

# 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 24, 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:

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

## The Language of Ashdod

One of the great hindrances to the restoration and advancement of original, apostolic Christianity and the church of which we read in the New Testament is the use of Ashdodic language (i.e., denominational terminology in an attempt to convey biblical concepts and/or biblical terms in a denominational sense).

In about 450 B.C., after the return of the people of Judah from the Babylonian Captivity (which God had brought on them as punishment for their rebellion against Him), we read these words: *"In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of the other people"* (Nehemiah 13:23-24).

The Lord's people today, just as the people of Nehemiah's day, live among a "mixed people." Our world is one of many religions, including many "brands" of professed Christianity. Great care has to be exercised not to be influenced by the unbiblical concepts and terminology of the denominational world around us. The late Guy N. Woods often spoke of the importance of God's people maintaining "a pure faith and a faultless practice." Such a faith and practice will be reflected by the proper use of biblical terminology and the refusal to use denominational terminology.

One of the most glaring examples of the language of Ashdod is the use of "church of Christ" (often spelled "Church of Christ" as though that descriptor is the official and exclusive "name" of God's people) as an adjective/modifier. Christians thoughtlessly speak of "Church of Christ preachers," "Church of Christ schools," "Church of Christ publications," "Church of Christ worship services," "Church of Christ congregations" (which is the same as saying "Church of Christ churches"!), etc. One fellow has a blog called "Church of Christ Celebrities." Whether intended or not, all of these convey a denominational concept of the church.

The expression "church of Christ" is only one of several terms used in the New Testament to refer to God's people. The church also is spoken of as the church of God, the family of God, the kingdom of the Son of His love, the household of faith, the body of Christ, as well as a number of other descriptors. I doubt if anyone would use any of these terms to identify gospel preachers, Christian schools, gospel publications, and autonomous congregations of people who are Christians only, so I wonder why they use "Church of Christ" this way.

(Continued on page 2)

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



But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. **1 Cor. 1:27-29**

(Continued from page 1)

I know there are many good, sincere people who have been converted from denominationalism to the New Testament way who, without thinking, sometimes lapse into a denominational way of expressing themselves. They understand that the church is not a denomination, but they have not yet learned how to speak of it in an undenominational way. We need to be patient with such people and help them understand the right use of biblical terms. A number of years ago, a fine sister in Christ told me that she was “church of Christ all the way”! I admired her loyalty to the New Testament way, but she had not learned how to speak in a non-sectarian manner.

Because we dwell in the midst of a denominational culture, it is easy for otherwise good people to lapse into the use of denominational terminology to state their religious identity. But we need to stop and think about what we are saying and the concept of the church we are conveying. I am not “Church of Christ,” and I did not marry a “Church of Christ”! I am a Christian, a member of the body of Christ, and I married a member of God’s family, a Christian! I did not “join” the church of Christ, nor was I “voted” into the church. Rather, as a result of obedience to the gospel and being saved from my sins, I was added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47), which is the same as being “*translated into the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (Colossians 1:13).

I am not a “Church of Christ” preacher, but a gospel preacher. I do not teach “Church of Christ” doctrine, but the doctrine of Christ. I am not a “pastor,” a “Reverend,” or “Father.” I am simply a Christian, a child of God, a preacher of the gospel. I am not trying to convert people to “the Church of Christ way” or to “Church of Christ teaching,” but to Christ and the teaching of the New Testament.

The expression “congregation of the church of Christ” is often used by knowledgeable and well-meaning Christians, but the expression is redundant and leaves the impression that the church of Christ is a denomination composed of its constituent congregations, just as the United Methodist Church is a denomination composed of its constituent churches.

There is no difference in the meaning of “congregation” and “church,” either in English or in Greek. To speak of “a congregation of the church of Christ” is tantamount to saying “a church of the church of Christ.” If our intention is to speak of a single congregation, let us use biblical language and simply say a church of Christ or a church of God – not a congregation of the church of Christ. If our intention is to speak of more than one congregation, let us not speak of congregations of the church of Christ, but let us simply speak of “*the churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16), “*the churches of God*” (2 Thessalonians 1:4), or “*the churches of the saints*” (14:23). This is Bible terminology.

We do not go to mission areas to establish a congregation of the Lord’s church! We go to preach the gospel and to plant an autonomous church of the Lord! It is glaringly redundant to speak of a congregation (or congregations) of the church of Christ! It is quite sufficient to speak simply of a congregation (or congregations) of the Lord. Paul did not speak of “the congregations of the church of Christ”; rather, he spoke simply of “*churches of Christ*” (Romans 16:16). So should we!

Only by thinking of the church in denominational terms or with an overt intent to present the church as “a denomination among the other denominations” does one use the above kind of terminology. The same is true of such expressions as “our fellowship,” “our brotherhood,” “our faith heritage,” “our tradition,” “our tribe,” or “our tributary.” God’s people today should belong to no fellowship, brotherhood, faith heritage, tradition, tribe, or tributary different than that to which the first century Christians belonged.

