

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



December 3, 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.

The Origin of Satan

The Bible does not provide any specific and detailed information relative to the origin of Satan. In the oldest book of the Bible, Satan appears along with "the sons of God" (Job 1:6). He is present in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1ff). From "the beginning" the devil was a murderer, a liar, and "abode not in the truth" (Jn. 8: 44). It appears to be a necessary inference that Satan was created (Col. 1: 16). Since God manifestly did not create Satan innately evil, Satan must have chosen to oppose rather than serve God. There are actually three views as to the devil's origin.

The devil was created either as man or some life form and phenomenally evolved to almost possess God-like abilities. There is no intimation of such in the scriptures to even allow this view as being perceived as plausible. A necessary inference to suggest such a view is precluded because this view presents contradictions as far as the Genesis account of creation (Gen. 1-3). How anyone could even entertain such a view is beyond me.

The devil was one of the Godhead who went bad. This view is blasphemy. God inherently and innately is good and cannot "go bad". God not only knows the past and the present, but the future as well (Acts 15:18). Indeed, "how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out" (Rom. 11:33). Satan, by comparison, does not possess these qualities. For example, he is not omnipotent. Scripture affirms: "...greater is he [God] that is in you than he [Satan] that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). When he sought to "sift" the apostles as wheat, he first had to "ask" for them (Luke 22:31). Satan is not omnipresent. His position as "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4) was "delivered" unto him (Luke 4:6). When he eventually is cast permanently into his place of eternal torment, the devil will be powerless to resist (Rev. 20:10). In discussing the apocalyptic literature of the book of Revelation which speaks of Satan's being "bound" (20:2), Hardeman Nichols observed: "The binding of Satan, we conclude, equally means that his work will be restrained in a certain realm..." Omnipresence, by definition, is not restrained. Further, Satan is not omniscient. If we are sufficiently knowledgeable of the Word of God, and carefully wield that knowledge to resist him, the devil does not possess a superior knowledge sufficient to overcome us, but will "flee" (Jas. 4:17; cf. Matt. 4:4). He is not intelligent enough to outwit us in order to "snatch" us from the Lord's hand (John 10:28). Satan is not deity. Deity has to do with rank and the essential nature of God. Here are some attributes of deity which the devil does not possess: Deity cannot be restrained.

(Continued on page 2)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10



(Continued from page 1)

Job 42:2 states. "I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." Job 1:12 says, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." Deity is all powerful (Gen. 17:1-8). Satan is not. His power is limited (Job 1:12; 2:6). He can snatch no one from God's hand, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28-29). When resisted, he flees (Jam. 4:17). When cast into hell, he will have no power to resist God's judgment. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone..." (Rev. 20:10).

Since he is not deity, he then is created. All things outside of God were created "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:16-17). And all that God created was good – NO evil at all! "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day" (Gen. 1:31). With the term "very good", the existence of anything evil in creation is denied. Thus, the devil was created good and became bad. Since the devil was created good and is now evil, it is obvious that he fell. The New Testament seems to confirm that such a revolt **did** take place. In two separate passages, reference is made to just such a revolt. The apostle Peter said that "God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Pet. 2:4). Another inspired New Testament writer wrote: "And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, he hath kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). Since the Bible also refers to Satan as "the prince of

demons" (Matt. 12:24), and speaks of "the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41, emp. added), the only possible conclusion is that the devil is the leader of a group of angels who rebelled against God and were therefore expelled from heaven to eventually spend eternity in hell.

