



## Contact Us:

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## 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.

## Peace with All Men

*"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men"* (Rom. 12:18).

Paul implies peace may not always be possible, but it is an object of desire. "As much as lieth in you," that is, do your best to preserve peace. Don't begin or originate a quarrel. Don't stir up trouble over things of no vital importance. So far as we are concerned, we are to seek peace, but it doesn't always depend on us. We may be attacked one day by snarling, biting dogs. We may be called upon to defend truth. Ours is to live peaceably. We start no strife, or contention.

It was not possible for Paul to live peaceable with all men. He will reference many times how he was among those who sought to do him harm (2 Cor. 11:24-26). Paul referred to the wild beast in Ephesus. He said that "Alexander did me much harm" (2 Tim 4:14). Even our Lord did not find it possible to live peaceably with all men. He overthrew the table of the money changers on two separate occasions. He warned His own disciples, "If the world hates me they will hate you" (John 15:18). The Jews were determined to kill Him. Caiaphas said, "This man has got to die for the nation" (John 11:51-52). However, Jesus nor Paul went about looking to start a fight or stir up trouble. When they faced the difficulty of living peaceably with others they made sure it was others who stirred the strife.

We ought to be a peace-loving people. In fact, we are commanded to "seek peace" (1 Pet. 3:11). Peace is something we must pursue (2 Tim. 2:22). Peace is to be a present characteristic of our life. We also need to pursue peace so that our lives may be tranquil and live at peace before God in the same way we live righteously before God. Peace is as foundational as faith, love and righteousness. It is not optional! Yet, at times we find ourselves embroiled with others who just will not live peaceably and so we are left to contend for what is right or what is truth. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peace makers..." (Matt. 5). That is an interesting concept. He did not say, Blessed are those who enjoy peace, nor, those that want peace, or even, maintain peace. But, instead, make peace. Making peace means there is a situation where peace does not exist. The Lord had in mind, first and foremost, peace with God.

*(Continued on page 2)*

The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. **Rom. 14:17-19**



(Continued from page 1)

So here is the real question. How do we do live peaceably? Well, first we will not be able to live in peace with others until we live in peace with God (Romans 5:1). If we find ourselves enemies of the Creator we are not at peace. Peace is found in salvation. Salvation is found in the Savior. The Savior brings peace. Enemies are reconciled to Him by His blood (Eph. 2:13-14). There is no peace with God apart from Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace.

So for us, peace can be attained in this manner: “to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility” (Titus 3:2). See the family of words? They all form a unit. Get the point! We live peaceable with all men when we do not speak evil, when we are gentle and show all humility. Notice right before peaceable is to speaking evil of no one. How many times is peace interrupted because someone has a poorly thought out word? It only takes one word to do it. Then notice what follows. What would be the impact on peace if we put gentle into the equation? Not a harsh word or action. What if everybody were gentle? Would that contribute a lot to peace? Would that make it possible to live peaceably with all men? Then see, “showing all humility.” Man is at the apex of all God created. Man is made in God’s own image. To depreciate man is to depreciate God. Humility is a chosen place in which one chooses to take second place to others. We let someone go before us. We give our self second place. We do that not because the other is better than us, but because we think they deserve to be first. We show humility because that makes us like God (Matthew 5:45). Did the Lord ask the impossible of us?

Sadly, in spite of all this it is still not possible to live peaceably with all men. But, when it is not possible I need to make sure I am not the reason why. Sometimes we may have to fight a war to have peace. However, I need to make sure I am not just wanting to make war.

We have confused those who contend for the faith and those who are contentious. Contentious people like to fight. They do not care what the fight is about. Fighting for the faith is just a convenient excuse to fight. Some just like to stir the pot. They destroy unity, set everyone on edge, and make people suspicious of others. Controversy for the sake of controversy is not seeking peace. Ephesians 4:1-3 sets the tone and attitudes necessary for brethren to get along. Patience, forbearing, humility are the necessary ingredients. True enough we may have to be at war. The call to peace is a not a figure. It is a factual matter. We have been called to be peaceable people. The angels declared at the birth of Jesus that He would bring “Peace on Earth.” The prophets called Him the “Prince of Peace.” The people of Jesus follow that model. That does not mean peace over right or heresy. It means we have been called in a high priority matter to be peaceable, as much as we can, in all circumstances, and with all people. That is built into the peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7). It only takes one to disturb the peace. I can only control me and what I am pursuing. I need to make sure I am pursuing peace. I need to make sure I am fighting only when the fight is necessary. Can we carry grudges? Can we be a grouch to those around us? Can we be obstinate and obnoxious so that we do not get along with anybody? Yes. And, we cannot say, “Well, that is just the way I am.” There are consequences if we behave that way. “Pursue peace with all men,” not just brethren. That is our call.

