

# 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



January 21, 2018

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
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.

## The Benefits of Personal Evangelism

The fact that Christians are to recognize their mission of evangelism is undeniable (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). Yet, it is easy for us to forget. Often, factors such as discouragement keep us from excelling or even abounding in our valiant efforts of such. Nevertheless, in order to be successful, we must change our level of triumph from conversions to the number of people we teach. We must continue to cultivate a passion for lost souls, and we must always see that spiritual death is far worse than physical death. In other words, with a few tweaks of thought and purpose, we can begin to see benefits of evangelism.

One benefit is that we will be as Christ. While on earth, Jesus was a soul winner. When He was not preaching to the multitudes, He was speaking to individuals about the condition of their souls—a woman of Samaria (Jn. 4), Zacchaeus (Lk. 19), and such like. Jesus said, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Lk. 19:10). Therefore, when we are evangelistic soul winners, we will be as Christ.

Another benefit is that we will be wise. In commissioning His apostles for their task of preaching (evangelizing), Jesus told them, *"...be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves"* (Mt. 10:16). Daniel records, *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever"* (Dan. 12:3). Wisdom increases as we take the knowledge of the word of God and put it into practice, which translates into experience.

A third benefit is that we will become fruitful. The Bible often categorizes the Christian life as developing fruit. While many references include the development of proper attitudes of godliness and true character (cf. Gal. 5:22-23), another such method of doing so is evangelism. The apostle Paul looked upon those whom he taught and led to their conversion to Christ as being his fruit (cf. Rom. 1:13; Phil. 1:22; Col. 1:6).

In addition, we benefit from evangelism by increasing our knowledge of the Bible (cf. Col. 1:10). Being an effective soul winner calls for diligent study of the scriptures for the purpose of exposing false doctrines taught in the religious world and effective communication of the pure and unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).

A fifth benefit of evangelism is that we know that our labor is not in vain. While we may not see immediate results of our teaching, we know that we are not sowing the word of God in vain (cf. Isa. 55:11). In addition, we understand that our role is simply to be a sower of the word—it is God that will provide the growth and increase (1 Cor. 3:6). Therefore, we can continue to abound in such a blessed work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

A final benefit of evangelism is that we will be pulling lost souls from the fires of hell—*"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire..."* (Jude 23). Of a soul winner, one could never say, *"You never mentioned him to me."* Therefore, soul winners strive to save the souls of men and women from the clutches of Satan. *"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (Jas. 5:19-20).

May we all see the benefits of personal evangelism, changing our attitudes and molding our purpose along the way, so that above all, God may receive the glory!

Sam Willcut (churchofchristarticles.com)

# Why Are We Silent During Communion?

If you worship at [a church of Christ], you will witness practices which seem out of place in popular Christianity: we sing as a congregation without the use of instruments; there is no praise team or choir; prayers are led and a sermon is preached from the Bible. The service is simple. There is nothing spectacular about what we do. Some feel uncomfortable with this simply because it is unfamiliar. If the other practices don't phase them, our practice of the Lord's Supper (Communion) might: as we partake, there is absolute silence. During this time, if a baby cries, they are quickly hushed or taken out of the auditorium—not because they have to, but the silence seems to demand it. A cell phone ringing is the height of embarrassment during this time. Even coughing or sneezing seems like an intrusion. Some may wonder, in light of how uncomfortable it makes some, why we chose to remain silent during this time. Here are a few reasons.

## It challenges the culture of noise

America has created a culture of noise. Whether we are in the car or the grocery store, we are surrounded by music of some kind. In fact, if we enter a business and they don't have music playing we immediately feel uncomfortable. Many of us can't even sleep without "white noise"—a fan or a TV playing in the background lulls us to sleep. We listen to podcast while we brush our teeth, the news when we go for a run, and have the TV playing so often in our home we don't even notice that it's on. Noise is the new norm.

And, in some ways, we are worse for it. Silence forces us to think, to contemplate, and to meditate. We are made to spend time with the self and reflect. Long periods of silence often moves our minds toward deeper realities: our morality, purpose, and the fear of isolation. At other times it gives our intellect a rest from the constant barrage of information and we have a chance to remember and reminisce on the past. Often our imagination is stifled by constant stimulation, but silence faces us with the demand to create. Many times our decisions are emotionally based—a practice that is encouraged by an overdramatized culture in which we feel every moment must be romanticized. This over-saturation of noise is historically unprecedented. The technology we surround ourselves with,

although beneficial in many ways, can insidiously damage an important part of human experience (i.e. silence) if we aren't careful. We need time to reflect, to think, and mediate on deep truths—reality altering truths.

