

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



November 12, 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.

I don't know anything about Dan Calabrese, other than that he is "a novelist, columnist, television producer and serial entrepreneur" and an "author of Christian spiritual warfare novels." Inclusion of his article here is not an endorsement of his faith, or any other material that he has published. However, I do believe that he hits the nail square on the head in this article. Certainly food for thought. — Johnny

Yes, it's easy to explain why mass shootings are happening so often, but most don't want to hear it

It's not guns. It's not "mental health." It's much more fundamental than that.

God is the source of all goodness. You can refuse to believe that if you want. That doesn't make it any less true.

God is also the source of all understanding of right and wrong, and contrary to some who inexplicably insist we can't really know the mind of God, He has revealed to us in His Word exactly what He needs us to understand.

Why do I start with this? I start with this because I'm going to talk about evil in the context of mass shootings, particularly the one in Sutherland Springs on Sunday. It troubles us less to talk about these things in the context of "mental health," or to blame guns. We sound less judgmental when we use terms like that, and in modern -day parlance there would appear to be no greater sin than the calling out of sin.

But let's upset these oh-so-delicate sensibilities and call something what it is: There are in this world terrible people who do terrible things, and they do them because they are terrible people. They are evil. They do not care if you live or die. They do not care if your loved ones are heartbroken. In fact, if anything, they hope for that to happen because they gain satisfaction in the anguish of others.

Devin Patrick Kelley was such a person. He was evil. He wanted to murder people and he did. Lots of them. From what we're hearing about him, he was evil in other ways too, but all of it pretty well pales once you're a murderer 26 times over. I have no idea if he was "sick." I don't care. He was a terrible person who sowed violence, sadness and horror. He wrecked lives. And that's what he meant to do.

I'm not going to say I'm glad he's dead because God is sovereign over that. But I'm not going to pretend he wasn't evil. That would be absurd.

But when you talk about evil, a lot of silly questions tend to get asked. Can you define evil objectively? Can you identify where it comes from? What causes it? Is it possible that evil doesn't really exist because every person has to decide for him-

(Continued on page 2)

"So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

Luke 17:10



(Continued from page 1)

self or herself what right and wrong are? Is morality such a moving and nebulous target that we're better off thinking in terms of cold self-interest and not even trying to make the case that certain things are wrong by definition?

These are all stupid questions. I don't care how many people ask them. They're stupid. But questions like this get asked in a society that has made a willful and active choice to disregard and push aside the source of all life, truth, light and understanding. God makes all of these matters clear to us. What current American culture has done is dismiss God's revelation and choose instead to invent its own ways of defining and understanding things.

Now I haven't even mentioned yet the fact that Kelley was an atheist, and quite an aggressive one at that. I haven't mentioned it because it scarcely matters. It matters that he rejected Jesus Christ, of course, but a mass killer who "identified as Christian" was rejecting Jesus Christ every bit as much. What you call yourself doesn't matter. What you argue on social media doesn't matter. What's in your heart is what matters, and when your heart offers no reverence to God, your soul is going to open itself up to all kinds of demonic influence and oppression.

For some people, all this means is that they doubt themselves, or that they idolize money, or that they cheat on their wives. For other people, it means they burn with anger and fantasize about doing terrible things to people - and this fills their souls with darkness that creates a distance between them and God. For others, they acquire an automatic rifle and commit mass murder.

Does every non-Christian share responsibility for the ones who become mass murderers? No. But in a way, yes. Kelley's actions were his own and he bears full responsibility for them. Yet he was acting in a way that's entirely consistent with modern American culture. He identified people he hates. He found an opportunity to

do them harm. He did.

Most people don't take it to that extreme. They might just mock the person on Twitter. But the culture has no problem with inflicting hurt on those who don't think like you, don't support your agenda or don't think you should get everything you want. That's all Kelley did. It's just that he murdered them instead of flame-tweeting them. There may be degrees of evil but they all come from the same place.

