

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 20, 2017

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801
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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

Jesus Died to End Abortion & Racism

My heart is heavy this week. I can't rid my mind of the news of the white supremacist rally in Charlotte this week, with more rumored to come in other places of the country, nor can I get over a recent report that Iceland is aborting virtually 100% of babies with Down syndrome.

I don't always understand why God has not yet ended this cruel world. I suppose there is still at least one more soul He knows will obey the gospel before He closes the door to eternity (2 Pet. 3:9).

But be sure of this: the racism in Charlotte and murder in Iceland are not separate unrelated stories. Both of them are blood matters – and in several ways.

Jesus gave His blood to fix and forgive the wickedness that is behind both baby murder and racism. He sacrificed Himself to save **all** human beings – **all** fellow image bearers of God (Gen. 1:26-27) – **all** descendants of Adam (Acts 17:26) – so God & humanity, black & white, mother & fetus could be reconciled.

We cannot overstate the seriousness of hatred that so often manifests itself behind racism and abortion. To declare that one human being (perhaps due to his or her skin color, health, age, intelligence, or wallet) is somehow of more value than another human being is a cosmic sin against the God of the universe.

Rid your soul of this hate. Racism and abortion will damn your soul for eternity and make you personally responsible for the blood of Jesus.

Practices that Rob Humanity of Value

Hate, by definition, is **hostility** toward a fellow human being. Thus, several common practices today demonstrate hatred to our fellow man.

Abortion

Abortion suggests that the value of human life is determined by convenience or quality of life. Our culture actually tells women who unintentionally become pregnant that abortion is actually a “loving” thing to do. How sick. They say that it spares a child of the misery of being born into a home where he/she is not wanted or into a life that might be difficult. Abortion causes us to believe that human beings are disposable like trash and can be destroyed without remorse, consequence, or punishment.

Euthanasia

This fancy word literally means “good death.” The Bible only speaks of those who “die in the Lord” (Rev. 14:13) as having a “good death.” The term euthanasia, however, describes ending someone's life in order to prevent pain and/or difficult circumstances. Each year, we hear another heartbreaking story of someone assist-

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“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
Matthew 2:11-14

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



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ing another human commit suicide due to some impending illness or decreased quality of life. While these circumstances are difficult to bear, our efforts must be on easing the pain and suffering, not hastening death.

From the beginning, there have only been very limited circumstances under which man can end another person's life. Genesis 9:6 declares, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image." Whether it be suicide or assisted suicide, man has no right to play God and decide for themselves when death should come simply on the basis of the quality of life.

Racism

Racism, fundamentally, is the disregard of human life. It leads us to believe that there are some people (conveniently those who happen to be like us) who are of greater value than others. With great shame, I regret the fact that many generations ago in my family there were slave-owners. To classify some human beings as creatures made in the image of God and others as nothing more than animals is a great, great sin.

Pornography

Abortion and euthanasia always follow in the wake of a culture that accepts pornography as a part of life. Pornography not only facilitates violating Jesus' condemnation of lust (Matt. 5:27-30) and immodesty (1 Tim. 2:9), but it leads its viewers to see other human beings as nothing more than flesh and bones. When people begin looking at others as mere images for self-gratification, it is not a large leap to begin believing that life is of so little value that it can be abused and taken at will.

Conclusion

You cannot be a Christian while also diminishing the value of human life – in any way. Let us be convicted by the fact that God wants to save **all men**. Let us always have a clear, unanimous voice in declaring that all lives have value.

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

The Biblical Answer to Racism

The events last Saturday in Charlottesville, Virginia, fueled by racial bigotry were wrong, sickening, shameful, and sinful.

A 32-year-old woman, Heather Heyer, who was "a passionate advocate for the disenfranchised" was killed when a car was driven into a group of counter protestors. At least 19 others were injured.

The driver, James Alex Fields, has been described as "very misguided and disillusioned." A former High School teacher told the Associated Press, "Once you talked to James for a while, you would start to see that sympathy toward Nazism, that idolization of Hitler, that belief in white supremacy."

As a reaction to the actions and attitudes of this extreme fringe group, some have written, published blogs, and posted on Facebook charges of racism attributed to conservatives and Christians.

Let me be clear. As a Christian and a social and political conservative, I disavow all forms of racial bigotry. It is wrong. It is clearly against the teachings of Jesus, the apostles, and the entire tone of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Consider these six Biblical reasons why racism is wrong.

1. All people are created in God's image.

On the sixth day of creation, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" Then the Bible says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen 1:26-27).

