

# 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



October 15, 2017

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

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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.



# Gospel Meeting

## October 15-18, 2017

## “Before There Were Divisions” (Pre-denominational Christianity)

Sun. 9:45am A People of **Single-Minded** Purpose  
10:40am A People Submitting to **Heaven's** Pattern  
6:00pm A People Focused on a **Spiritual** Prize  
Mon. 7:00pm A People Secure in What **Christ** Provides  
Tues. 7:00pm A People Who Belong to an **Eager** God  
Wed. 7:00pm A People **Committed** to Heavenly Unity

We are privileged to have with us this week, preaching the Glorious Gospel of Christ, brother **Dave Rogers**. Reared in San Marcos, Texas, Dave was baptized there in 1971 and began preaching in 1979. He was educated at Austin Community College, Southwest Texas State University and the Victoria College, and is a 1980 graduate of the Southwest School of Bible Studies in Austin. Dave and Luann (née Stewart) have three children and three grandchildren, and have worked with churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Georgia, where they are now in their fifth year with the Fayetteville church. They have worked frequently in short-term foreign and domestic mission efforts. Luann is a well-known author and frequent ladies' day speaker, and Dave has been privileged to serve as a teacher for both the Mangum (Oklahoma) School of Biblical Studies and now, the Georgia School of Preaching and Biblical Studies.

# Is Baptism “Because Of” or “For” the Forgiveness of Sins?

In Acts 2:38 Peter told a crowd of people, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The question we will consider today is this: Was Peter telling the people to be baptized **in order to be** forgiven or was he telling them to be baptized **because** they were already forgiven?

## The Preposition εἰς

The word translated “for” in Acts 2:38 is the Greek word εἰς (pronounced “ice”). Two scholars, A.T. Robertson and J.R. Mantey, have argued that in this passage the word εἰς means, “because.” They argued that Peter was telling the crowd, “Repent and be baptized because of the forgiveness of your sins.” In other words, be baptized in order to show that your sins have already been forgiven.

The problem with Robertson and Mantey’s argument is that the word εἰς simply does NOT mean, “because of.” It doesn’t mean that in this passage...or in any passage. It often has the following meanings:

- to
- into
- unto
- for
- towards
- among
- at

It is used over 1,700 times in the New Testament and it shows movement toward a goal. It indicates purpose. The popular site, GotQuestions.org falsely claims that Matthew 12:41 proves εἰς can mean “because.” Matthew 12:41 says: “The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented **at** the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”

In this passage, εἰς is translated “at.” But it doesn’t mean “because” it means “at the point of” or “when.” The people of Nineveh repented “when” Jonah preached to them. Jesus

is saying the current generation would be condemned by the people of Nineveh because (Greek - ὅτι) the people of Nineveh repented at the point of (εἰς) Jonah’s preaching.

The word εἰς never ever means “because” in the New Testament. That’s simply not how the word was used. Those who claim otherwise are twisting the word to fit their preconceived theological ideas.

## For the Forgiveness of Sins

In fact, there is another time the exact phrase, “for the forgiveness of sins” appears in the New Testament. In Matthew 26:27-28, Jesus says: “And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**’”

Did you catch that? Jesus said His blood would be poured out “for the forgiveness of sins.” Could He have meant that His blood was poured out “because” sins had already been forgiven? Could He have meant He was going to die as an outward sign that sins were forgiven *without* His blood? Surely that conclusion is preposterous!

If the Greek phrase in Matthew 26:28 means “in order for sins to be forgiven” then why doesn’t the exact same phrase in Acts 2:38 mean the same thing? The truth is, it *does* mean the same thing.

## How It is Translated

Though many preachers, pastors, teachers, and commentators continue to argue for “because of” in Acts 2:38, it seems that translators of the Bible are almost always scholarly enough to treat the text well. Consider all of these translations:

- ESV – “for the forgiveness of your sins”
- NIV – “for the forgiveness of your sins”
- KJV – “for the remission of sins”
- NASB – “for the forgiveness of your sins”

Even many of the paraphrase Bibles do not accept the “because of” argument:

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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

**Oct. 15** Jeremiah 29-30; Acts 16-17

**Oct. 16** Jeremiah 31-32; Acts 18-19

**Oct. 17** Jeremiah 33-34; Acts 20-21

**Oct. 18** Jeremiah 35-36; Acts 22-23

**Oct. 19** Jeremiah 37-38; Acts 24-25

**Oct. 20** Jeremiah 39-40; Acts 26-27

**Oct. 21** Jer. 41-42; Acts 28; Romans 1

**Oct. 22** Jeremiah 43-44; Romans 2-3

“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 **43 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

◆ **Gospel Meeting Week Schedule:**

- Fellowship meal at noon today.
- Snacks following services Monday and Tuesday evenings (bring enough for us and our guests).
- Evening meals at 5:15 at area restaurants.
  - Monday—Underwood’s
  - Tuesday—Section Hand
  - Wednesday—CiCi’s Pizza
- Song leaders.
  - Monday—Johnny McCaghren
  - Tuesday—Mike Bannister
  - Wednesday—Johnny McCaghren
- Flyers are available at both auditorium exits.

