), promising the Lord that she would dedicate her son to His service if He would bless her with a son. God “*remembered her,*” and her husband “*knew Hannah his wife,*” and she “*conceived and bore a son*” (1 Sam. 1:19-20). Clearly, Hannah’s conception can be explained by natural phenomena, whereas Mary’s conception can only be a miracle.

Fourth, God’s providence is not usually easily discernable.

Without the Bible specifically telling us that God is at work in the world, we would not know anything about God’s providence. Even now, we may suspect that God is working providentially in our lives, but we may not be able to prove it. Mordecai was unsure whether God was using Esther to save the lives of the Jews, so he remarked, “*Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*” (Est. 4:14). The apostle Paul, unsure whether God orchestrated his meeting with the runaway slave Onesimus, said in his letter to Onesimus’ master, Philemon, “*For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever*” (Phile. 15). **If an inspired apostle was reluctant to claim something was an act of providence, we should be just as reluctant today.** We know that God is at work behind the scenes (cf. Rom. 8:28), but we are frequently unaware of how, or even if, He is operating in a given circumstance.

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

Forty Things We All Need to Know About Christ

1. Christ, as the pre-incarnate (pre-enfleshed) Word, existed from the beginning (John 1:1-2).
2. He was co-eternal with God and was God (deity, divine) (John 1:1-2; 10:30).
3. He was the divine agent by whom all things were created (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17 [Note the antecedent of the pronoun “Him”]; Hebrews 1:1-2).
4. He is a member of the Godhead (the Divine Nature, Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20) that created man in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:22a; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; et al).
5. He was the spiritual Rock that followed Moses and the Israelites during the wilderness wanderings (1 Corinthians 10:4).
6. By many able students Christ in His pre-fleshly state is believed to have been the Angel of the Lord who frequently appeared and intervened in the affairs of God’s people in Old Testament times (Exodus 23:23; 32:34; Numbers 22:22ff; Judges 2:1; 13:3ff; Zechariah 3:1; et al).
7. At a point in time, He became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).
8. He was born of the virgin Mary, being conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35 [note especially verse 35]; cf. Galatians 4:4-5).
9. His birth and mission to the world were prophesied in the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53:1-12; et al).
10. He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10; 1 Timothy 1:15).
11. He gave Himself a ransom for many (all) (Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:3-6).
12. He shed His blood for the remission of the sins of all mankind (Matthew 26:28).
13. He was made to be sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and bore our sins in His body on the tree of the cross (1 Peter 2:24).
14. He is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins (1 John 2:2; Romans 3:24-26).
15. He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:2-3; Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-6; et al).
16. He established the church (Matthew 16:18).
17. He is the foundation of the church (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 1 Peter 2:6).

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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

Aug. 13 Prov. 20-21; Revelation 1-2

Aug. 14 Prov. 22-23; Revelation 3-4

Aug. 15 Prov. 24-25; Revelation 5-6

Aug. 16 Prov. 26-27; Revelation 7-8

Aug. 17 Prov. 28-29; Revelation 9-10

Aug. 18 Prov. 30-31; Revelation 11-12

Aug. 19 Ecclesiastes 1-2; Rev. 13-14

Aug. 20 Ecclesiastes 3-4; Rev. 15-16

“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 **38 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Thank you** to everyone who helped make the Summer Youth Series a great success Tuesday evening. We had a few over 100 in attendance. Trent Kennedy brought an excellent lesson on “overcoming temptation.”
- ◆ **Ladies**—as of yesterday morning there were **only 13 spots left for the TLC retreat**. If you plan to go, get your application in ASAP.
- ◆ The church in Dublin will be hosting a seminar this Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00pm — **“Transgenderism: What does the Bible really say?”**.

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

- ◆ Aug. 18-24—Polishing the Pulpit
- ◆ Sept. 15-17—Marriage & Family Seminar @ Granbury Street (Cleburne) w/ John & Carla Moore
- ◆ Oct. 5-7—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady.
- ◆ Oct. 14-15—Lectureship @ Hamilton
- ◆ Nov. 5-8—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Foy Forehand

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18. He is the head over all things to the church which is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24).
19. He is the One by whom we have been reconciled to God in the one body, the church (Ephesians 2:14-17).
20. He is the Savior of the body, the church (Ephesians 5:23).
21. He is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).
22. He is our Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1).
23. He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).
24. He is the (spiritual) light of the world (John 8:12; cf. 1:4).
25. He is the good shepherd (John 10:11).
26. He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25).
27. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and the only means of access to the Father (John 14:6; cf. 10:1-10; Acts 4:11-12).
28. He is the true vine and His individual followers are the branches (John 15:1-8).
29. He is the great and eternal I AM (John 8:58).
30. He is our example in all that is good and right (1 Peter 2:21; 1 Corinthians 11:1).
31. He is the One through whom God speaks to man today (via the Scriptures) (Hebrews 1:1-2; Matthew 17:5; John 12:48).
32. He is the mediator of the new covenant/testament (Hebrews 9:15).
33. He fulfilled the Old Testament and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross (Matthew 5:17; Colossians 2:13-14; Galatians 3:22-25; 4:4-5).
34. He ascended back to the Father in heaven and is seated at God’s right hand where He now reigns over His spiritual kingdom, the church (Acts 1:9-11 [cf. Daniel 7:13-14]; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33-36; 1 Peter 3:21-22; Ephesians 1:22-23).
35. All authority has been given to Him in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).
36. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last (Revelation 1:8, 17).
38. *** He will come again and will be the One through whom God will judge the world in righteousness (John 14:3; Matthew 25:31-32; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
39. His word (not the creeds, catechisms, councils, and commandments of men) will be the standard of that judgment (John 12:48).
40. At the end of time Christ will relinquish all rule, authority, and power and deliver the kingdom (the redeemed) to God the Father that “God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