All races of people who descended from the original pair share in the "likeness of divinity." Every person possesses an eternal soul. And has been endowed with the qualities and characteristics that can only come from our Creator.

2. Jesus taught that the second great command is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Christ did not distinguish one ethnic group from another. Love is not based on skin color or racial differences. In fact, Jesus associated with Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans, who were traditionally discriminated against in that culture.

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

Aug. 21 Ecclesiastes 5-6; Rev. 17-18

Aug. 22 Ecclesiastes 7-8; Rev. 19-20

Aug. 23 Ecclesiastes 9-10; Rev. 21-22

Aug. 24 Ecclesiastes 11-12; Matt. 1-2

Aug. 25 Song of Solomon 1-2; Mt. 3-4

Aug. 26 Song of Solomon 3-4; Mt. 5-6

Aug. 27 Song of Solomon 5-6; Mt. 7-8

"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

- ◆ Our guest preacher today is **Bryan Braswell**. Bryan is a graduate of Southwest School of Bible Studies, and has preached at Roanoke, TX and Malvern, AR. He currently works with Dennis Reed, as well as personal pursuits in farming and other business. Welcome, Brian!

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

- ◆ 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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3. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world.

The golden text of the Bible says, “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*” (John 3:16). That’s everyone. Every nation. Every race. Every ethnic group.

Jesus said his mission was “*to seek and save the lost*” (Luke 19:10). All people. Regardless of their skin color, or their language, or their ancestry.

4. The Gospel is for everyone.

In the great commission, Jesus instructed the apostles to “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Revelation 14:6 states that “*the everlasting gospel*” was to be preached “*to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.*”

5. All are one in the Family of God.

“*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slaves or free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*” (Gal. 3:28). This passage was written to the churches of Galatia urging Christians to accept the equality of everyone as brothers and sisters in Christ.

6. The Bible teaches that partiality, prejudice, and favoritism is sinful.

James, the brother of Jesus, expressed it this way. “*My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory*” (James 2:1). While the context speaks of relationships between the rich and the poor, the principle applies to all social, cultural and racial relationships.

After illustrating the problem of partiality, James concluded “*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors*” (James 2:8-9).

It is an ugly reality that racism still exists in America today. However, as set apart people to glorify God, Christians must be a shining light in a dark world. There is no place for bigotry or hatred in our hearts.

“Racism springs from the lie that certain human beings are less than fully human,” wrote civil rights leader Alevda King. “It’s a self-centered falsehood that corrupts our minds into believing we are right to treat others as we would not want to be treated.”

Ken Weliever (thepreachersword.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

	Aug. 6, 2017	Aug. 13, 2017
Bible Class	50	49
AM Worship	66	67
PM Worship	47	43
Wednesday PM	42	46
Contribution	\$2,148	\$2,351

	This Week: 8/20/17	Next Week: 8/27/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>August 2017 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis Family</p> <p>September 2017 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz</p>	
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	James Thomas	John Barnum		
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Allen Bland Hank Wheeler, John Barnum	Tom Wilcox*, James Thomas Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Rafe Smith		
Communion	Randy Huckaby	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 23 Rafe Smith	August 30 Don Smith	September 6 Prayer Night	September 13 James Fuller

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 20, 2017

Sunday Class **Brian Braswell**
 Wed. Class **TBA**

Spilt Blood

It was actually a good question. We had just sung the great song "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord," and someone asked a question about the following lines:

*"Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
 There where the blood of the lamb was spilt"* (Julia H. Johnston).

The phrase "blood of the lamb was spilt" sounds as if Jesus' blood was spilt accidentally. "Surely that's not right," the questioner asked, "Jesus offered his blood on the cross very deliberately, in order to save us from sin."

He was right. Jesus laid his life down quite deliberately: "I lay it [my life] down of my own accord," Jesus declared, "and I have authority to take it up again" (John 10:18).

Modern usage of the phrase does make it sound as if something spilt was accidental. However, the dictionary offers a second connotation of the word

"spill." Observe:

"To cause, or allow to run or fall from a container, especially accidentally or wastefully, to spill a bag of marbles. To shed (blood), as in killing or wounding," (Webster's Dictionary).

"Spill blood, be guilty of bloodshed. Spill the blood of, kill, or injure a person" (Oxford).

So if you kill someone or something, you have "spilt blood." Thus a hunter who shoots a turkey has "spilt" the bird's blood, and sadly in war, much "blood is spilt." Used this way, the term is exactly what Scripture teaches about Jesus' death on the cross.

"Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without spot or blemish" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

There indeed on the cross the blood of Jesus was spilt, and nothing has been the same since.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)