Americans who think they can disregard God and manufacture their own moral codes are under a willful delusion. The knowledge of God is hardwired into everyone who has ever been born. Romans 1:18-20 explains that. You may say you don't consider the Bible authoritative. That doesn't interest me. It's authoritative. You're not.

So when you make the effort to reject God and substitute your own manufactured moral code, you step out from under His spiritual protection. There are other kinds of spirits and you're making accommodation with them whether you understand that or not. I know. You don't believe that. Doesn't matter.

And when this happens broadly on a cultural level, it gives rise to evil. Why? Because it's made a basic bargain with evil. We will reject God's rules because we'd rather make our own. We will not acknowledge evil for what it is, call it out by name or judge it - because there are going to be times when we want to indulge it. Oh, we'll control and limit how far we take it. We tell ourselves that. But we want to reserve our right to go there so we're not going to submit ourselves to God's authority.

Once the culture has gone in that direction, evil is in the driver's seat. And by the way, if you haven't figured this out yet, evil is not just an intellectual notion. Evil is a real, living, spiritual being with a will and with power if people are willing to accommodate it - which they are.

So why are there so many mass shootings these days?

(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 @ 10:00am 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

Nov. 12 Ezekiel 28-29; 2 Cor. 12-13

Nov. 13 Ezekiel 30-31; Galatians 1-2

Nov. 14 Ezekiel 32-33; Galatians 3-4

Nov. 15 Ezekiel 34-35; Galatians 5-6

Nov. 16 Ezekiel 36-37; Ephesians 1-2

Nov. 17 Ezekiel 38-39; Ephesians 3-4

Nov. 18 Ezekiel 40-41; Ephesians 5-6

Nov. 19 Ezekiel 42-43; Philippians 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."



- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **37 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ A box with over 100 girl's dresses made by some of our ladies was sent this week to Rohan Jones in South Africa, along with the plastic tabs we have been collecting.
- ◆ Gospel Meeting this week at Bangs.
- ◆ Schertz Lectures this week—"Studies in the Psalms". See bulletin board for more details.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 25-28—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback

(Continued from page 2)

Because evil is flourishing and America has made a cultural decision to let that happen, and to reject the God who overcomes it.

You've noticed this time around that the secular left is even more aggressive than usual attacking those who offer "thoughts and prayers." They insist that prayers are just a lame substitute for real action, and of course by that they mean gun control. But gun control is a secondary point. The real point they're trying to make is that prayer is useless. Some have come right out and argued that God can't solve the problem. For the most part that's because they have no regard for God whatsoever, and aren't interested in exploring or discovering His true divine nature. But more importantly, they're angry with God because they think He will keep them from doing the things they want to do. That's insane, because they don't have the slightest idea what kinds of blessings they're missing. But the culture has made its choice.

So God gives them over to their folly, and evil flourishes. It's not because we don't control guns or treat mental health. It's because we've arrived at a consensus that we don't need God, and we can work out right and wrong for ourselves. So people do. Or they just disregard the whole idea and perpetrate evil, because hey, why not?

This is what you reap when that's what you sow. That's why there are so many mass shootings. Any other reason you've been given is wrong.

Dan Calabrese (hermancain.com)

GOSPEL MEETING

BANGS CHURCH OF CHRIST

with Foy Forehand

November 12-15

"WHATSOEVER I COMMANDED YOU"

Sun:	9:45am	"The Source"
	10:45am	"Make Disciples / Teach"
	6:30pm	"The Attitude of Observance"
Mon:	7:00pm	"The Necessity of Obedience"
Tues:	7:00pm	"Worship in Spirit and in Truth"
Wed:	7:00pm	"Newness of Life"

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Susan Bridges (1), Canyon Edwards (6), Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), **Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15)**, Christy Edwards (24), Marcia Turnbull (24), Christine Rayon (30).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), **Jack & Judie Turner (18)**.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 29, 2017	Nov. 5, 2017
Bible Class	43	51
AM Worship	66	69
PM Worship	35	47
Wednesday PM	36	35
Contribution	\$1,821	\$2,560