This is why I believe silence during the Lord's Supper is so important. We need a time where our emotions aren't manipulated by lighting, music, or even a pleasant sounding hymn. We need a time to sit with the reality of self—with all of our sin and brokenness—and think on the grace given to us in the blood and body and the demands it makes of us in the coming week. We need to contemplate our mortality, and what it would mean without the realities these symbols represent: a black, cold existence without the death and resurrection of our Lord. Our hearts need rest and reflection, free from the distraction of noise; to be still (literally, let our hands hang loose, free from anxiety) and see what the Lord has done (Psa. 46:10). The church preserves and presents a community of reflection and meditation; a place where you are given time, on a weekly basis, to think deeply on the most reality shattering truth: the death, resurrection, and future return of Jesus.

## It instills a sense of sacred

There is a reason that we pause for a moment of silence when someone has passed or a tragic event occurs: it is to honor the significance of the moment by interrupting the normal cacophony of daily existence with pause. It creates a sacred space of silence in which we honor those who have passed and recognize the tragedy they endured.

In a similar way, when we pause in silence on Sunday as we partake of communion, we recognize, in awe and wonder, the great tragedy and triumph of Calvary. As we sometimes sing, "This is holy ground. We're standing on holy ground." The culture of modern day Christianity seems to stomp on anything sacred; to scoff at anyone who calls for proper form/attire when approaching God in worship. Maybe there is some truth to the critiques of the past; yet, in our desire to create a culture of ordinary, we may have trampled the sacred. Christians need to be reminded on a weekly basis that they live in the presence of the Lord; that their heart and life is sacred space for the Holy One. If all the earth is to keep silence before Him, shouldn't His people (Hab. 2:20)?

*(Continued on page 3)*

### 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. 21</b>	<b>Exodus 12:1—14:20</b>
<b>Jan. 22</b>	<b>Exodus 14:21—17:16 (video)</b>
<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>Exodus 18:1—21:21 (video)</b>
<b>Jan. 24</b>	<b>Exodus 21:22—25:9</b>
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>Exodus 25:10—27:21</b>
<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>Exodus 28-29</b>
<b>Jan. 27</b>	<b>Exodus 30-32</b>
<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>Exodus 33:1—35:29</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 **35 contacts** were made.

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

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

**Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

- ◆ March 1-4—“Arise!: A Southwest Spiritual Growth Workshop” @ Southwest (Austin).

(Continued from page 2)

**It reminds us of the transcendent**

Speaking of the realities that Christians experiences within the kingdom, Hebrews 12:22-24 says:

*“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

The Christian experiences a new reality within Christ; one that is tied to our current existence but transcends our present experience. We live, trusting in the promises of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:7) and the new reality he will one day bring in the “*new heavens and new earth where righteousness dwells*” (2 Pet. 3:13). We live in expectation, and the future reality of the fulfillment of God’s reign transforms how we live in the now.

Yet, on a daily basis we are surrounded by a culture that pushes us to trust only in the moment; to live for the passing and pleasurable. This is subconsciously enforced by the mad rush of American consumerism, the tabloid ethic of fame and happiness, and constant buzz of social media. More than ever, Christians need time to reflect and meditate on the transcendent reality they are called to live. To recognize that God has worked and will work again (1 Cor. 11:17ff). That there is a power—a personality—that transcends the frantic noise of the nations. That there is a “deeper magic” (as Lewis would say) which is the stronger undercurrent of reality—a strength that politics, popularity, and power can’t control. I believe that moments of silence, like we experience in communion, reinforces the Biblical worldview. It forces God’s people, for a moment every week, to stop and recognize that something glorious occurred and is currently working toward its ultimate end.

**Conclusion**

While I can’t necessarily point to a scripture which demands absolute silence during communion, I believe the theological roots are there. Before we reject tradition, we should think more deeply and discerningly about our motives in the present and the reasons of the past. The discipline of silence within the worship of the church is an important part of spiritual formation. Its a precious jewel in the crown of the church of [our Lord] and one I hope we will preserve and defend for generations to come.

