

# 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



June 3, 2018

## 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:

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 2)

"*Before time began*" God promised eternal life through Christ and the gospel (Titus 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:8-12). This is known as God's "*eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Ephesians 3:11). Throughout the ages of the Old Testament this purpose remained hidden (a mystery), but it "*has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*" (2 Timothy 1:9-10).

Paul wrote to the Colossians concerning "*the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints*" (Colossians 1:26). It was revealed by "*His word through preaching*" (Titus 1:3), and concerned things "*which now have been reported to you through those (the inspired apostles and prophets of the New Testament [Ephesians 3:5]) who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven*" (1 Peter 1:12) – "the word which by the gospel was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:25b).

God's eternal purpose was not for the Jews only (the fleshly descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob), but included the fact "*that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel*" (Ephesians 3:6). God's purpose reached its fruition in the church as the ultimate demonstration and display of the manifold (multi-faceted and many splended) aspects of the wisdom of God. As Paul put it, "*To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things by Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Ephesians 3:8-11)!

By His death Christ "*abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is the law of commandments contained in ordinances (the Old Testament), so as to create in Himself one new man from the two (Jews and Gentiles), thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both (Jews and Gentiles) to God in one body by the cross, by it having put to death the enmity*" (Ephesians 2:14-16). The "*one body*" is the church which Christ purchased with the blood of the cross (Colossians 1:20; Acts 20:28), which He Himself established (Matthew 16:18), of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23), of which there is but one (Ephesians 4:4), and of which He is the Savior (Ephesians 5:23)! It has "*been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*" and is the "*whole building*" that has been "*joined to-*"

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Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:2-3

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

(Continued from page 1)

gether” and that “grows into a holy temple in the Lord ... for a habitation of God in the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:14-22).

God’s eternal purpose is also referred to as God’s wisdom. In a magnificent passage in which he disavows speaking by the wisdom of men (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5) Paul goes on to affirm, “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:6-8).

Paraphrasing a prophecy from Isaiah 64:4, Paul declares, “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared to those who love Him’” (1 Corinthians 2:9). Rather than referring to heaven (as I often hear this verse used), Paul is talking about God’s grand scheme of redemption (His great eternal purpose) which people of the Old Testament had not seen or heard and which had not entered their hearts. But now “God has revealed them (the things previously unseen and unheard and which had not entered the heart of man) to us (the apostles and prophets of the New Testament [Ephesians 3:5]) by His Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:10). In turn, having “received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that [they] might know the things that [had] been freely given to [them] by God,” the apostles and prophets went on to speak “these things,” “not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches....” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). This is a strong and irrefutable affirmation of the verbal inspiration of what the apostles and prophets of the New Testament spoke and wrote in making known God’s eternal purpose – set forth with such clarity that, as Paul elsewhere declared, “when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:4)!

Christ is the centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose. It is

that “which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11). Thus, “when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). Into the hands of wicked men Christ was “delivered by the determined counsel/ purpose of God” to be crucified for the sins of all mankind (Acts 2:22-24).

Indeed, it may be said, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory” (1 Timothy 3:16). All who by faith in Him and obedience to the gospel become participants in God’s eternal purpose have the blessed assurance of knowing “that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Have you entered into God’s eternal purpose?

Hugh Fulford

## Three Important Questions

“Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Cor. 1:13). These three questions are set against the following background. “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, I am of Paul, or I am of Apollos, or I am of Cephas, or I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 1:10-12). The plea made by Paul in verse 10 is fully supported by the three questions. All three questions are rhetorical questions having a negative answer. Consider thoughts from these three important questions.

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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

**June 3** Psalms 1—4 (videos)

**June 4** Psalms 5—8

**June 5** Psalms 9—10

**June 6** Psalms 11—16

**June 7** Psalms 17—18

**June 8** Psalms 19—21

**June 9** Psalms 22—24

**June 10** Psalms 25—27

“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 **38 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** following worship this morning.
- ◆ **Time Traveler summer program begins this Wednesday evening.** All children who just finished 6th grade and under will meet together in room 10. Everyone else is in the auditorium.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** begins this week at Bangs, 7:00pm. A list topics and host for each week is on the bulletin board. You do not have to be young to attend SYS, only young at heart!
- ◆ **Bangs** is having **Vacation Bible School** this week, Monday through Wednesday, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, ages 3 years through 6th grade. Theme: *“Training Superheroes for God”*.

### 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)
- ◆ Aug. 17-23—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

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**The Question Over Division: “Is Christ divided?”** The religious world is greatly divided, and many believe that such is acceptable to God. Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20-21). Jesus died that believers might be united in His church (Matt. 16:15-23; Acts 20:28). The apostles worked that all who obey the Gospel have the same fellowship that they had with the Lord (1 John 1:1-3). It is human wisdom that created the problem of religious division. The inventions of creeds outside the Bible, organizations unsupported by the Bible and doctrines contrary to plain teaching of the Bible have made the sects that abound. Since there is only one Lord (Eph. 4:5) there is to be only one body (Eph. 4:4).