	This Week: 11/12/17	Next Week: 11/19/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2017 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: John Barnum Family	
Greeters	Randy & Laura Huckaby	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Larry Petty Allen Griffith, Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum*, Randy Huckaby Hank Wheeler, Jack Turner		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Mike Bannister	Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	James Thomas	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 15 Don Smith	November 22 Joe Dennis	November 29 Fifth Wednesday	December 6 Prayer Night

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 November 12, 2017

Sunday Class Romans 8:20
 Wed. Class Old Testament History: Genesis 5:1

Grace & Works

There are some works that are detrimental to salvation, some which are not essential for salvation, and some works with which we must comply if we ever hope to reach the salvation extended to us by God's grace through Christ Jesus.

I. Grace and Works of the Flesh.

- A. "The works of the flesh are evident" (seen, they can be observed) and "those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God".
 1. "Let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints", and "because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 5:3, 6).
 2. James writes that such things do "not descend from above", but are "earthly, sensual, demonic" (Jas. 3:15).
 3. These types of works result in disobedience, sin, and alienation from God.
- B. Another problem associated with grace and the works of flesh – some think that since God's grace is so powerful, they can continue in sin.

II. Grace and the Works of the Law of Moses.

- A. God had been gracious to Israel throughout their history.
- B. The Jews "stumbled" over the law.
- C. As Paul said, "...man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified" (Gal. 2:16).

III. Grace and Works of Merit.

- A. Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:9 that "by grace you have been saved...and that not of yourselves...not of works, lest anyone should boast".
- B. Paul wrote in Titus 3:5 that it was "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..."
- C. We must not place our faith and confidence in ourselves, in our works, or in our own righteousness (Rom. 10:3).

IV. Grace and Works of Faith.

- A. Look at James' discussion of faith and works in James 2.
- B. "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Acts 10:34-35).
- C. To understand this, let us look to the salvation of the Ephesians.
- D. I must come to God on His terms.

Titus – Background Information and Apostolic Greeting (1:1-4)

I. Background Information.

- A. Authorship – the apostle Paul (1:1).
- B. When Was the Epistle to Titus Written? A.D. 63-67.
- C. To Whom Was This Epistle Written? Titus (1:4).
- D. What Were Some of the Apparent Purposes of this Epistle?
- E. Some Key Words Found in Titus: Works, Savior, Sound, Doctrine, Hope.
- F. Information on the Island of Crete.

II. Apostolic Greetings (1:1-4).

A. Paul introduced himself.

1. "A Bondservant of God".
2. "An Apostle of Jesus Christ".
 - a. Paul's being an apostle was his authority to write the things he did.
 - b. Several purposes of Paul being an apostle.
 - 1) "For the sake of the faith of God's elect" (ESV).
 - 2) To encourage people to "the acknowledgment of the truth".
 - a) "The truth...accords with godliness" – is in agreement with.
 - b) Those who have the truth and live godly lives have "hope of eternal life" (2).

B. This "hope" is not based on a fallible promise of man, but a promise from God Himself, "who cannot lie".

1. This gives each faithful Christian great hope.
2. This should create great fear in each person who has not become a Christian by being baptized into Christ and His one church!
3. God "manifested" that hope through preaching of His word.
 - a. Preaching was entrusted to faithful men like Paul (Cf. 2 Tim. 1:11).
 - b. The One who entrusted – "God our Savior".
 - 1) Love motivated God the Father to "give/send" His Son (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 5:14).
 - 2) Love motivated Him to reveal to us in His word how we can be saved.

C. This letter was addressed to Titus (4).

1. Titus was identified as "a true son in our common faith".
2. Typical greeting of "grace, mercy, and peace".
 - a. The source – "God the Father" and "the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior".