

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 27, 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.

“Jesus in the Midst!”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were accompanied by a fourth in the fiery furnace—one “*like the Son of God.*” Many believe the fourth was Jesus. If so, He was in the midst of the fiery furnace with them; He was literally with them in the worst of their trial. Jesus has promised us the same (i.e., in our midst; cf., Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

The word “midst” comes from the word “middle.” It is vital that Jesus is in the midst of our lives, not on the outside or on the left or on the right, but the focus, center or nucleus. What can we learn, and how can we be comforted when “Jesus is in the midst”?

Jesus was in the midst of the doctors and lawyers (Luke 2:46)—**hearing.** Jesus was 12 years old, and all were astonished at His understanding and His answers.

Jesus was in the midst of the disciples (John 20:19-29)—**comforting.** The resurrected Savior appeared to the disciples, confirming His promises and His teaching.

Jesus was in the midst of the assembly (Matthew 18:20)—**gathering.** Jesus’ presence provides confidence and confirms accountability.

Jesus was in the midst of the churches (Revelation 1:13)—**judging.** If we want to be a Christ-centered church, we must live Christ-centered lives.

Jesus was in the midst of the church (Hebrews 2:12)—**singing.** The Lord deserves all the praise, honor and glory we can give. Consider how much the Lord has done for us!

Jesus was in the midst of those crucified (John 19:18)—**suffering.** Jesus died a death He did not deserve; He paid a price He did not owe. Jesus paid it all.

Jesus is in the midst of the throne (Revelation 5:6)—**reigning.** He is the Head of the church (Ephesians 5:23), King of the Kingdom (John 18:36) and Lord of all (Philippians 2:11).

In conclusion, “Jesus in the midst” will affect every area of one’s life. Jesus will make you accountable, dutiful, hopeful and responsible. **Is Jesus in the midst of your life?**

Mark N. Posey (gospelgazette.com)

Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” ... “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain... **Rev. 5:2, 5-6**



Soul Conscious

“Male pattern blindness” is a phrase that I have heard on occasion being muttered by some woman, maybe even my wife, regarding men and perhaps me in particular. That expression is likely to occur, for instance, if I were unable to find something in the refrigerator, although whatever for which I was searching was plainly in view. (I tend to think, however, if there is such a thing as “male pattern blindness,” there must also exist sometimes “female pattern blindness.”) Someone else might utter another idiom when something obviously visible cannot be discovered, such as, “If it were a snake, it would’ve bitten you!” All of us, I suppose, on occasion are oblivious to what should be obvious to us. Most of the time, though, our “blindness” when trying to locate something is relatively unimportant and pertains to mundane matters associated with daily life.

Yet, it is a serious human failing when we appear to be blinded to spiritual matters, which pertain to one’s eternal life. It is alarming when the children of God seem to have little concern for their own spiritual wellbeing and even less interest in the spiritual welfare of other people. The priority of seeking spiritual pursuits ahead of material needs was clearly stated by our Lord Jesus Christ. *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”* (Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV). Nevertheless, the children of God have a long history of being blinded to spiritual things. *“And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hear-*

ing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:14-15; Isaiah 6:9-10).

Is it any wonder that our Lord called upon His disciples to look beyond the material world in which they lived? Jesus Christ challenged His followers to be **soul conscious** when He said, *“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”* (John 4:35). Jesus was not talking about farming and harvesting a physical crop at the conclusion of a growing season. Rather, He used an example from agriculture to emphasize the requirement for His disciples to participate in His ministry *“to seek and to save that which is lost”* (Luke 19:10). This is consistent with our Lord’s parting words to His apostles immediately preceding His Ascension. *“...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”* (Mark 16:15).

Individual Christians need to be soul conscious. We must realize that our own bodies are merely vehicles that house our respective souls. The soul within an individual is comparable to a person riding inside of a vehicle such as an automobile. The car is not the person, but the person is in the car; the car and the rider inside it are separate. Eventually, the vehicle’s passenger will leave it, and ultimately, one’s soul will leave his body (James 2:26), unless the Second Coming occurs in one’s lifetime (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

We must develop the disposition of identifying ourselves first and primarily as souls while secondarily identifying with the bodies that house our respective souls. Christians need to look at family members,

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

Aug. 28 Song of Solomon 7-8; Mt. 9-10

Aug. 29 Isaiah 1-2; Matthew 11-12

Aug. 30 Isaiah 3-4; Matthew 13-14

Aug. 31 Isaiah 5-6; Matthew 15-16

Sept. 1 Isaiah 7-8; Matthew 17-18

Sept. 2 Isaiah 9-10; Matthew 19-20

Sept. 3 Isaiah 11-12; Matthew 21-22

“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 **NA contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Thank you** to **Allen Griffith** and **Joe Dennis** for teaching this morning.
- ◆ This evening **Roland Bowen** will be here to present a lesson on Corinth. He will be drawing on knowledge gained from his travel to the city of Corinth, to gain a better historical understanding of the biblical text concerning that city. Should be interesting! Thank you, Roland.

