

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 10, 2018

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

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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:

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

A Little Faith for a Lot of Worry

One study showed that Americans consume over 10 tons of aspirin every year due to the physical side effects of worry. There is no doubt that worry and the stress it produces is one of the biggest challenges that we face. When we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by it, it will prove disastrous for us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Research the top reasons why people worry, and you will find that financial issues are consistently in the top 5 of every list. It is not very hard to understand why. The economy is struggling. Student debt is crippling, jobs are hard to come by, insurance costs are soaring, retirement funds have taken a beating, and so many other factors contribute to the reason why so many people are so anxious about money. But, regardless of the financial climate, God's will for His people is that they do not allow themselves to worry (Phil. 4:6; etc.). In fact, worry is an indicator of faith that needs to be strengthened, and focus that needs to be redirected. Jesus explained this concept in Matthew 6:19-34 when He discussed the need to seek Heavenly riches (vss. 19-21), develop Heavenly vision (vss. 22-24), and depend on Heavenly provision (vss. 25-34).

Seeking Heavenly Riches (Mt. 6:19-21)

Jesus said, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven*" (Mt. 6:19-20). He used the word "*treasure*" to refer to that which is precious or highly valued. The people of the first century were very much like people today as it concerned things of value. The two examples that Jesus used – expensive clothing and precious metals – were of great worth to them. So, they would go to great lengths to preserve and protect them. The problem was that they were physical and, therefore, in spite of whatever effort would be put forth, they would deteriorate over time, as is the case with everything that is physical. Thus Jesus' message was that His people make spiritual treasure the desire of their heart, and not physical, "*for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Mt. 6:21).

What people treasure becomes the guiding standard for their life. If my heart is set on physical prosperity – a lucrative job, a big house, luxurious vacations, and 5 star dining – then all of my effort and attention will be focused to that end. Countless hours of work, and sacrificing family and spiritual obligations will be no problem. I will do whatever it takes to get what I want even if that means forfeiting my physical and spiritual health (1 Tim. 6:10). But, on the other hand, if my focus is on spiritual prosperity, Heaven will truly be my goal, and serving God will fulfill my every longing. I will be satisfied with "*food and clothing*" (1 Tim. 6:8), and I will be able to find contentment in spite of a bad economy (Phil. 4:11).

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Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should **do what is honorable**, though we may seem disqualified. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

2 Cor. 13:7-8

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



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“*Godliness with contentment is great gain*” (1 Tim. 6:8). It is worth far more than anything money can buy. But for so many of God’s people, “*godliness with contentment*” seems so far out of reach. Paul warned that covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5). Usually when we think about idolatry we think of golden calves or statues of Buddha. But, truthfully we can idolize anything, including material possessions. Could it be that the reason so many of us worry so much over money is because we have begun to view luxuries as necessities? Perhaps the reason that contentment is so far from us is because we focus far more on physical things that what we realize or want to admit, and as a result we have begun to idolize them. Yet, in order to fulfill our purpose in life (Eccl. 12:13), all that we really need are the necessities. And, when we are truly seeking heavenly riches, the necessities will be more than enough.

Developing Heavenly Vision (Mt. 6:22-24).

Jesus used an interesting illustration in this context to express the importance of our vision being focused on Heaven. He contrasted the “*single*” eye with the “*evil*” eye. “*Single*” is in reference to an unfolded cloth that is laid out neatly on a table. He used it in a moral sense to speak of healthy spiritual vision. The “single eye” is healthy because it is focused on one thing – Heaven. David said,

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple” (Ps. 27:4).

Paul said,

“...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).

Jesus had just said that we were to place our hearts on Heaven, but in order to do that we must have healthy vision. We must fix our eyes singularly on things of Heaven and not on things of the world.

