

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 19, 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.

My God Is Real!

My God is real! Since my God is real, and I am a servant of my God, I must show in my life that my God is real. *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"* (Eph. 5:8). Christians need to conduct themselves the way they ought to conduct themselves as a natural consequence of being Christians. If a creature quacks like a duck, walks like a duck and looks like it is a duck, it might be a duck. Likewise, Christians ought to sound like Christians, walk like Christians and look like Christians. Any behavior or speech contrary to Christian behavior and speech does not evidence that one is a Christian.

Lip service alone is hypocritical and unworthy to be associated with Christians. *"Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men'"* (Mt. 15:7-9). Christians must follow through with the Gospel by implementing it in their lives. *"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does"* (Jas. 1:25). *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Mt. 7:21). A Christian must not only talk the talk, but he must also walk the walk of being a Christian.

My God is alive upon the pages of inspiration. The Bible internally (pertaining to prophetic fulfillment and unity throughout) and externally (pertaining to divine providence) proves that my God is real.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Eph. 3:8-11)

My God had a plan for the redemption of humanity from sin that separated him from a Holy God. *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear"* (Isa. 59:2). *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons"* (Gal. 4:4-5).

My God is real! Since my God is real, and I am a servant of my God, I must show in my life that my God is real. I will do this by obeying the Gospel of Christ to become a Christian (Mk. 16:16). I will do this by worshipping God in His own appointed way. I will show that my God is real to me through Christian living and Christian service. I will show that my God is real to me by anticipating with joy the return of Jesus Christ to retrieve Christians. *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may*

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be also” (Jn. 14:3). “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Tit. 2:13). “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 3:20).

Is God real to you? Can others see that God is real to you by the way you talk and by the way you conduct yourself? What about your worship; does it show that God is real to you? Has your confidence that God is real led you to serve Him regularly? Do you eagerly await the return of Jesus Christ to usher in our eternal existence? If your answer to any of these questions is, “No,” perhaps you need to re-evaluate your relationship with God (2 Cor. 13:5).

Louis Rushmore (gospelgazette.com—Nov. 2017, p. 2)

God’s Book of Life and Our Church Directory

We must realize, of course, that our name being in a church directory does not necessarily mean that our name is in God’s “Book of Life.” Our church directory is compiled by fallible human beings who cannot always know the heart of those on the “church roll.” Also, our church directory will include some non-Christians (such as unconverted spouses or other family members). Church directories are good, but being enrolled in God’s Book of Life is far better!

Background of God’s “Book of Life”

Other than in the Book of Revelation, the only New Testament passage that explicitly mentions God’s Book of Life is Philippians 4:3, where Paul wrote, “I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.” In the context, Paul mentioned some of his coworkers in the Lord (such as Euodias, Syntyche, Clement, and perhaps, Suzygo [the transliteration of “companion” (“yokefellow” KJV) as a proper name], but since he did not have space to mention

all of them, he referred to them simply as those whose names are in the Book of Life.

God’s Book of Life is seen throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God’s book moved from what could refer literally to a list of those in Israel to a figurative list of those who have spiritual life. Following the sin of making the golden calf, Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written” (Exodus 32:31-32). Here, God’s book can refer to those listed in Israel.

While speaking of the enemies of the Lord and His people, the psalmist wrote, “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous” (Psalm 69:28). Here, God’s book seemed to refer to those who have physical life, but there are definite implications that the psalmist also wants these enemies to be removed from any possible spiritual life. Isaiah spoke of the Messianic kingdom, “it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 4:3). Here, the reference to those who are “recorded among the living” is spiritual. Daniel said in reference to the Christian age, “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1). Here again, the reference is to those having spiritual life.

Who Will Be Written In God’s “Book of Life”?

The writer of Hebrews said that “the general assembly and church of the firstborn... are registered in heaven” (Hebrews 12:23). Those “registered” [“written” KJV] in Heaven (i.e., God’s Book of Life) are members of the church. The term “firstborn” here does not refer to Jesus. The Greek word behind the translation is plural and could be translated “church of the first born ones,” as the

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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 @ 10:00am 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. 19 Ezekiel 42-43; Philippians 1-2

Nov. 20 Ezekiel 44-45; Philippians 3-4

Nov. 21 Ezekiel 46-47; Colossians 1-2

Nov. 22 Ezek. 48; Dan. 1; Col. 3-4

Nov. 23 Daniel 2-3; 1 Thess. 1-2

Nov. 24 Daniel 4-5; 1 Thess. 3-4

Nov. 25 Dan 6-7; 1 Thess. 5; 2 Thess. 1

Nov. 26 Daniel 8-9; 2 Thess. 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 **39 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ A thank you note was received from the church in Aransas Pass for help we sent them after Hurricane Harvey. It is posted on the bulletin board.
- ◆ We will have several traveling over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Be safe and remember to put the Lord first.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

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plural verb “are” indicates. Here is an example where the church is named after those of whom it consists rather than after the one who owns it (cf., 1 Thessalonians 1:1). Membership in the church requires obedience to the Gospel (Acts 2:38-41, 47). In Philippians 4:3, those whom Paul mentioned as being in God’s Book of Life are his fellow laborers. This implies that these ones are faithful, struggling to “*fight the good fight of faith*” (1 Timothy 6:12). All of Paul’s coworkers did not remain in God’s Book of Life. Demas was once a faithful coworker with Paul (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24), but later he pursued the world instead (2 Timothy 4:10). Those whose names are written in God’s Book of Life must keep their names written there by overcoming the temptations of the world. “*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels*” (Revelation 3:5).