- ◆ **Ladies’ Day @ 9th & Main** (San Angelo) **this Saturday** w/ B.J. Rollo and Jennifer Webster. Theme—*“Vessels of Honor and Sanctification”*

**Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart**

- ◆ November 4—Ladies’ Day w/ Lasha Dennis
- ◆ March 25-28—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback

**Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

- ◆ Oct. 28—Ladies’ Day @ Goldthwaite w/ Casey Keith
- ◆ Nov. 4-5—Gospel Radio Network Lectureship @ Mt. Vernon (online at TGRN.org). *“The Gospel Is For All”*
- ◆ Nov. 12-15—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Foy Forehand
- ◆ Nov. 12-15—Schertz Lectures. *“Studies in the Psalms”*

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- MSG – “be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven.”
- NLT – “for the forgiveness of your sins”
- ERV – “be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins”
- CEV – “so that your sins will be forgiven”

It is simply NOT accurate to say Acts 2:38 means, “because of the forgiveness of your sins.” There may be some fringe translation somewhere that translates it that way, but I don’t know what translation that would be. Every reputable Bible I have ever seen makes the point clear, sins are forgiven at the point of baptism.

**Conclusion**

Peter was NOT teaching, nor am I teaching, that a person is saved by works and not by grace. Baptism does NOT merit salvation. Baptism is simply the point at which Jesus saves us. It is the point at which we are “united with” His saving work (Romans 6:1-7). It is the point at which we are resurrected from our state of spiritual deadness (Colossians 2:12).

Baptism is a penitent appeal of faith for the forgiveness of our sins (see 1 Peter 3:21). It is saying to God, “I trust you. I surrender to you. I believe Jesus is the Son of God. I believe He will wash my sins away and raise me from the dead.”

None of that contradicts the idea that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). We are saved totally by grace and totally by faith when we repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

**Celebrate**

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

**October Birthdays:** Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14), **Ryan Settles (15)**.

**October Anniversaries:** Ryan & Caitlin Settles (7), Tre’ & Christine Rayon (12), **Rafe & Becky Smith (16)**, Mike & Patti Bannister (27).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



**Records**

	Oct. 1, 2017	Oct. 8, 2017
Bible Class	48	43
AM Worship	69	60
PM Worship	45	49
Wednesday PM	43	38
Contribution	\$2,900	\$2,102

	<b>This Week: 10/8/17</b>	<b>Next Week: 10/22/17</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>October 2017</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Gene Bannister  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Tom &amp; Carol Wilcox  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      M. &amp; P. Bannister / Greer</p> <p><b>November 2017</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      John Barnum  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Churchwell Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John Barnum Family</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Hank Wheeler, Ryan Rudloff	Don Smith*, Larry Petty James Thomas, Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Rafe Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	October 18 Gospel Meeting	October 25 Joe Dennis	November 1 Prayer Night	November 8 Rafe Smith

## 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 October 15, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Gospel Meeting**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Gospel Meeting**

## The Sacrifice That Costs Nothing

And what, you might ask, is a sacrifice that costs nothing? Isn't that a contradiction in terms? Don't all sacrifices cost something?

David used a phrase something like the one in the title of this article. He wanted to offer a sacrifice just outside Jerusalem on the land of an Israelite named Araunah. To his credit, Araunah offered the king all the resources needed for a sacrifice. Here they are, he declared, the wood, the oxen, the fire. That's when David used the phrase, "a sacrifice that cost me nothing."

*"But the king said to Araunah, 'No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.'" (2 Samuel 24:24).*

Now I may be wrong, but he seems to be implying that people in his day might have viewed their service to the Lord in that way: "How much can I get away with? In order to receive God's blessing and protection, how little must I do?" I am reminded of the student who asks, "How little do I have to do to get a 'B' in your class?"

This reveals a sort of Bargain-rail approach to serving God. The problem with the Dollar stores is that although the price might look good, the quality and the return you receive is lacking.

We understand what a sacrifice is: A millionaire might donate some money to give scholarships for bright students, but a single mother will sacrifice her own life by working two jobs and raising her kids so that she can pay for their college.

You recall the story about a fundraiser where the chicken volunteered to donate some of her eggs, and the cow offered some milk, and the pig offered to give some bacon for a good cause. After several minutes of discussion, the pig was heard to say, "It's all very well for you to be generous but I am committed!"

Throughout scripture, this is a consistent theme. When we give to God, it must be a sacrifice. The root meaning of the word "sacrifice" has to do with surrendering something to God of great value, in an effort to demonstrate our seriousness in serving him.

The answer to our question, of course, is that there is no such thing as a sacrifice that costs nothing. If it is a sacrifice, then it was very, very costly. The real question, when it comes to our service for God is this: When we give to God, is it a donation, or a sacrifice? The way you answer that question will say everything you need to know about your relationship with God.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)