

# 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 17, 2017

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
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www.4thstreetcoc.org  
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.

## What Must I Do to be Lost?

Sometimes people get caught up in discussions about what sins will send a man to hell. Usually, the “really bad” sins, like adultery or murder, top the list with little question. Then there are the “little sins” – sins society tolerates more-or-less – like cursing, coveting possessions, recreational drug and alcohol use, or lust.

Perhaps we could talk about how even *Christians* often turn a blind eye to some sins. To our shame, it is not hard to find Christians full of pride, selfishness, ungratefulness, anxiety, and worldliness. The truth is any sin, no matter how small, can damn Christians. As Isaiah told God’s people: “*Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear*” (Isa. 59:1-2).

### “Is it a Sin to...”

Yet many Christians still ask the question, “What must I do to be lost?” Not with those words, of course, but with other questions. “Do I have to go to every church service?” “Is \_\_\_\_\_ a salvation issue?” “How far can I go with \_\_\_\_\_?” “How many drinks is too much?”

These *can* be legitimate questions. And if we are willing to listen, the Bible answers all of these questions with great clarity. **But the problem is usually not the question itself; it’s the attitude *behind* the question.**

What I mean is this: Many Christians are no better than the servant who was given one talent and went and buried it. When the master returned, the servant handed over the one talent. To which the master responded: “*Cast this worthless servant into outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*” (Matt. 25:14-30).

**The attitude behind, “What must I do to be lost?” is akin to, “What is the least I can do/get right/believe/commit and still be saved?” When we start drawing lines in the sand, we start forgetting that what belongs to our Master is our complete devotion.**

### All or Nothing

Of course, the Lord is patient and wishes for all to come to repentance. Yet that does not negate the fact that **He is still coming**, and will do so without warning. As a result, we are commanded to “*be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish*” (2 Pet. 3:8-17).

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But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “*He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.*”  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-9**



# Where Did All of the Flood Waters Go?

According to evolutionist Bill Butler, “The greatest geologic fiction that the Creationists adhere to is Noah’s Flood” ([www.durangobill.com/Creationism.html](http://www.durangobill.com/Creationism.html)). The idea that water ever covered the entire Earth, including the highest hills and mountains (Gen. 7:19-20), supposedly is unthinkable (and impossible). Evolutionists propose several questions when expressing their unbelief in the Noahic Flood. One such question was raised by Butler in his article, “Creationism = Willful Ignorance.” He asked: “If the earth’s surface were covered by an additional 29,000+ feet of water, how do you get rid of it?” If Mt. Everest reaches a height of over 29,000 feet, then the Bible allegedly indicates that the Flood waters reached even higher—approximately 23 feet higher than the peak of Mt. Everest (Gen. 7:20). If such is the case, where did all of the water go?

First, the Bible is more specific about **who** caused the waters to subside, than **where** exactly all of the waters went. Genesis 8:1, 3 says, “**God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.... And the waters receded continually from the earth.**” Years later, the prophet Isaiah recorded how Jehovah compared a promise He made to Israel with His promise “*that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth*” (Isa. 54:9). Although these passages do not tell us exactly where the waters went, for the Christian who believes that the Bible is God’s inspired Word, such revelation should be adequate—**God did something** with the Flood waters.

Second, the skeptic’s assertion (that there presently is not enough water on the Earth for there ever to have been the kind of flood described in Genesis 6-8) is based upon invalid assumptions. The truth is, we are unaware how high the mountains were in

Noah’s day, nor do we know the depth of the ocean valleys. Thus, one cannot know how much water was on the Earth during the Noahic Flood. Psalm 104:6-8 indicates that, at some time in the past, God established **new** heights and depths for the Earth’s mountains and valleys. While directing his comments to Jehovah, the psalmist proclaimed:

*You covered it [the Earth—EL] with the deep as with a garment; the waters were standing above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. **The mountains rose; the valleys sank down to the place which You established for them***” (NASU, emp. added).

Just as God miraculously altered the Earth’s topography during the creation week (Gen. 1:9-13), and just as He miraculously sent flood waters upon the Earth, it appears that God miraculously caused the waters to subside. In all likelihood, the antediluvian world was vastly different from the Earth of today (cf. 2 Pet. 3:6). It seems probable (and reasonable to believe) that the mountains of Noah’s day were much smaller than, say, such peaks as Mt. Everest or Mt. McKinley that are so well known to us. Thus, the Flood did not have to rise to levels of 29,000+ feet to cover everything on the Earth. We know, according to the Scriptures, that the waters rose above the mountaintops; however, we simply cannot know the heights reached by the antediluvian mountains. (Interestingly, marine fossils have been found near the top of Mt. Everest.)

Where did all of the Flood waters go? The most logical answer in light of the Scriptures appears to be that God made room for the waters by adjusting the Earth’s topography. Much of the water from the Flood likely has retreated into the deeper ocean trenches—valleys that, in places, are over seven miles deep.

Eric Lyons ([apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org))

## 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](http://TheGospelRadioNetwork.org)

[Gospel Broadcasting Network \(Gbnv.org\)](http://GospelBroadcastingNetwork.com)

## 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. 17** Micah 7; Nahum 1; 1 Jn. 1-2

**Dec. 18** Nahum 2-3; 1 John 3-4

**Dec. 19** Habakkuk 1-2; 1 Jn. 5; 2 Jn.

**Dec. 20** Hab. 3; Zeph. 1; 3 Jn.; Jude

**Dec. 21** Zephaniah 2-3; Revelation 1-2

**Dec. 22** Haggai 1-2; Revelation 3-4

**Dec. 23** Zechariah 1-2; Revelation 5-6

**Dec. 24** Zechariah 3-4; Revelation 7-8

*“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 **42 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ Johnny will not be here next Sunday or the following Wednesday evening. **Bryan Braswell** will fill in Sunday morning (class & sermon), and **James Fuller** will bring the lesson Sunday evening.
- ◆ There will be a **baby shower**, Saturday, January 6, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, in our fellowship hall, for **Caitlyn and Ryan Settles**. They are expecting a girl, **Riley**. Selections are at Wal-Mart. Also, there may be (?) a planning meeting after services this morning or this evening. TBD.
- ◆ **Ann Walker**, Laura Huckaby’s mother, has moved to Brownwood. Her address is: . We know it will be a blessing to the family, and to us, to have her here.
- ◆ We will have a **New Year’s Eve Party** following evening services on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Bring snack/finger foods, games, etc.

