

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 27, 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:

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

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE (Part 1)

According to the Holy Scriptures, God in His infinite wisdom and marvelous grace conceived and formed an eternal purpose to redeem fallen mankind through Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:11). This purpose was formed "*before time began*" (Titus 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:8-12), and was gradually revealed down through the ages until it came to fruition in Christ, the gospel, the church, and the New Testament. To see the unfolding of this grand purpose is one of the most thrilling, exciting, and informative studies in which one can engage.

To make known God's eternal purpose is the purpose of the Bible, and to come to an understanding of that purpose and enter into it is the greatest blessing of mankind because it results in the salvation of one's soul – "*receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls*" (1 Peter 1:9). To grasp that eternal purpose amazingly expands one's view of the Bible and enables one to see that it is not a "self-help" book, a "feel good" book, a "health and wealth" book, a "pop psychology" book, a book on how to eliminate poverty (see Mark 14:7) or slavery (see Titus 2:9-10), a book on how to welcome and show hospitality to immigrants, or a book of myth, folklore, and human wisdom, with a few nuggets of good advice ("be a good person and have a good heart") and perhaps a few bits of divine truth thrown in for good measure. Rather, the Bible is a divinely inspired revelation from God, setting forth God's eternal purpose to save man through Christ and showing how one enters into and remains a part of that purpose.

In a sweeping doxology at the end of the book of Romans, Paul declared: "*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith – to God alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen*" (Romans 16:25-27). Clearly, in this great text Paul speaks of two theological ages—the epoch of mystery and the epoch of manifestation. God's purpose was called a mystery because prior to the coming of Christ it had not been revealed but had been "*kept secret since the world began.*" In the Old Testament it was only intimated, promised, and predicted, but it had not become a reality. With the coming of Christ, however, the age of mystery vanished and the age of manifestation arrived!

The apostle Matthew explains that Jesus spoke in parables so "*that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying, 'I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things have been kept secret from the foundation of the world'*" (Matthew 13:34-35). Quite clearly then, Christ began to make known that which throughout all the Old Testament had been a mystery—God's eternal purpose to redeem man through Christ! The saved of mankind will "*inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Matthew 25:34).

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"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said...., "Men and brethren, **what shall we do?**" Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2:36-38**

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

(Continued from page 1)

Of Christ the apostle Peter declares, "He indeed was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (1 Peter 1:20). In the infinite wisdom of God, the death of Christ was a "done deal" before time began! He was "the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8)!

Of those living in ages prior to the coming of Christ it is said, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises" (Hebrews 11:13). It was further said of them, "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us" (Hebrews 11:39-40).

Peter writes: "Of this salvation the prophets [of the Old Testament] have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that not to themselves, but to us, they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven – things which angels desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:10-12).

Paul spoke of "how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery as I wrote before in few words, by which when you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets..." (Ephesians 3:1-7). Thus, by divine revelation "the mystery" has now been made known to the inspired apostles and prophets of the New Testament and has been set forth by them in the New Testament scriptures (Romans 16:25-26). The church (the aggregate body of those redeemed by Christ) is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Hugh Fulford (to be continued)



Baptized Into What?

"And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?'" (Acts 19:1-3).

Prepositions are often overlooked as small and insignificant parts of a sentence. They are typically little words which lack the impact of the more impressive nouns and verbs on which we focus. Yet they give essential details to our communications. Without them, and especially without precise understanding of them, our messages are often misunderstood.

The picture above was taken of a baptism in Dharan, Nepal which took place in the dry season. When the young lady expressed faith in Jesus and a desire to be baptized for the remission of her sins, a search began for water in which that could be accomplished. The river bed outside town was dry – not even small hold-over pools could be found. No one in the church there had any kind of pool or pond which could be used. Finally, a used and empty plastic drum was located and partially filled with water.

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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 27 Job 16:11—20:11

May 28 Job 20:12—24:12

May 29 Job 24:13—29:13

May 30 Job 29:14—32:10

May 31 Job 32:11—35:16

June 1 Job 36:1—39:12

June 2 Job 39:13—42:17

June 3 Psalms 1—4 (videos)

"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 **31 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Canyon Edwards** will be graduating from Early High School Friday morning, 11:00am, at the Brownwood Coliseum.
- ◆ Congratulations to our recent graduates: **Shannon Dennis** (homeschool); **Mattison Churchwell** and **Lunday Maninger** (Brownwood); and **Sarah Rudloff** (Bangs); as well as other family and friends.
- ◆ Next Sunday will be our monthly First Sunday Fellowship Meal, following morning worship.

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

- ◆ 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)

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Thankfully, she was small and agile, able to easily fit into the barrel, where her obedience to the gospel was quickly accomplished.

Into what was she baptized? Why, obviously, into a barrel, right? Well, not really. The vessel holding the water is simply a convenience – necessary of course, but of no spiritual significance. She, as all repentant believers must be, was baptized into Jesus Christ, being buried with him (Romans 6:3ff) and putting Him on (Galatians 3:27). By doing so she was cleansed from her sins (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:6), was raised as a new creature to walk in a new life (Romans 6:4), was added to the Church which Jesus built (Acts 2:47), and received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39; 19:5-6).

