

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



May 13, 2018

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

Happy Mother's Day

It is that time of year again. One day in 365 that all who are living should observe—**Mother's Day**. Why not? Do not our mothers deserve a day in her honor? I believe so. I know so. In this mixed up world in which we live, a lot of people probably think there is nothing so special about Mother's Day. But—all living human beings owe their earthly existence to mother. Many Christians owe their Christian life to their mothers.

A Mother's Impact. A mother, human as she is, is that wonderful creature whose love knows no bounds, is never wavering, never waning. A mother, perhaps, is the rarest of all of God's creation. A University of Michigan survey reported 80% of 11-18 year-old girls desired to be just like their mothers. This suggests that one's mother is a very strong force in a child's life.

The Scriptures recognize the power of a mother's influence. Paul reminded Timothy of the vital role his mother Eunice had on his life and faith. "*I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure dwells in you as well*" (2 Tim. 1:5, ESV). Timothy's faith was genuine and unwavering. While Timothy's biblical faith came from the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), his faith was deeply influenced by his mother Lois. That is the way it ought to be.

What Great Men Have Said about Their Mothers. Paul's testimony of Eunice on Timothy's faith is apparent. Famous men have spoken highly of their mothers. Consider.

- Napoleon said, "the future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother."
- Theodore Roosevelt said, "She (mother) is more important by far than the successful statesman, businessman, artist, or scientist."
- Jewish Talmud asks, "Who is best taught?" and then answers, "He that is taught by his mother."
- Emerson said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."
- Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or can be, I owe to my mother."

Why Is a Mother's Influence so Powerful? The more we learn about life the more we understand the importance of mothers and fathers. Mothers ought to *encourage*. Who does not remember their mother saying, "Go ahead you can do it?" Mothers expect their children to do the right thing. The recent episode of the Baltimore mother who removed her son from rioting and protesting and brought

(Continued on page 3)

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



I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. **Romans 15:15-17**

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Why do bad things happen to good people? This is the question of the ages—one of monumental significance in the discussion of the existence of God.

Atheists argue that God cannot have all three traditional characteristics, that is, that He is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving (omnipotent, omniscient and omnibenevolent). Since there is suffering, they say that at least one of those characteristics fails Him. “If He is powerful enough to stop it and knows about it, He must not care enough to stop it,” they allege. Or, “If He is powerful enough and loving enough to stop it, He must not know about suffering.” Thirdly, they posit, “If He knows about it and cares enough to stop it, He must not be powerful enough.” From Ivy League academia to street smarts, people use this kind of argument (differently worded in many cases, to be sure) to attack the existence of God. How can this be answered? Can it be answered?

First, realize that when God created everything, it was “*very good*” (Genesis 1:31). He made no error or pain. Man was given freewill with the placement of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden, and man was warned (Genesis 2:16-17). Where there is choice, there must be consequences. Man chose unwisely, and the consequences of death and suffering were set in motion (Romans 5:12-14). The existence of suffering in the world is not God’s fault; it is altogether man’s fault.

There are several reasons men might suffer, but they are all traced back to sin. First, one might suffer because of his own sin. This is not always the case, but sometimes it is. Job’s friends tried to make him out to be some kind of profligate sinner, because they held to the theory of retribution—one suffering must surely deserve all that he is getting. One of them even said, “*Know therefore that God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves*” (Job 11:6). Still, it is possible to bring on one’s

own suffering by one’s own sin. An alcoholic or a drug addict knows the pain of self-inflicted illnesses and perhaps arrests.

Secondly, it is possible to suffer because of someone else’s sins. A drunk driver might kill an innocent, traveling family. That family suffers because of the sins of someone else. That is where people cry, “Unfair!” I guess it is unfair, but in this world of freewill, that is how it has to work. If God took away consequences, he would essentially be taking away choice. If my choices had no consequences, would they be choices at all? Could a drunk be drunk enough to unwittingly kill a deserving family but not an undeserving family?