*Hugh Fulford (Facebook post) [*** There was no #37 in the original]*

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 30, 2017	Aug. 6, 2017
Bible Class	47	50
AM Worship	69	66
PM Worship	52	47
Wednesday PM	45	42
Contribution	\$2,165	\$2,148

		This Week: 8/13/17	Next Week: 8/20/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller		Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister		James Thomas		
Communion	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Larry Petty, Jack Turner		Randy Huckaby*, Allen Bland Hank Wheeler, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum		Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith		Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby		Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith		Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Fuller		Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	James Thomas		James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 16 Joe Dennis	August 23 Rafe Smith	August 30 Don Smith	September 6 Prayer Night	

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 13, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 7:17ff**
 Wed. Class **Christian Morals**

The Resurrection of Jesus – Matthew 28:1-10 – Its Witnesses

Upon what basis should one believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead? As with any event alleged to have occurred, there are a number of factors to consider before we accept the event as a historical fact.

I. The Number of Witnesses.

- Why This Is Important** – more witnesses you have, stronger your evidence.
- There Were Many Witnesses of the Resurrection.**
 - Paul lists many of these witness in **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**.
 - Other appearances are recorded in the Scriptures.
- Over a period of forty days, over 500 people had ample opportunity to see Jesus, and determine for themselves if He was really raised from the dead.

II. The Character of the Witnesses.

- Some Had Not Believed in Jesus** – but seeing Him after His resurrection, they became His disciples.
- Some Were Skeptical After Jesus' Death** (ex. Thomas – John 20:24-28).
- One Was Even a Former Enemy** (Paul/Saul of Tarsus).
- Not gullible witnesses**, ready to believe any hint that Jesus had risen.
- It required overwhelming evidence to convince them that Jesus was truly raised from the dead.

III. The Strength of Their Witness.

- Demonstrated by the Nature of Their Testimony.**
 - Their testimony appealed to **empirical evidence**.
 - There is no way they could have been deceived or deluded.
- Demonstrated by Their Transformation.**
 - Prior to the resurrection, Jesus' disciples were afraid and without hope.
 - After the resurrection, they fearlessly praised God and proclaimed Jesus!
- Demonstrated by Their High Moral Standard.**
 - They taught others to live holy lives (1 Thess. 4:1-7; Eph. 4:25).
 - They lived their own lives in blameless way (1 Thess. 2:3-12).
- Demonstrated by the Price They Paid.**
 - They endured much suffering because of their testimony (1 Cor. 4:9-13).
 - No motive for them to persistently lie about Jesus' resurrection!

The only reasonable conclusion to draw is that they really saw what they claimed: **Jesus is risen!**

Hold Fast – 2 Timothy 1:13-18

I. Hold Fast the Pattern of Sound Words (13-14).

- Paul commanded Timothy to "hold fast" to "the pattern of sound words" which he had heard from Paul. Notice the following points.
 - To "hold fast" means to cling diligently to something.
 - God has given us a "pattern" to stick closely to today.
 - These "sound words" had been spoken by Paul.
 - Timothy was to cling tightly to the pattern "in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus".
- Timothy was to keep "that good thing which was committed to you".
 - To "keep" means to guard, protect and keep watch over.
 - The word translated "committed" means to place something in another's keeping with complete trust in them.
 - Thus, Paul was telling Timothy to guard and protect the good thing which had been placed in his keeping – i.e. the pattern of sound words.
 - Timothy was to guard and protect those sound words, "by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us".

II. Hold Fast Without Turning Away – For Many Turn Away (15).

III. Hold fast following the example of those who have proven faithful – Onesiphorus (16-18).

- Paul presents Onesiphorus in sharp contrast with those in Asia who had turned away from Paul.
- Onesiphorus "refreshed" him and he did that frequently ("often").
- Onesiphorus was not ashamed of Paul's "chain".
- When Onesiphorus arrived in Rome, he very diligently looked for Paul.
- Because of the self-sacrificing love of Onesiphorus, Paul hoped that the Lord would grant mercy to his household, i.e., to his family (16).
- In addition, Paul wished that the Lord would grant mercy to Onesiphorus, "in that day", i.e., in the judgment day.
- The reason? Because of the good he had done for the Lord and his cause!
- Then, Paul mentioned that Onesiphorus had ministered to (served) Paul in many ways when he was in Ephesus – evidently before Paul was imprisoned.
- The name Onesiphorus means "profitable" – certainly an appropriate name!
- He was truly profitable to Paul and the cause of Christ in Ephesus and Rome!