**The Question Over Devotion: “Was Paul crucified for you?”** Paul supplied his name to the question to squelch any thought of devotion made to him (or to any other person). All glory and honor are to be given exclusively to the Lord. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross places all devotion to the Lord. Paul wrote in the second letter to the Corinthians, *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if one died for all, then all died; and he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again”* (2 Cor. 5:14-15). Paul made that personal application, where he stated, *“the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20). Paul was converted to Christ, not mere men.

**The Question Over Discipleship: “Were you baptized in the name of Paul?”** Jesus said to the apostles, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19). When many Corinthians were baptized as is recorded in Acts 18:8, they did not become disciples of Paul, but they became disciples of Christ. The Lord himself said to Paul about the apostle’s stay in Corinth, *“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city”* (Acts 18:9-10). Everything about baptism unites the penitent believer with Christ, not any other. One’s old man is crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6). One is buried with Christ into His death through baptism into death (Rom. 6:4). One is raised with Christ out of the watery grave (Rom. 6:4-5). Baptism moves one into Christ (Gal. 3:27).

Jimmy Clark (Gospel Gazette Online, June 2018, p. 8)

## Celebrate

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

**June Birthdays:** 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 20, 2018	May 27, 2018
Bible Class	44	47
AM Worship	58	56
PM Worship	46	46
Wednesday PM	45	44
Contribution	\$2,270	\$1,733

	This Week: 6/3/18	Next Week: 6/10/18		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>June 2018</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Allen &amp; Linda Griffith  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p> <p><b>July 2018</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      McCaghren Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      McCaghren Family</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	James & Cindy Fuller	Mike & Patti Bannister		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Thomas	Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, Larry Petty Jack Turner, Ryan Rudloff	Allen Griffith*, Hank Wheeler Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	June 6 Prayer Night	June 13 Joe Dennis	June 20 James Fuller	June 27 Don 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 June 3, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 12:9**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 25:19**

#### Isaiah 2 & Daniel 2 – The Coming Kingdom/Church

The central theme of the Bible is the redemption of man, but salvation is enjoyed only by those who are in the kingdom of God. Consequently, the main theme of the Bible becomes Christ and His kingdom.

#### I. The Kingdom Prophesied.

- King Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2).
- The dream showed 4 kingdoms, Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, the Medo-Persian Empire, Greece, and Rome.
- The dream also showed a 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom, "in the days of these kings [Rome] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed".

#### II. Coming Church and Kingdom Same.

- The words church and kingdom do not mean the same thing, but that does not mean that they do not refer to the same thing.
- Isaiah 2 and Daniel 2 both find fulfillment in Acts 2.

#### III. A Spiritual Kingdom.

- The 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom would not have a human origin.
- Isaiah spoke of a coming kingdom totally separated from the state.
- Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (Jn. 18:36).

#### IV. A Never-Ending Kingdom.

- Each of the 4 great kingdoms represented would fall - but the 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom would be a never-ending kingdom.
- The OT spoke of the coming kingdom as an unending kingdom.

#### V. Kingdom to Begin in Last Days.

- Isaiah said that the church would be established in the "latter days" (Isa. 2:2).
- Daniel prophesied the kingdom would come in the days of the Roman kings.
- "This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: '...it shall come to pass in the last days'" (Acts 2:16-17).
- Christ was to be a priest and king at the same time (Ps. 110: 1-4; Zech. 6:13).
  - He could not be a priest on earth (Heb. 8:4), thus, neither a king either.
  - When He took His seat at the right hand of God after He had offered Himself for our sins, He became our priest and the King of Kings.

The kingdom/church of Christ stands today in all of her glory!

#### Ephesians 1:1-4 – Salutation and Chosen in Christ

#### I. The Salutation: A Letter to Faithful Saints (1:1-2).

- Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.
- The letter is addressed to the saints who are in Ephesus.
- And faithful in Christ Jesus.
  - The Christians to whom Paul wrote were designated as being *faithful*.
  - Finally, the brethren in Ephesus were identified as being *in Christ Jesus*.
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### II. The Purpose of the Glorious Church (1:3 – 3:21).

##### A. All Spiritual Blessings and the Purpose of the Church (1:3-14).

- Chosen in Christ* (3-4).
  - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - God is called "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ", which is somewhat unusual.
    - Since Jesus is God, in what sense is God His God? According to Christ's human nature.
  - Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.
  - Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.
    - The first spiritual blessing mentioned is that He chose us in Him.
    - This choosing by God occurred before the foundation of the world.
  - God has blessed us and made us His own so that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
    - In v. 1, Paul addressed his readers as "the saints", and here he indicated that Christians are to be "holy", the same word in Greek.
    - "Without blame" means "without blemish" or "being free from faultiness, as a sacrificial animal without spot or blemish (Lev. 22:21)".
    - In one sense, human beings cannot be holy as God is holy or without blame (1 Jn. 1:8).
    - In another sense, the Christian is holy and without blame because he is "in Christ".
    - The phrase "before Him" – "to see down in".
    - Scholars are unsure as to whether *in love* should be attached to "before Him" in v. 4 or to "having predestined us" in v. 5.