In contrast to that is the evil eye. It is morally impure and spiritually unhealthy. This is the eye that is focused on things of the world and not on things of Heaven. It’s vision is blurred and darkened because it will not allow itself to be exposed to the light (2 Cor. 4:4). The point is driven home in verse 24, “*Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*” A.T. Robertson put it this way, “If the eyes are diseased they may even be cross-eyed or cock-eyed. We see double and confuse our vision. We keep one eye on the hoarded treasures of earth and roll the other proudly up to heaven.” Spiritual investment banking is not something that can be done half-heartedly. To keep one eye on Heaven and the other on the world is to be double minded, and “*a double minded man is unstable in all his ways*” (Jas. 1:8). So, we have to make a choice.

To truly make Heaven our treasure we must have healthy vision so that we can see things clearly. This requires constant study and meditation on the word of God so that we can keep things in proper perspective (Ps. 1; Eccl. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Jas. 4:14-17; etc.). If every month brings a new wave of stress and worry as we open our bills, could it be that our worry is the result of blurred spiritual vision?

Depending on Heavenly Provision (Mt. 6:25-34)

The last section of this context is extremely practical. Jesus said that our treasure must be in Heaven (vss. 19-21) and such is only possible when our vision is healthy and our focus is singular(vss. 22-24). But some may wonder how we are supposed to provide the necessities of life for our families, if we’re busy working for God and not ourselves. Jesus’ answer is simple – God will take care of it.

“Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment” (Mt. 6:25)?

If God takes care of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, how much more will He take care of His people?

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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 10 Psalms 25—27

June 11 Psalms 28—30

June 12 Psalms 31—33

June 13 Psalms 34—35

June 14 Psalms 36—37

June 15 Psalms 38—39

June 16 Psalms 40—42

June 17 Psalms 43—45

“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 **33 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** this week will be at **Deleon**, Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. Topic: *“Remember Who You Represent”*
- ◆ **Patrick Street church of Christ in Dublin** will be having their **Vacation Bible School** this Saturday afternoon, 1:00—5:00pm. .

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge. *“The Church Shaped by Scripture”*

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
- ◆ July 28—VBS @ Hamilton
- ◆ Aug. 3-5—Discipleship University (Dripping Springs)
- ◆ Aug. 17-23—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

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Jesus is not saying that I should quit my job and wait for Him to put money in my bank account. Neither is He saying that I should be rash and careless with the money that I have and pay no attention to the concept of stewardship (1 Cor. 4:1-2). What He is saying is that I should focus my attention on serving God, and He will provide the things that I need. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Mt. 6:33). What things? Food, clothing, and shelter (vs. 25). David said, *“I have been young, and now am old; Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread”* (Ps. 37:25). Our God is a giving God (Jas. 1:5) and He takes care of His own (Heb. 13:5).

The trouble is that so often we make ourselves miserable by worrying about how we will attain the physical necessities that God has promised. But, what good does that do for us? *“Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature”* (Mt. 6:25). Worry only frustrates the matter and, what’s worse, it is a sign of a weak faith (Mt. 6:30). Either we believe that God will provide for us, or we do not. If we have faith in God’s provision, why worry? Why allow anxiety to negatively affect us in so many ways, from our physical health to our relationships with our family members?

“Take, therefore, no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Mt. 6:34).

Conclusion

Paul told the Philippian church, *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:19). The truth of this passage needs to be emphasized now, perhaps, more than ever. In a time when so many of God’s people are struggling financially, we must never forget that our God still rules (Dan. 4:17). God never promised to provide us with six figure salaries and 4,000 square foot homes. But, what He has promised is that He will take care of us and provide for our needs. There is no reason for us to be overcome with anxiety. Instead, we must set our hearts on Heaven. We must focus on spiritual things; put God’s kingdom first, and have faith that He will provide everything that we need. A little faith will go a long way in dealing with a whole lot of worry.