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

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

Peter did not command us to learn the art of distinguishing between so-called “essentials” and “non-essentials.” He did not tell us to “know how much we can handle” when it comes to alcohol, drugs, crude jokes, unbecoming language, lust, tempers, gambling, and “*things like these*” (per Gal. 5:21).

Instead, we are commanded to love God with every ounce of our being (Mark 12:30). We are commanded to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord*” (2 Pet. 3:18).

**We are to flee – not draw lines in the sand – every flavor of sin** (1 Cor. 6:12; 10:14; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).

Jesus told the Laodicea church of Christ that they were lukewarm. He told them He’d rather them be hot or cold – *anything* but lukewarm. **God doesn’t want our partial, hairsplitting, apathetic, unbalanced, hypocritical devotion.** He demands we **sacrifice it all** (Luke 14:33) and **count everything as loss** (Phil. 3:8).

What must you do to be lost?

Be indifferent. Get as close as you can to sin without sinning. Take a chill pill. Only worry about the “salvation issues.” Presume on God’s grace. Do nothing.

*Ben Giselbach* (plainsimplefaith.com)

**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**

	Dec. 3, 2017	Dec. 10, 2017
Bible Class	43	36
AM Worship	63	56
PM Worship	36	41
Wednesday PM	38	44
Contribution	\$2,628	\$1,586

	This Week: 12/17/17	Next Week: 12/24/17		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<b>December 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Dennis Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby	
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Randy Huckaby John Barnum, Ryan Settles	Rafe Smith*, Joe Dennis Larry Petty, Hank Wheeler		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	December 20 Don Smith	December 27 Joe Dennis	January 3 Prayer Night	January 10 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 December 17, 2017

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 8:35**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 9:1**

#### "Lay By In Store"

*In every age and dispensation, men have been taught to give or sacrifice to God; hence, the giving of our means has ever been a matter of concern to him.*

- I. **1 Corinthians 16:2** – several questions relative to giving are answered here.
- When?** "On the first day of the week".
  - Who?** "Let each one of you".
  - What?** "Lay something aside".
    - This tells us what to do, and every Christian should purpose to do it.
    - We give "not grudgingly or of necessity" (2 Cor. 9:7).
  - How much?** "As he may prosper".
    - Proportionate giving.
    - The "tithes" was given under the patriarchal and Jewish dispensations – this was proportionate giving and the percentage was 10%.
    - Tithing is not commanded under the Christian dispensation – however, would God expect less of us today?
  - Why?** "That there be no collections when I come".
- II. **Related Matters.**
- We are stewards** (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 4:10).
  - The churches of Macedonia were strong in giving** (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
    - "In a great trial of affliction" and "deep poverty", but rich in liberality (2).
    - They gave "beyond their ability" and "they were freely willing" (3).
    - "They first give themselves to the Lord" (5).
  - Giving is a grace to be cultivated.**
- III. **What a Failure to Give Indicates.**
- In some instances, **a lack of teaching.**
  - In other cases, **rebellion toward God.**
  - That one is religiously lopsided**, that he believes the Bible in spots.
  - A lack of faith in God's word.**
  - A lack of interest in mission work.**
  - A lack of interest in benevolent work.**
  - A lack of interest in the work of the local congregation.**
  - A lack of cooperation.**
  - A love of money.**
  - That one is a poor investor.**

#### Reminding Christians of the Importance of Good Works and of Our Past Life

##### Titus 3:1-3

- I. **Reminding Christians of the Importance of Good Works** (3:1-2).
- We must be subject to, submit to, obey rulers and authorities.**
  - Preachers – remind Christians to, "be ready for every good work".
    - "Ready" = prepared and willing.
    - We need to cleanse ourselves of iniquity and be prepared for every good work (2 Tim. 2:21).
  - "Speak evil of no one" – avoid slandering & treating people with contempt.
  - "Be peaceable" – not fighting, quarrelsome or contentious.
  - "Be...gentle" – kind, gracious and forbearing.
  - "Show all humility to all men".
    - "Humility" = meekness (strength under control), mildness and being considerate.
    - God expects us to be meek, mild and considerate to all people.
- II. **Remembering Our Past Life** (3:3).
- One reason why we should "show all humility to all men" – before our conversion to Christ, we were guilty of some wicked behaviors.
  - Paul used several words/phrases to describe himself and most people before conversion.
    - "Foolish" – without spiritual understanding.
      - This was because of choices that we made.
      - God says we were without excuse (Rom. 1:20)
    - "Disobedient".
    - "Deceived".
    - "Serving various lusts and pleasures".
      - "Serving" = to be in slavery to.
      - "Lusts" = strong desires, longings or cravings – often sinful desires.
      - "Pleasures" = sinful passions.
    - "Living in malice and envy".
      - "Malice" = wickedness, evil disposition, desire to do evil to others.
      - "Envy" = hate to see the prosperity or success of another person.
    - "Hateful and hating one another".
  - Notice that Paul said he and others were once like this (*in the past*).