It should also be observed that correctly speaking, there is only one devil. The devil is the very epitome of evil and is responsible for all temptation (Eph. 6:11, John 8:44). The Bible presents Satan as a real spiritual being who is opposed to all that is good and is tremendously powerful (but not as powerful as God). We first encounter him in the third chapter of Genesis as he takes the form of a serpent to tempt Eve. Matthew 4:1-10 calls him the devil, the tempter, and Satan as he tempts Jesus. In neither of these places is there the least indication that Satan is some kind of metaphorical character, or that these passages should be considered as allegory. Jesus Himself said that Satan had asked to have the apostles that he might sift them as wheat (Luke 22:31). How does a metaphorical character do that? Jesus also referred to Hell as a place prepared for the devil and his angels. What sort of place would be prepared for an allegorical character? Inspired writers and speakers mention Satan in over 30 New Testament passages; in not one of them is there any indication he is anything but a real being. "The Devil" is mentioned in 36 verses, and again, not once is there any reason to say he is an allegorical or metaphorical character, just there to illustrate evil in some abstract way.

The apostle Peter warned: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Whom resist steadfast in the faith..." (1 Pet. 5:8, 9). We would do well to heed the apostle's warning. Fortunately, we have the assurance that we can indeed, resist Satan, and that he cannot sift us like wheat. The apostle John wrote, "...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Bill Goring

(The Gospel Journal, Vol. 15, Num. 7 [May 2014], pp. 6, 28)

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

Dec. 3 Hosea 10-11; Tit. 3; Philemon

Dec. 4 Hosea 12-13; Hebrews 1-2

Dec. 5 Hosea 14; Joel 1; Hebrews 3-4

Dec. 6 Joel 2-3; Hebrews 5-6

Dec. 7 Amos 1-2; Hebrews 7-8

Dec. 8 Amos 3-4; Hebrews 9-10

Dec. 9 Amos 5-6; Hebrews 11-12

Dec. 10 Amos 7-8; Heb. 13; James 1

"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 **45 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal today** at noon.
- ◆ We have an immediate need to help transport Lee to treatments and/or stay with him to give Mary and Vicki a break. Please let one of the deacons know if you can help.
- ◆ “10 Questions” event this week at Dripping Springs.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ Dec. 31—New Year’s Eve Party.
- ◆ March 25-28—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback.

The Way Up Is Down

Remember the old line about the aliens from space – you know, the ones in a flying saucer with green scales and antennae – where they arrive on our blue planet and ask that great philosophical question: “Take me to your leader.”

So, who would you take him to? The president of our country? A five-star general? A captain of industry? Oprah?

In our day and age leaders are those who have their hands on the instruments of power. They bark out orders. They make demands. They enforce their will.

Sometimes they write autobiographies about how they rose to power, how they beat others out of that position by the force of their personalities. Sometimes this attitude seeps into the church, too, and it causes division.

But Paul tells the Philippian church how Jesus came to power. He was “highly exalted,” was given a “name that is above every name,” and we are told that “every knee will bow” to him (Philippians 2:8-10). Even presidents, captains of industry, five-star generals, and Oprah.

And how did he get to this exalted position? By humbling himself. In God’s universe, the way to glory is humility, the path to leadership is service, the way up is down.

Down on our knees. Down in our attitudes. Down to serve. If the death of Jesus does not humble us, nothing will. On Sunday we gather as humble sinners and servants, deeply in need of what he offered that day. There is no place for pride, or demands to have our way. At the foot of the cross, the only place to go is down. Down to our knees in gratitude.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)

We asked Dripping Springs, “If you could ask God one question, what would it be?” and you answered. Now, make sure to attend our event on December 3-6 to hear answers to your questions presented by capable speakers. The event is free of charge and we hope you will attend.

Schedule

Sunday		Monday
9:30a: Why are there so many churches?		If I'm good, why doesn't God bless my life?
10:30a: If there is a God, why is there so much evil?		How did the world begin?
1:15p: Will I make it to heaven?		Tuesday
1:45p: What does the Bible teach about marriage and divorce?		When will Jesus return?
Mon-Wed sessions begin at 7:00p		Why create humans if you knew they would sin?
Event held at the building of the Dripping Springs Church of Christ.		Wednesday
Address: 470 Old Highway 290 Dripping Springs, Tx		Why didn't you destroy Satan?
		Why do some believe, and others don't?