The laws of nature factor in as well. God set in motion the laws of nature. He, throughout history, has only temporarily suspended them for miraculous verification of His messages (Exodus 5-12; Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:1-4). All such miraculous deeds have now ended (1 Corinthians 13:8-13; Acts 8:14-17). If, as some seem to expect, God would halt the course of natural law whenever it would accidentally (or purposely) hurt someone (e.g., misuse of fire or water), we would have no knowledge of natural law on which to depend. Yet, we depend on a lot of natural law for our good (use of fire, water, chemical reactions for prescription drugs, etc.).

Thirdly, one might suffer because of sin’s very presence in the world. After sin entered the world, a totally new set of circumstances followed. There would be death and disease. Some cite evidence that a major climate change would have indeed happened after the global flood of Noah’s day, which was brought about because of man’s wickedness (Genesis 6:5). The “*world that then existed perished*” (2 Peter 3:6). Perhaps the changed world allows for more climate disturbances (hurricanes, tornadoes) that hurt people. In other words, innocent people are hurt by natural disasters and by seemingly random incidents of disease.

Still, the existence of God need not be questioned. There is plenty of evidence otherwise (in design, cause-and-effect) that points to His reality. Furthermore, on top of

(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

May 13 2 Chronicles 33—36

May 14 Ezra 1—3 (video)

May 15 Ezra 4—7

May 16 Ezra 8—10

May 17 Nehemiah 1—4

May 18 Nehemiah 5—7

May 19 Nehemiah 8—10

May 20 Nehemiah 11—13

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **40 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ We will be having a **Graduation Celebration** for our high school graduating seniors (Mattison Churchwell, Shannon Dennis, Lunday Maninger, and Canyon Edwards) following our evening worship. Please plan to attend and bring each a card with your best wishes.
- ◆ There will be a **short meeting immediately after worship this evening to discuss the education program**. All teachers and anyone interested are encouraged to attend.
- ◆ **Shannon Dennis** will be graduating this Saturday afternoon, 2:00pm, at Cottonwood Baptist Church in Dublin. All are invited. Also, there will be an Open House the following Saturday (26th), 2:00-5:00pm, at the Dennis' home.
- ◆ There is a new ***The Spiritual Sword*** available on the back table, "Hardeman's Tabernacle Sermons."

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ May 19-20—Lovely Lectures.
- ◆ May 23-28—Young Men's Development Conference @ College Station (BSC Church of Christ)
- ◆ June 17-21—Lakes Shore Drive Junior Camp (Grades 2-7)
- ◆ June 24-28—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 15-20—Senior Camp
- ◆ Aug. 3-5—Discipleship University (Dripping Springs)

(Continued from page 1)

him home is an example. Mothers ought to give *independence* and *self-confidence*. Good mothers help as much as needed, but expects her child to learn to stand on his own two feet. Mothers ought to give us *emotional stability*. While life is a struggle in so many ways, and for so many, our mothers really ought to be a pattern of emotional stability.

A Mother's Lasting Influence of Their Children. Most know of Sir Walter Scott's great poetry and literature, many do not know of his mother's deep love for poetry and literature. A good influence.

Lord Byron was greatly influenced by his mother. Byron's mother had a horrible temper. She influenced Byron wrongly. Byron's parents were morally unrestrained, unfaithful to their marriage vows, and devoid of spiritual values. Byron learned to indulge in the sins of his parents. He left great poetry, but he left us an example of what happens to children when parents are careless and sinful.

A young mother was reading the Bible to her baby. A friend asked, "Surely you do not think your baby understands what you are reading?" Mother replied, "No, he does not understand now. But I want his earliest memory to be that of seeing and hearing the Bible." God bless good mothers.

W. Terry Varner (<http://harmarhillchurchofchrist.org>)

(Continued from page 2)

all that, He has indeed done something about suffering. He did not take it away because that would have taken away freewill. Rather, He came and suffered with us representatively in the person of His Son (1 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 2:5-7). "*He learned obedience by the things which He suffered*" (Hebrews 5:8). Now, having been risen from the dead, He sits at God's right hand to mediate on behalf of those still on earth suffering (Hebrews 2:18; 7:25).

Suffering is a real problem. We are right to do all we can to avoid and alleviate it. However, remember, it is not God's fault. Neither His existence nor His love can be questioned because of it. In fact, through it, He shows Himself to be "*the Father of all mercies, and the God of all comfort*" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Andy Robison (*Gospel Gazette Online*, May 2018, p. 16)

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Aliyah Rayon (3), Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), Barbara Bannister (10), Pam Teague (14), Billy Chism (15), Caitlin Settles (15), Gracen Hardy (30).