Peace is not the absence of trouble. It is hard work. It deals with our spirit, our heart. It is attainable. The Lord expects it. We are to pursue it. Here is a novel idea, “Let’s give it a try and see how it works.” The fruit is better (Jas. 3:17). The church will be better. Our homes will be better. Society will be better. I will be better. The path to heaven is through Christ. He provides peace. Give His way a try.

*Rickie Jenkins* (focusmagazine.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

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

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Jan. 14</b> | <b>Genesis 40:9—42:28</b>      |
| <b>Jan. 15</b> | <b>Genesis 42:29—45:15</b>     |
| <b>Jan. 16</b> | <b>Genesis 45:16—48:7</b>      |
| <b>Jan. 17</b> | <b>Genesis 48:8—50:26</b>      |
| <b>Jan. 18</b> | <b>Exodus 1:1—5:9 (videos)</b> |
| <b>Jan. 19</b> | <b>Exodus 5:10—8:15</b>        |
| <b>Jan. 20</b> | <b>Exodus 8:16—11:10</b>       |
| <b>Jan. 21</b> | <b>Exodus 12:1—14:20</b>       |

*“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 **49 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ There will be a seminar on **Personal Evangelism** with **Rob Whitacre**, Friday evening (7:00-9:00) and Saturday (9:00-2:30) at the **Granbury Street Church of Christ** in Cleburne. See bulletin board for details.

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

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

## Rules

The world has never had any rules. The world doesn't even really like guidelines. How can something like, "Live for today," qualify for a rule or a guideline?

William Barclay wrote, "One of the characteristics of the world in which we live is the lowering of standards" (*The New Daily Study Bible: The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 137). Many in the world have no standard at all. The disciple of Christ must live according to the standards of Christ. The only other option is to live in profligacy.

Jesus described his disciples as salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16). Salt was valuable in Jesus' day. Roman soldiers were often paid with salt, hence the term, "salary."

Salt flavors food and is a preservative. The flavor of a Christian is behavior in accordance with the standard given in the Bible. If a disciple of Christ obeys that standard, he will have a reputation thereby, or a flavor. If he does not, he cannot hope to be preserved as a Christian.

Light is the other metaphor Jesus used. "You are the light of the world," he said (Mt. 3:14). Light helps people see where they are going and keeps them from stumbling. The light of God's word is the standard for our conduct as Christians. If one does not walk in the light, one walks in darkness. The apostle Paul wrote, "Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy" (Rom. 13:13).

The sinful world does not like rules because to it, rules were made to be broken. Christians, however, know God created a world in which there is *order*, not chaos and anarchy.

Our decision is simple. Either we will live according to the rules of God's word or we won't. How are you living?

*John Henson (forthright.net)*

## Celebrate

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

**January Birthdays:** Rachel Smith (15), Tom Wilcox (17), Jaceten Evetts (20), Mary Chadwell (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29), Judie Turner (29).

**January Anniversaries:** None.

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

|              | Dec. 31, 2017 | Jan. 7, 2018 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bible Class  | 24            | 42           |
| AM Worship   | 38            | 62           |
| PM Worship   | 15            | 42           |
| Wednesday PM | 31            | 38           |
| Contribution | \$2,242       | \$2,400      |

|                               | This Week: 1/14/18  | Next Week: 1/21/18  |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Sunday AM:</b>             | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                               | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                               | <b>January 2018</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>Don Smith<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>McCaghren Family<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>McCaghren Family |   |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Fuller Family   | Dennis Family   |   |   |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Allen Griffith  | Gene Bannister  |   |   |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Randy Huckaby*, Hank Wheeler<br>Jack Turner, James Thomas | Allen Griffith*, Ryan Settles<br>Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis |   |   |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | Gene Bannister  | James Fuller  |   |   |
| <b>Attendance Cards</b>       | Ian Barnum  | Jaceten Evetts  |   |   |
| <b>Sunday PM:</b>             | Song Leader: Tom Wilcox                                   | Song Leader: Ken Maninger                                 |   |   |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Rafe Smith  | Tom Wilcox  |   |   |
| <b>Scripture Reading</b>      | James Fuller  | James Thomas  | <b>February 2018</b><br><b>Make Announcements:</b><br>Ken Maninger<br><b>Prepare Communion:</b><br>Fuller Family<br><b>Clean Building:</b><br>Dennis Family   |   |
| <b>Communion</b>              | Randy Huckaby   | Allen Griffith  |   |   |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | Ryan Rudloff  | Randy Huckaby   |   |   |
| <b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b> | January 17<br>Rafe Smith                                  | January 24<br>Don Smith                                   |   | January 31<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Video |