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: Lee Tenery (6), Estelle Guthrie (7), Laverne Thomas (13), Kaci Churchwell (13), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), John R. McCaghren (27).

December Anniversaries: Allen & Linda Griffith (20), David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 19, 2017	Nov. 26, 2017
Bible Class	42	47
AM Worship	59	70
PM Worship	48	43
Wednesday PM	26	45
Contribution	\$1,904	\$2,159

	This Week: 12/3/17	Next Week: 12/10/17		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>December 2017 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Dennis Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p> <p>January 2018 Make Announcements: Don Fuller Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family</p>	
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	Ryan Rudloff*, Hank Wheeler Don Smith, James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 6 Prayer Night	December 13 Rafe Smith	December 20 Don Smith	December 27 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 December 3, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 8:29**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 6:13**

<u>Things That Make Life More Livable</u>	<u>Inspired Instructions for Sound Doctrine & Proper Conduct – Titus 2:1-10</u>
<p>I. Work.</p> <p>A. Work is essential to happiness.</p> <p>B. It is a Christian duty to work and earn a living (1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:10).</p> <p>C. Man was created and adapted to work, and God intends for him to work.</p> <p>D. Man needs to be happy in his work.</p> <p>E. The Christian life also demands that we work in the behalf of others.</p> <p>II. Love.</p> <p>A. Man must have someone or something to love.</p> <p>B. We are commanded to love God (Mt. 22:37), neighbor (Mt. 22:39), companion (Eph. 5:25), brotherhood (1 Pet. 2:17) and enemy (Mt. 5:43-47).</p> <p>III. Accept Self.</p> <p>A. We must accept the fact that different people have different talents and degrees of ability (Mt. 25:14-30).</p> <p>B. Man's unwillingness to accept the inferior in life often prevents his reaching the higher goal.</p> <p>C. We should be content with what we have, but not with what we are.</p> <p>D. In accepting self, we must accept our handicaps.</p> <p>IV. Examine Self.</p> <p>A. 2 Corinthians 13:5.</p> <p>B. 1 Corinthians 11:28</p> <p>C. Self-examination focuses the criticism on self, instead of others.</p> <p>V. Cultivate an Interest in Others.</p> <p>A. Philippians 2:4.</p> <p>B. We should think of life in terms of serving others rather than being served.</p> <p>VI. Keep Self Fit to Live With.</p> <p>A. Man must live with himself; thus, he should keep himself fit to live with.</p> <p>B. Man must live up to the knowledge he possesses in order to respect himself.</p> <p>VII. Live Life a Day at a Time.</p> <p>A. Living in the present is the only way we can live.</p> <p>B. No person has strength to carry the burden of all the future.</p> <p>VIII. Live Each Day as if it Were the Last.</p> <p>A. The Christian should live each day as best he can, and as if it were the last.</p> <p>B. Tomorrow our todays will be our yesterdays.</p>	<p>I. Duty of Titus and each Gospel Preacher to Speak Sound Doctrine (1).</p> <p>II. Sound Doctrine Concerning Proper Conduct of Certain Groups (2-10).</p> <p>A. Older Men (2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Sober". "Reverent". "Temperate". "Sound in faith, in love, in patience". <p>B. Older Women (3-4).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Reverent in behavior". "Not slanderers". "Not given to much wine". "Teachers of good things ... admonish the younger women". <p>C. Younger Women (4b-5).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Love their husbands ... love their children". "Discreet". "Chaste". "Homemakers". "Good". "Obedient to their own husbands". One reason: "that the word of God may not be blasphemed". <p>D. Younger Men (6) – "sober minded".</p> <p>E. Titus (and each gospel preacher & each young man) (7-8).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works". "In doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility". "Sound speech that cannot be condemned". One reason: "that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say to you". <p>F. Slaves (can be applied to employee/employer & other relationships) (9-10).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Obedient to own masters". "Well pleasing in all things". "Not answering back". "Not pilfering". "Showing all good fidelity". One reason: that they "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things".