May Anniversaries: Joe & Lasha Dennis (6), Ryan & Tammy Rudloff (7).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Apr. 29, 2018	May 6, 2018
Bible Class	50	41
AM Worship	61	53
PM Worship	57	32
Wednesday PM	45	41
Contribution	\$2,130	\$2,052

	This Week: 5/13/18	Next Week: 5/20/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	May 2018 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister June 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Communion	John Barnum*, Hank Wheeler Rafe Smith, Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby*, Ryan Settles James Thomas, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	John Barnum		
Communion	John Barnum	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 16 Rafe Smith	May 23 Don Smith	May 30 5 th Wednesday Video	June 6 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 May 13, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 12:1**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 24:31**

Responding to Our Culture: As a Priest

What should Christians do as our country slips, or plunges, toward moral decay? How can we expect people who have never opened a Bible, or never lived within a Christian home or never darkened the door of a church to have the moral standard established by God as revealed in Scripture?

What can we do to build relationships which give us the opportunity to teach the "truth in love" (Eph. 4:15)?

I. The Heart of the Message.

A. Paul's great desire was for Israel to be saved (Rom. 10:1).

1. Israel had been cruel to Paul at times.
2. Yet, he didn't go around on an "anti-violence" campaign.
3. Instead he desired for them to be saved.

B. Paul's prayer was for Israel to be saved (Rom. 10:1).

1. Prayer is leaning upon God as our only sufficient source.
2. Again, his prayer wasn't for them to be less violent, but saved.

C. Paul becomes a priest to the outcast (Rom. 15:16).

1. Many Jews would have protested the Gentiles acceptance into God's family because of their heathen ways – but not Paul.
2. Paul didn't attack these people who would have often been immoral; instead, he approached them "ministering the gospel of God".

II. Messages for Today.

A. A desire to save souls is our greatest solution for our culture.

1. Remember Jesus approaching the Samaritan woman in John 4.
2. I can't help but wonder if Jesus were going to live a modern, Americanized version of this story, who would he go to, to talk about his or her soul?

B. Pray for our culture.

1. "I want to do something, but I don't know what to do".
2. Don't do anything until you have deeply and fervently prayed.

C. We must be dedicated to spreading the gospel.

1. Who is going to reach the immoral if we pretend the Great Commission is only for those who are moral?
2. God sent Paul to the Gentiles.
3. The day we abandon "our soul winning heart" to become "moral police" we have lost our way!

Bearing One Another's Burdens – Galatians 6:1-10

III. The Christian Walk (Chapters 5-6).

D. Bearing One Another's Burdens (6:1-10).

1. Once again, Paul addressed the Galatian Christians as *brethren*.
 - a. A situation in which a fellow Christian is *overtaken* in a *trespass*.
 - b. Who did Paul say should be responsible for dealing with one who was "overtaken in any trespass"? *You who are spiritual*.
 - c. The spiritual person is to *restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness*.
 - d. Paul offered a word of caution to those who seek to restore a brother who has sinned: *Considering yourself lest you also be tempted*.
2. *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ* (2).
3. In v. 3, Paul warned against spiritual pride - *For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself*.
4. Rather than using the faults of others as the norm for judging himself, *let each one examine his own work* (4).
 - a. *Then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another*.
5. Although Christians are to called to "bear one another's burdens" (2), v. 5 instructs *each one shall bear his own load*.
6. Paul shifts to providing financial support for ministers of the word – *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches*.
7. Verses 7-9, concerning sowing and reaping.
 - a. Paul's warning *Do not be deceived* is common in the Scriptures.
 - b. *God is not mocked*.
 - c. *For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap* is a principle from the physical world that is also true in the spiritual realm.
 - d. A shift in the language takes place in v. 8, laying the emphasis on the type of field instead of the type of seed.
 - 1) *He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption*.
 - 2) *But he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life*.
 - e. *Let us not grow weary* (9) – Paul included himself with the Galatians.
 - 1) *While doing good*.
 - 2) *For in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart*.
 - f. *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith* (10).