



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

How Titus 2 Will Transform a Church *(and Save a Bundle of Money in the Process)*

Families are struggling. Even in the church, families are going through rough times. We can act like it isn't happening, or we can face it head-on.

While there is nothing wrong with this approach, for many congregations the default response is to hire someone. "Let's get a younger preacher who can relate to these families." (Never mind the fact that, since he's young, he's probably struggling, too!) "Let's add a family minister to our staff." "We need to add a counseling center."

Trust me, none of these are necessarily bad things, and in many cases, they can provide a great help to a congregation.

But in our rush to think of staffing as the solution, are we forgetting a Biblical (oh, and far less expensive) method? It's found right in the middle of the book of Titus, and it might just transform a congregation.

Interestingly, chapter 2 begins by introducing us to the phrase "sound doctrine" (which just means "healthy teaching"). Typically, when we think of "sound doctrine," we think of issues like the plan of salvation or pure worship. Those things are true, but what is interesting is this: that's not the subject under consideration in Titus 2. What is? What is the "sound doctrine" Titus is supposed to preach and hold to? The relationship between older Christians and younger Christians!

For example:

Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in the faith, in love, and in steadfastness. (Titus 3:2)

Don't you think there might be some younger men who would see that type of example and understand what it means to be a godly Christian man? What if these older men were willing to teach some classes or even just take a younger man under their wings and show them what it means to walk in the faith?

What about our Christian ladies? Paul had that covered as well, and it didn't take bringing on another staff member:

(Continued on page 2)

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. **1Cor. 10:12,13**

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.



(Continued from page 1)

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (verses 3-5)

It's simply about living the right way and being willing to pour that into the next generation.

Here's what I often see as a problem, though. Younger men and women (and I'll let you decide what is "younger" and "older") have some issue and, instead of the church asking a wise older person to teach or help, they simply go to their peers for advice or (more often) validation.

Of course, we need peers as friends. They can provide a sounding board and a place where we can know we are not alone.

But God's Book says the older ones are to be teaching the younger ones how to do things in this life God's way!

Older Christians, that means it is time for you to step up to the plate and do what God has commanded you to do! Instead of seeing an issue and helping to pay for another staff member, you roll up your sleeves and help that struggling dad or that hurting mother! You show them what God's Word says and you share your immense wisdom with them.

But younger Christians, that also means you have to swallow your pride, not think you or your generation has it all figured out, and actually listen to the wisdom of these wonderful saints! Instead of trying to seek out a hired hand who is more "relevant" and in the same boat, why not listen to someone who has been there and still carries himself or herself with Christian grace?

You want to transform a church and help your families? I'll take God's plan any day of the week!

Adam Faughn (alegacyoffaith.us)

Church Membership

The late brother T. Pierce Brown once wrote the following profound and biblically accurate statement: "Church membership is the byproduct of salvation." Some folks in their minds divorce church membership from salvation, but in reality, there is an inseparable, biblical link between them. One cannot enjoy salvation without church membership, and one can not have actual church membership without first having been saved from his or her past sins. Despite what individuals might imagine, church membership and salvation are permanently tied together.

The very process by which one enters into salvation is the identical process by which one enters into church membership. The NKJV reads, "...the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Other translations, referring to church membership, read, "...the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47 ESV).

That process leading to salvation and church membership culminates at immersion (Romans 6:3-5) or baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, 41). Contrary to what general denominational dogma stipulates, water baptism does save from sin (1 Peter 3:20-21). Jesus summarized the divine plan for human redemption in Mark 16:16 as faith plus baptism equals salvation.

Corresponding to the physical act of baptism, at baptism, the Holy Spirit places the saved into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), which is the church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18) of Christ (Rom. 16:16). Hence, salvation and church membership are the same activity. Therefore, to decry church membership is to denounce one's own salvation. Furthermore, to falter in the obligations of one's church membership (Heb. 10:25) jeopardizes one's salvation, too (Heb. 10:26-31).

A Christian's salvation is only as healthy as his or her church membership. The degree of activity with which one engages his or her church membership is an indicator of one's spiritual health or salvation. Nevertheless, numerous New Testament passages encourage Christians to **act like Christians!** "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**" (Eph. 5:8 NKJV). The Lord's church needs to act like the body of the saved—as individual Christians and collectively as congregations.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Vol. 19:12 [Dec. 2017], p. 2)

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

Dec. 11 Amos 9; Obadiah; James 2-3

Dec. 12 Jonah 1-2; James 4-5

Dec. 13 Jonah 3-4; 1 Peter 1-2

Dec. 14 Micah 1-2; 1 Peter 3-4

Dec. 15 Micah 3-4; 1 Pet. 5; 2 Peter 1

Dec. 16 Micah 5-6; 2 Peter 2-3

Dec. 17 Micah 7; Nahum 1; 1 Jn. 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."



Visitation Meeting

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

Announcements

- ◆ If you could be on a rotation to take Lee to his treatments, please let Don Smith know. Also, if you are scheduled to transport Lee and you are sick, or think you may be getting sick, please get someone to take your place. Lee cannot afford to catch anything.
- ◆ We will have a New Year’s Eve Party following evening services on December 31st. Bring snack/finger foods, games, etc.
- ◆ Be sure and check out the new bulletin boards in the back hall.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Enjoyment without God?

“For who can eat and can have enjoyment without Him?” (Eccl. 2:25). Certainly men do eat, enjoying food in abundance. Men today are pleasure men, enjoying the fruits of unparalleled wealth. So what was Solomon’s point?