## 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 January 14, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 9:6**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 11:27**

#### "Pursue the Things Which Make for Peace"

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

"Let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Pet. 3:11).

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt. 5:9).

#### I. Things Which Destroy Peace.

- A. **Contention** (Prov. 26:24).
- B. **Vengeance** (Rom. 12:19).
- C. **A self-willed spirit** (Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:3).
- D. **An unholy ambition for power and preeminence** (3 John 9).
- E. **Bitterness, wrath, and anger** (Eph. 4:31; Prov. 29:22; 16:32; Eph. 4:26).
- F. **Foolish and ignorant questions** (2 Tim. 2:23).
- G. **Corrupt speech** (Eph. 4:29).
  1. **Hasty words** create strife (James 1:19): "Think twice before you speak".
  2. **Gossip and tale-bearing** excite strife (Prov. 16:28; 26:20).
  3. **Harsh words** are to be avoided (Prov. 15:1).
  4. **Clamor** is to be put away (Eph. 4:31).
  5. **Reveling** is forbidden (1 Tim. 6:4-5).

#### II. Things Which Make for Peace.

- A. **The seven bonds of union for mutual accord** (Eph. 4:4-6).
- B. **A recognition of a standard of authority makes for peace** (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- C. **An unselfish spirit** (Gen. 13:7-11; Phil. 2:4).
- D. **The practice of the Golden Rule** (Matt. 7:12).
- E. **Returning good for evil** (Rom. 12:20).
- F. **Being "willing to yield"** (James 3:17).
- G. **A forgiving spirit** (Col. 3:13; Matt. 6:12; Heb. 10:17).
- H. **A longsuffering spirit.**

#### III. "If It Be Possible, as Much as Depends on You" (Rom. 12:18).

- A. It is not always possible to be at peace with all men.
- B. "Peace at any price" is a dangerous principle and should not be practiced by Christians.
- C. We should be willing to sacrifice opinions to be at peace with all men, but we should never compromise truth and duty.
- D. We must contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3).

#### Further Reminders and Conclusion – Titus 3:8-15

**Reminding Christians of the Importance of Good Works.** (3:1-2).

**Reminding Christians of Our Past Life** (3:3).

**Reminding Christians of Our Salvation and Our Inheritance and Hope** (3:4-7).

#### I. Reminding Christians to Maintain Good Works (8).

- A. Paul commanded Titus and each teacher/Gospel preacher to "affirm constantly" the need "to maintain good works".
  1. "Affirm" = to speak confidently, to insist.
  2. "Be careful" = to be thoughtful, intent and concerned about something.
  3. "Maintain" = to busy oneself with, to diligently engage in.
- B. Doing such good works is both good and profitable to men.

#### II. Reminding Christians to Avoid Some Actions (9).

- A. "Foolish disputes" = stupid, senseless controversies.
- B. "Genealogies".
- C. "Contentions" = strife, dissension and quarrels.
- D. "Strivings about the law" = fights, controversies.

#### III. Reminding Christians of the Need to Reject Divisive People (10-11).

- A. Titus (each teacher/preacher) is commanded to "reject a divisive man".
- B. "After the first and second admonition".
- C. Such a divisive person is:
  1. "Warped [perverted]".
  2. "Sinning".
  3. "Self-condemned".

#### IV. Personal Instructions from Paul to Titus (12-13).

- A. "Be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis".
- B. "Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey in haste".

#### V. One Final Reminder of the Importance of Good Works (14).

- A. Exhort Christians to keep on learning to maintain good works.
- B. "That they may not be unfruitful".
- C. What happens if we choose not to be fruitful in the Lord's work? (Jn. 15:6)

#### VI. Final Greeting and Wish (15).

- A. "All who are with me greet you".
- B. "Greet those who love us in the faith".
- C. "Grace be with you all. Amen".