Will Our Names Be in God’s “Book of Life”?

All of us will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ on the last day (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Concerning that Judgment Day, John wrote, “*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*” (Revelation 20:12, 15). Clearly, God’s Book of Life will be a relevant volume until time as we know it is no more!

All who are accountable will receive one of two possible eternal destinations, based upon whether or not their names are written in God’s Book of Life. If our names are not found in God’s Book of Life, we can expect eternal torment (2 Thessalonians 1:9). In fact, even while upon this earth, those not written in God’s Book of Life are considered His enemies (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; Romans 5:6-10). However, those whose names are written in God’s Book of Life will be told, “*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*” (Matthew 25:34). Is it any wonder then that Jesus told the seventy that having their names “*written in heaven*” was worthy of more rejoicing than being endowed with miraculous power (Luke 10:20)? Our names may be in the church directory, but when “*the roll is called up yonder,*” will we be there?

Brian R. Kenyon (gospelgazette.com—Nov. 2017, p. 15)

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

	Nov. 5, 2017	Nov. 12, 2017
Bible Class	51	46
AM Worship	69	61
PM Worship	47	34
Wednesday PM	35	39
Contribution	\$2,560	\$1,568

	This Week: 11/19/17	Next Week: 11/26/17		
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 December 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Dennis Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Communion	John Barnum*, Randy Huckaby Hank Wheeler, Jack Turner	James Fuller*, Ryan Rudloff Larry Petty, James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	John Barnum	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 22 Joe Dennis	November 29 Fifth Wednesday	December 6 Prayer Night	December 13 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 November 19, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 8:24**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 6:1**

<p>Can We Do That In Worship? (Example: Handclapping)</p> <p>Does God care how we worship Him? Yes, He does!</p> <p>I. Evaluating New Practices.</p> <p>A. The newness of a practice, in and of itself, does not make it right or wrong.</p> <p>B. A new practice in worship must be evaluated by its conformity or nonconformity to the God-authorized pattern of worship (cf. Jn. 4:24).</p> <p>II. Authority.</p> <p>A. Worship is either right or wrong depending upon God's will.</p> <p>B. Correct worship necessarily possesses the proper audience – God.</p> <p>C. Correct worship also possesses the proper attitude – "in spirit".</p> <p>D. Correct worship also possesses the proper actions – "in truth".</p> <p>E. God has always required that man approach Him "in truth" – according to the divine directives which He revealed to Man.</p> <p>F. Acceptable worship to God must be undertaken with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A proper attitude, frame of mind, and disposition conducive to spirituality, and 2. Faithfulness to the specific items which God pinpointed as the proper external acts to be performed. <p>III. Example: Handclapping.</p> <p>A. Handclapping as Musical Accompaniment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly unacceptable on the scriptural grounds that clapping hands is just another device that might be used to supplement vocal, verbal music. 2. God authorizes and instructs worshippers to sing meaning-laden words and to make music in the human heart (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). <p>B. Handclapping as Applause.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Handclapping is used to indicate personal approval, show recognition, express excitement, and/or a demonstration of courtesy – How do these activities correlate with scriptural worship activity? 2. Isn't Hand Clapping Equivalent to Saying "Amen"? No. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saying "Amen" is authorized in the NT as a means of expressing approval in worship (1 Cor. 14:15-16) – handclapping is not! b. Furthermore, do the hand clappers really mean the same as "Amen"? 3. Ultimately it comes back to the question of authority – or in this case, the lack thereof. 	<p>Inspired Instructions Concerning Setting Things in Order, including Appointing Qualified Elders – Titus 1:5-9</p> <p>I. Two reasons why Paul left Titus in Crete (5).</p> <p>A. First – "set in order the things that are lacking".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvements needed to be made in the churches of Christ in Crete. 2. That is still true today in every church of Christ! <p>B. Second – "appoint elders in every city, as I commanded you".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God wants qualified men serving as elders in each church. 2. There must be more than one elder in each city. 3. The subject of elders was discussed thoroughly in our study of 1 Timothy. <p>II. Qualifications a man must meet to serve as an elder (6-9). (The subject of elders was discussed thoroughly in our study of 1 Timothy. We will only study those that are found exclusively in Titus in this study.)</p> <p>A. To qualify as an elder, a man must have "faithful children" who are "not accused of dissipation or insubordination".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Faithful" can mean dependable or trustworthy (1 Tim. 1:12; 1 Cor. 4:2). 2. "Faithful" is also used to indicate a person is a Christian. 3. An elder's children must be faithful Christians. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The elder's children must not be accused of "dissipation" – one who wastes money on pleasures, those who are drunk (Eph. 5:18). b. The elder's children must not be accused of "insubordination" – undisciplined, rebellious, lawless (1 Tim. 1:9). <p>B. "A steward of God" (7).</p> <p>C. "Not self-willed" (7) – arrogant, stubborn, refusing to listen to others.</p> <p>D. "Not quick-tempered" (7).</p> <p>E. "A lover of what is good" (8).</p> <p>F. "Just" (8).</p> <p>G. "Holy" (8).</p> <p>H. "Holding fast the faithful word" (9).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He must cling with devotion and hold firmly to the word of God. 2. One reason an elder must hold fast to God's word – "That he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict". 3. The purpose of such exhorting/convicting is to patiently prompt those who contradict God to know the truth and to repent (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
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