Cody Westbrook (The Southwesterner, June 3, 2018)

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 27, 2018	June 3, 2018
Bible Class	47	51
AM Worship	56	57
PM Worship	46	38
Wednesday PM	44	47
Contribution	\$1,733	\$2,334

	This Week: 6/10/18	Next Week: 6/17/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>June 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p> <p>July 2018 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: McCaghren Family Clean Building: McCaghren Family</p>	
Greeters	Mike & Patti Bannister	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Hank Wheeler Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	James Fuller*, Ryan Settles Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby		
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 13 Joe Dennis	June 20 James Fuller	June 27 Don Smith	July 4 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 June 10, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 12:11**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History: Genesis 26:1**

An Honorable Man: Mordecai

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:1-10

"Now I pray to God that you do no evil, ... but that you should do what is honorable" (7).

There is a man of noble character found in the OT, a man by the name of Mordecai.

I. A man of responsibility (Esther 2:7).

- A. Mordecai took in his cousin and raised her as his own daughter.
- B. A man is responsible to provide for his own (1 Tim. 5:8).
- C. The providing is not just financial (Eph. 6:4).

II. A man of loyalty (Esther 2:21-23).

- A. Circumstances caused Mordecai to become aware of a plot on the life of the king.
- B. Here was a man who feared God and honored the king (1 Pet. 2:17).
- C. How much loyalty do we show to our Lord and King? (Mt. 6:24; 5:10-12).

III. A man of discernment (Esther 3:1-5).

- A. We are not told why Mordecai refused to bow to Haman.
 - 1. There are cases in the OT where people gave honor to men (Ruth 2:10; 1 Sam. 20:41; 2 Kgs. 1:13).
 - 2. We must suppose that Mordecai did not find Haman to be a man worthy of honor (Psalm 15).
- B. We too need to discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:13-14).
- C. Test all things (1 Thess. 5:21-22).

IV. A man of brotherly love (Esther 4:1-4).

- A. Mordecai genuinely was distressed over the fate of his people.
- B. A characteristic of Christians (Jn. 13:34-35).
 - 1. It is a common concern for our fellow Christian (1 Jn. 4:20-21).
 - 2. It is also a concern for man in general (2 Cor. 5:11, 20; Col. 1:28-29).

V. A man who encourages righteous action (Esther 4:13-14).

- A. Mordecai did not wallow in grief, but took steps to save his people by encouraging Esther to take action
- B. Speak words of encouragement (Eph. 4:29).
- C. Set a proper example (1 Tim. 4:12).

We all need to be people of honor (Mt. 5:16).

Spiritual Blessings: Predestined, Redeemed, Forgiven (Eph. 1:5-8a)

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

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

1. Chosen in Christ (3-4).
2. Predestined (5-6).
 - a. "Adoption" is the privilege to which God has beforehand appointed us.
 - 1) Paul said that God predestined us "to adoption as sons".
 - 2) The words *to Himself* refer to God, who predestined those in Christ to be His own.
 - b. According to the good pleasure of His will.
 - c. To the praise of the glory of His grace.
 - d. By which he made us accepted.

3. Redeemed (7a).

- a. The 3rd spiritual blessing enjoyed in Christ: *In Him we have redemption through His blood.*
- b. The word "redemption" is one of the most meaningful terms used to describe our relationship with God.
 - 1) Paul used the present tense.
 - 2) All spiritual blessings are "in Christ" - it is "in Him" that "we have redemption".
 - 3) "Redemption" is an Old Testament concept.
- c. The blood of Christ is the price paid for the sinner's release.

4. Forgiven (7b-8a).

- a. The Greek noun used here is the result derived from the verb meaning to "send away".
- b. This is not the normal Greek word for "sin" - this word describes "a violation of moral standards", a "lapse", or a "falling to a side".
- c. According to which carries the idea of "domination", control.
 - 1) God's redemption and forgiveness are controlled (dominated) by the riches of His grace.
 - 2) A look at the cross of Christ allows Christians to begin to appreciate the riches of God's grace.
 - 3) Which (God's grace) He made to abound toward us.

We will consider the phrase "in all wisdom and prudence" with the next section.