*Jacob Rutledge* (redemptivereflexion.com)

**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**

	Jan. 7, 2018	Jan. 14, 2018
Bible Class	42	39
AM Worship	62	55
PM Worship	42	36
Wednesday PM	38	43
Contribution	\$2,400	\$2,522



	This Week: 1/21/18	Next Week: 1/28/18		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>January 2018</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghren Family <b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren Family	
<b>Greeters</b>	Dennis Family	Mike and Patti Bannister		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Ryan Settles Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Rafe Smith*, Larry Petty Jack Turner, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	James Thomas	Ryan Rudloff	<b>February 2018</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Fuller Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Dennis Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith	Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 24 Don Smith	January 31 John DeBerry (video)		February 7 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 January 21, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 9:14**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 12:4**

#### Don't Waste Time

- I. The Importance of Time.
  - A. *The question is not how to add years to life, but how to add life to years.*
  - B. *"Time is the most important thing in the world".* (Thomas Edison).
    1. Time is the best remedy for our heartaches and ills.
    2. Time is the most efficient detective to uncover error and illuminate truth.
    3. Time is the best builder.
    4. Time is the best arbitrator to restore broken relationships.
    5. Many of the valuable things of life which are lost can be regained, but time cannot be gotten back.
  - C. *The brevity and uncertainty of life emphasize the importance of time.*
- II. God Condemns Idleness and Laziness.
  - A. *Jesus rebukes idleness* (Mt. 20:6).
  - B. *Hunger is one of the penalties of idleness* (Prov. 19:15).
  - C. *The wearing of rags is another price the idle must pay* (Prov. 23:21).
  - D. *Idleness leads to many other evils* (1 Tim. 5:13).
- III. How Time Is Wasted.
  - A. *Lack of application* (Prov. 6:6).
  - B. *Lack of organization* (Prov. 22:29).
  - C. *Reading/watching useless things* (Prov. 23:7).
  - D. *Unwholesome recreation and entertainment* (1 Thess. 5:22).
  - E. *Meditating on past insults* (Mt. 18:15).
  - F. *Pondering past mistakes* (Phil. 3:13-14).
  - G. *Worrying* about what may happen in the future (Rom. 8:28).
  - H. *Gossiping or lending ears to a gossip* (1 Pet. 3:10).
  - I. *Lying in bed* longer than is needful or even helpful (Prov. 20:13).
  - J. *Unnecessarily long conversations* (Prov. 10:19; Eccl. 5:2).
- IV. Excuses Offered for Wasting Time in the Lord's Vineyard.
  - A. *"I have so many other things that have to be done,* it does not leave any time for church work" (Mt. 6:33).
  - B. *"I am too young to give my time to the Lord"* (Eccl. 12:1).
  - C. *"I am too old to accomplish anything"* (2 Cor. 4:16).
  - D. *"If I could do a big work, I would"* (Lk. 16:10).
  - E. *"The Lord cannot use me in His work".*

#### Galatians – Background Information

- I. To Whom Written.
  - A. *The location* – central Asia Minor (Turkey).
  - B. *The history.*
  - C. *The people.*
    1. *The race* – Gauls with a mixture of Phrygians, Greeks, Jews, and Romans.
    2. *Language* – Greek.
    3. *Character* – "The infirmity of the Gauls is that they are fickle in their resolves and fond of change, and not to be trusted" (Julius Caesar).
  - D. *Paul's experience with the Galatians* (Acts 13:13; 14:1-23; 16:6; 18:23).
- II. Written by Paul (1:1; 6:11).
- III. Date Written – about 57-59 A.D.
- IV. The Place of Writing – Macedonia? Corinth?
- V. The Purpose of the Letter.
  - A. *To overcome the influence of Judaizing teachers.*
  - B. *To reestablish Paul's apostleship.*
  - C. *To show that neither Gentiles nor Jews could be delivered from their sins by self-effort in keeping a set of ethical principles.*
- VI. Galatians Is Related to Romans.
- VII. Legalism vs. Antinomianism.
 

#### Outline

  - I. Paul's defense of his apostleship and the gospel (Chapters 1-2)
    - A. Introduction (1:1-10).
    - B. Paul's gospel and apostleship divinely derived (1:11-24).
    - C. Paul's gospel and apostleship confirmed and maintained (2:1-21).
  - II. Justification: Not by law but by faith in Christ (Chapters 3-4)
    - A. Justification by faith proved (3:1-14).
    - B. Superiority of the gospel to the law (3:15-29).
    - C. Illustrations why the law preceded the gospel and must give way to it (4:1-31).
  - III. Appeal to steadfastness, faithfulness and duty (Chapters 5-6)
    - A. Liberty of the gospel (5:1-12).
    - B. Limitations and power of freedom (5:13-26).
    - C. Demands of freedom (6:1-10).
    - D. Conclusion (6:11-18)