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

Jesus Never Had an Obituary

Many of us often make it a habit of reading the obituaries to see which one of our classmates, coworkers, friends and family have gone on to meet their reward. Obituaries tell us about where a person was born, lived, one's immediate family history, one's occupation, hobbies and many other things, besides the times of the funeral and the burial location. These

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 2)

friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates and people in general differently from the way in which we typically view them. Purpose to look at them from the inside out—visualizing them as souls before we identify and classify them respecting their bodily characteristics (e.g., faces, stature, gender and race). Everyone is foremost a precious soul, each soul by itself more valuable than all of this world's wealth were it amassed together (Matthew 16:26). Christians must be soul conscious.

The churches of Christ need to be soul conscious. Individual congregations and collectively the congregations that comprise the brotherhood or universal church need to view humanity on the basis of their souls. The soul conscious church will view itself first as an assembly of souls and only secondarily think of itself along the lines of a collection of physical bodies. Instead of focusing primarily on gender, generations and race, think first and primarily of the souls within the children of God. Looking beyond the confines of congregational membership, see the world for what it is spiritually—billions of precious souls that happen to be housed presently in mortal bodies.

(Of course, faithful Christians must be aware of gender specific roles assigned by Scripture to men and to women. The emphasis herein is only to look to the spiritual nature of humankind to promote spiritually healthy behavior and improve evangelistic outreach to non-Christians and unfaithful Christians.)

Parents, your children are souls abiding in temporary dwellings—bodies. Brethren, your family members are souls wrapped in flesh. Souls are everywhere around us wherever we see anyone. Every person on planet earth is a soul in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation that it offers and the eternal life it promises. Truly, with souls around every one of us, the spiritual fields are white unto harvest.

Be soul conscious! See souls through spiritual glasses. Our own salvation and the redemption of the souls of others is dependent upon you as well as the Lord's church being soul conscious. What do you see when you view the persons with whom you interact?

Louis Rushmore (gospelgazette.com)

Celebrate

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

Aug/Sept Birthdays: Roy Dodson (8/29), Jean Hamann (9/3), James Fuller (6), Emile Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Matthew Ochoa (16), Allen Bland (23), Glenda Milam (24), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28).

Aug/Sept Anniversaries: Don & Darlene Smith (8/29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 13, 2017	Aug. 20, 2017
Bible Class	49	NA
AM Worship	67	NA
PM Worship	43	NA
Wednesday PM	46	NA
Contribution	\$2,351	NA

	This Week: 8/27/17	Next Week: 9/3/17		
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	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, James Thomas Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Ryan Rudloff*, Rafe Smith Larry Petty, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Rafe Smith	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Allen Bland		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 30 Don Smith	September 6 Prayer Night	September 13 James Fuller	September 20 Joe Dennis

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 27, 2017

Sunday Class Allen Griffith
 Wed. Class TBA

(Continued from page 3)

notices of death are a daily reminder that life on earth is not permanent. Obituaries have a finality to them; they become a permanent record and a reminder that a loved one is not present with us in this life any more.

Now, as one reads the Bible, it becomes very clear that Jesus never had an obituary. We read about His birth in Bethlehem (Matthew 1:18-2:6). We can learn about His family (Matthew 1:1-17). We can learn about much of His life and ministry in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We can also learn about the events leading up to His death and about His actual death upon the cross in these same passages of the Bible. Yet, the one thing no can find in the Bible is Jesus' obituary.

First Corinthians 15:1-4 explains it this way:

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...

First Corinthians 15:20-23 continues to teach, "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in

Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

Because Jesus, by the power of God, was raised from the dead, His death was not the end. The Bible also makes it clear that not only did Jesus rise from the dead, but all people will be raised at Jesus' Second Coming—some to a resurrection of life and others to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29). Those who obey Jesus' doctrine, which reenacts the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ through faith, repentance and baptism (Romans 6:1-4, 17), are cleansed from their sins. They can continue to be faithful to Christ, and thereby, they have the hope of being raised at His Second Coming to be with Christ forever in Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

Jesus' death was not permanent. His grave was not final. The tomb was not Jesus' final resting place. Jesus does not have an obituary because Jesus did not remain in the grave. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection comprise the "good news" of the Bible. Jesus does not have an obituary. He came not to have an ending but to bring a new beginning. What will your obituary say? Will it tell how you lived because you followed the One who arose from the grave and never had an obituary? Have you been saved? You can be, if you'll respond to Jesus on His terms. Think about it!

Mark T. Tonkery (gospelgazette.com)