First, **true enjoyment of the blessings of life is not possible, in the ultimate sense, without God.** While some may feel that alcohol with a meal is “the good life,” such is, in reality, shallow and empty. Why? Because one sadly believes that his enjoyment comes purely because of his own efforts and his own abilities. Thus, there is no gratitude. It is a failure to recognize that if God didn’t send blessings to the righteous and unrighteous they wouldn’t have anything at all (Matt. 5:44).

Second, **recognizing the hand of God in one’s blessings heightens enjoyment, even in the simplest of blessings.** We don’t need to live in mansions, to drive a nice car or to have fancy clothes to be happy. Paul said that “if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content” (1 Tim. 6:8). He also penned, “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.” How can one successfully do this? The key is, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:12-13). Solomon, who was blessed with considerable wealth, recognized that having all that one could ever want (see his list in Eccl. 2:1-11) was “vanity and striving after wind.” Why? Because true, lasting enjoyment is not found in things or worldly pleasures.

Having God in one’s life provides a “peace that surpasses understanding” (Phil. 4:6), and allows one to rejoice and appreciate all of God’s wonderful blessings. So, what is the answer to our question? Can one have enjoyment without God? No, not true enjoyment. **Only when we have God in our lives can we fully enjoy all that this life has to offer.**

Denny Petrillo (Gospel Gazette Online, Vol. 19:12 [Dec. 2017], p. 5)

Celebrate

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

December Birthdays: Lee Tenery (6), Estelle Guthrie (7), **Laverne Thomas (13)**, Kaci Churchwell (18), 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. 26, 2017	Dec. 3, 2017
Bible Class	47	43
AM Worship	70	63
PM Worship	43	36
Wednesday PM	45	38
Contribution	\$2,159	\$2,628

	This Week: 12/10/17	Next Week: 12/17/17		
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 Smith Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family</p>	
Greeters	John Barnum Family	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Ryan Rudloff*, Hank Wheeler Don Smith, James Thomas	Allen Griffith*, Randy Huckaby John Barnum, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff		
Communion	Ryan Rudloff	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 13 Rafe Smith	December 20 Don Smith	December 27 Joe Dennis	January 3 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 December 10, 2017

Sunday Class **Romans 8:30**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 7:17**

Take Heed Lest You Fall

- "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).
- I. **The Bible Teaches That a Child of God Can Fall and Be Lost** (Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4; 6:7-9; Rev. 3:16; Jn. 15:1-6; Mt. 25:14-30; 13:41-42).
 - II. **Some Things Which Cause People to Drift Away from the Church.**
 - A. **Evil associations** – "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Cor. 15:33).
 - B. **A desire to be popular** (Jn. 12:42-43).
 - C. **Marriage adjustments.**
 - D. **The coming of a baby.**
 - E. **A move into a new community.**
 - F. **Too much money** (1 Tim. 6:17; Rev. 3:17; Mt. 13:22; Eccl. 5:10).
 - G. **Too little money** (Prov. 30:8-9).
 - H. **Idleness in the church** (2 Cor. 6:1).
 - I. **Sickness.**
 - J. **Sunday work** (Mt. 13:22; Heb. 10:25).
 - K. **Worldliness** (2 Tim. 4:10; Mt. 6:24; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Jas. 4:4).
 - L. **The feeling that one has been wronged by another member of the church.**
 - M. **Discouragement.**
 - N. **The pharisaical attitude of some members** (Gal. 6:1).
 - III. **Some Things Which Fortify Christians Against Falling.**
 - A. **A study of circumstances which lead to a backslidden state.**
 - B. **The avoidance of evil** (1 Thess. 5:22).
 - C. **A consciousness that "I" am not exempt from falling**, just like any other person (Mt. 26:33).
 - D. **An understanding of the progressiveness of sin** (Ps. 1; Mt. 26:58-75; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).
 - E. **A memory of Scripture** and the quotation of appropriate passages in the moment of trial will fortify us against falling (Mt. 4:1-11; Jas. 4:7).
 - F. **The control of thoughts** (Prov. 4:23; Mt. 15:19).
 - G. **Faithful attendance** at the services of worship and study (2 Tim. 4:2).
 - H. **The addition of Christian graces** (2 Pet. 1:5-10).

Motivation for Godly Living and Other Duties – Titus 2:11-15

- I. **Sound Doctrine Concerning Motivation for Godly Conduct (11-14).**
 - A. **The Wonderful Grace of God (11-12).**
 1. "The grace of God" (11).
 2. The grace of God "brings salvation".
 3. God's grace "teaches us",
 - a. "Deny ungodliness".
 - b. "Deny...worldly lusts".
 - c. "Live soberly".
 - d. "Live...righteously".
 - e. "Live...godly".
 - B. **Our Hope and the Return of Jesus (13).**
 1. Our hope and the appearing of Jesus.
 2. The Christian is to be "looking for" that hope.
 3. Paul referred to Jesus as, "our great God and Savior".
 - a. Jesus is God, that is, He is deity!
 - b. The Greek grammar indicates that both the words "God" and "Savior" in this verse refer to Jesus.
 - 1) the word translated "appearing" is a singular verb.
 - 2) He is the one "who gave Himself for us".
 - C. **The Sacrificial Death of Jesus (14).**
 1. Jesus "gave Himself for us".
 2. Jesus gave Himself for us "that He might redeem us from every lawless deed".
 3. Jesus gave Himself to "purify" us – once purified in this way, one becomes one of the Lord's "own special people!"
 4. The Lord's own special people should be "zealous for good works".
- II. **Sound Doctrine Concerning Other Duties of Titus and Gospel Preacher (15).**
 - A. Titus (and each Gospel preacher) is commanded to do three things:
 1. "Speak these things",
 2. "Exhort", and
 3. "Rebuke".
 - B. "With all authority".
 - C. "Let no one despise you".