The twelve believers in Ephesus whom Paul located had been baptized previously, but not into Jesus (i.e., “in the name of the Lord Jesus” Acts 19:5). As a result, they did not receive the blessings which baptism into Christ confers. Only when they obeyed “that form of doctrine to which [they] were delivered,” was salvation accomplished.

People today are often baptized into many different concepts or ideas. Some are baptized into a particular church. Others are baptized into a symbol of their salvation which they believe has already been bestowed. But only that baptism which is “Into the Lord Jesus” is effective toward salvation from sin and fellowship with Christ. Into what were you baptized? Or have you been baptized at all? Until you follow the example of the twelve in Ephesus (and millions of faithful since) you cannot “taste the heavenly gift” or “become partakers of the Holy Spirit” (Hebrews 6:5).

Michael Brooks (forthright.net)

WHAT TO DO DURING CHURCH

TEXT: James 1:21-22 – Are you a Doer or Hearer?

1. What to do BEFORE the Sermon (v.21a):

“lay aside all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness.”

2. What to do DURING the Sermon (v.21b):

“receive with meekness the engrafted word.”

3. What to do AFTER the Sermon (v.22): *“be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.”*

Con: Worship in Spirit & Truth (John 4:24).

SERMON STARTERS – Mark N. Posey

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Gracen Hardy (5/30), Mike Bannister (4), Caleb Dennis (6), Loutrell Dobbins (8), Shannon Dennis (13), David Greer (26), Stormy Barnum (27), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: James & Laverne Thomas (5), Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 13, 2018	May 20, 2018
Bible Class	49	44
AM Worship	65	58
PM Worship	50	46
Wednesday PM	51	45
Contribution	\$2,063	\$2,270

	This Week: 5/27/18	Next Week: 6/3/18		
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	
Greeters	Hank Wheeler & Jessica Stutzl	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Coyce Reed, James Fuller	Don Smith*, Larry Petty Jack Turner, Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Randy Huckaby		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Allen Griffith	June 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby	
Communion	Joe Dennis	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 30 5 th Wednesday Video	June 6 Prayer Night		June 13 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 27, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 12:3**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 25:19**

Acts 2 – What Must I Do to Be Saved?

In Acts, chapter two, Peter by inspiration, supplies a clear answer to the question.

I. The Day of Pentecost Set the Stage.

- "When the day of Pentecost had fully come..." (1).
- Jesus said the Kingdom would come "with power" during the lifetime of some of His followers then living (Mk. 9:1).
- Jesus promised to build the church (Mt. 16:18-20), yet He prohibited the proclamation of it until Pentecost.

II. The Holy Spirit Supplies the Power.

- The coming of the Holy Spirit (2-4) supplies the power for the effective preaching of the gospel message.
- The Holy Spirit filled the apostles and they spoke in languages they had not learned – making their preaching not only possible but effective.
 - Without this "sign" Peter would have had no audience.
 - The seed of the Kingdom (Lk. 8:11) would find good soil.

III. The Word Does Its Work.

- Peter's sermon is not to be confused with the tongues.
- The line of Peter's argument never lost sight of their question, "Whatever could this mean?" (2:12).
- "This is what was spoken by the prophet..." (2:16).
- The theme of his sermon: "the Lord".
 - It is unto "the Lord" that all men must appeal for salvation.
 - In 2:22-36, it was Peter's purpose to prove that Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had crucified, is the Son of God.
 - Conclusion: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (2:36).

IV. Sinners Respond: "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" (2:37).

V. The Conditions Stated: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (2:38).

VI. The Results: "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (2:41).

Ephesians - Introduction

- The Human Author:** "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ" (1:1); "Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus" (3:1).
- The Place of Origin and Date:** 1st imprisonment in Rome; about AD 60-61.
- The Destination:** "To the saints who are in Ephesus" (1:1).
- The Purpose:** To announce the purpose of God in this world through Christ and the church and to encourage the Christians in Ephesus to fulfill God's purpose in their lives.
- The Themes:** "Heavenly Places," "In Christ," "The Church," "Salvation," and "The Walk".

Outline

- The Salutation: A Letter to Faithful Saints** (1:1-2).
- The Purpose of the Glorious Church** (1:3 – 3:21).
 - All Spiritual Blessings and the Purpose of the Church (1:3-14).
 - Paul's Prayer for the Recipients' Deeper Understanding of the Purpose of the Church (1:15-23).
 - A Description of Those Living Outside the Purpose of the Church (2:1-3).
 - God's Eternal Purpose of Salvation (2:4-10).
 - Reconciled Through Christ's Blood (2:11-13).
 - Peace Made Possible in His Body (2:14-22).
 - Paul's Personal Ministry to the Gentiles (3:1-7).
 - God's Wisdom Made Known (3:8-13).
 - A Prayer for Power, Comprehension, and Fullness (3:14-21).
- The Practice of the Glorious Church** (4:1 – 6:20).
 - "Walk Worthy of Your Calling by Preserving Unity" (4:1-3).
 - Having a Sevenfold Unity (4:4-6).
 - Understanding Christ's Gifts for the Church (4:7-16).
 - Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind (4:17-32).
 - "Walk in Love by Following the Example of Christ" (5:1-6).
 - "Walk as Children of Light" (5:7-14).
 - "Walk in Wisdom" (5:15 – 6:20).
- The Benediction: A Blessing of Peace and Comfort** (6:21-24).