I know it will do no good to call these matters to the attention of some folks. Their thinking is so influenced by denominationalism that they can only speak the denominational language of Ashdod. On the other hand, our liberal brethren are only too happy to use such denominational terminology in speaking of the church for they have as their agenda the portrayal of the Lord’s church as “just another denomination” originating with

(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

**June 24** Psalms 65—67

**June 25** Psalms 68—69

**June 26** Psalms 70—71

**June 27** Psalms 72—73

**June 28** Psalms 74—76

**June 29** Psalms 77—78

**June 30** Psalms 79—81

**July 1** Psalms 82—83

*“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 **42 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **Cindy Fuller would like to meet with the ladies this morning between Bible class and worship in room 10.** She would like your input on some things concerning Ladies' Day.
- ◆ **Junior Camp will be going on this week** at Heart of Texas Campground at Brady. **Caroline Dennis, Emily Evetts, Rachael Smith and Aaron Smith** will all be attending this year, all for the first time. **Rafe Smith** will also be attending as Staff. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- ◆ **No Summer Youth Series this week**, due to Junior Camp. Will resume next week at Hamilton.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series. Ismael Berlanga from San Saba will be our guest speaker. Topic: *"Remember You Are An Epistle."*
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge. *"The Church Shaped by Scripture"*

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ July 15-20—Senior Camp
- ◆ July 28—VBS @ Hamilton
- ◆ Aug. 3-5—Discipleship University (Dripping Springs)
- ◆ Aug. 17-23—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

(Continued from page 2)

the Stone-Campbell Movement of the early 1800s.

Others, however, will appreciate what I have had to say and will adjust their thinking and terminology accordingly. Some people are teachable and willing to have things pointed out to them. Others, overly *"wise in their own conceits"* (Romans 12:16) and puffed up by their *"scholarly"* achievements, are not so teachable. Yet there are things for all of us to learn if we are humble enough to listen.

If we are ever to be successful in the advocacy of pure, New Testament Christianity – undenominational Christianity – we must learn to think and speak biblically, not denominationally. I have no ill will toward any one, and I do not point out these matters motivated by an ugly spirit or with an air of superiority. However, I will not let up in my efforts to point out the unbiblical ways some people think and speak with reference to divine things, regardless of from where I see or hear the unbiblical thinking and terminology coming. Faithful preachers, teachers, and elders have a big job on their hands in educating many of our members out of their denominational thinking, speaking, and writing. This includes not a small number of preachers, teachers, elders, editors, and university professors themselves!

*"Hold the pattern of sound words"* (2 Timothy 1:13, ASV).

*"But speak thou the things which befit sound doctrine"* (Titus 2:1, ASV).

Hugh Fulford

## 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

	June 10, 2018	June 17, 2018
Bible Class	39	55
AM Worship	53	67
PM Worship	42	38
Wednesday PM	31	39
Contribution	\$1,880	\$2,116



	This Week: 6/24/18	Next Week: 7/1/18		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: James Fuller	<b>June 2018</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas*, Jack Turner John Barnum, Hank Wheeler	Ryan Rudloff*, Randy Huckaby Coyce Reed, Don Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis	<b>July 2018</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghren Family <b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren Family	
<b>Communion</b>	James Thomas	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	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 24, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 12:16**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 26:34**

#### A Day of Small Things

- I. **Israel began to return home from 70 years of captivity.**
  - A. Zerubbabel lead the first wave of less than 50,000 people back to Jerusalem.
    1. Worship was restored immediately – Ezra 3:3-4.
    2. The next year work began on the foundation for the temple – Ezra 3:9-13.
      - a. However, they met with local resistance, and the project was eventually stopped by government order – Ezra 4:1-5, 17-23.
      - b. In the stoppage, people began focusing on their own homes and farms.
  - B. Haggai came about 14 years later to stir the people back up – Hag. 2:1-9.
  - C. Zechariah delivered a message about the same time – Zech. 4:6-10.
  - D. The Jews were beaten down – yet, God works through small things!
- II. **Big things are accomplished through small steps.**
  - A. Lesson of the ant – significant results come from small things – Prov. 6:6-11.
  - B. We have a false tendency to ignore or discount small actions.
    1. Giving a cup of water – Mt. 10:40-42.
    2. A chat with a stranger – Jn. 4:27-29; 39-42.
  - C. Many churches start in homes – 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philem. 1-2.
  - D. A little salt makes a big difference – Mt. 5:13.
- III. **God chooses to work through things the world overlooks – 1 Cor. 1:27-29.**
  - A. God often doesn't want the mighty to accomplish His tasks – Mt. 11:25.
  - B. Eight people building an ark to save the world – 1 Pet. 3:20.
  - C. God uses seemingly insignificant people – Heb. 11:32-40.
  - D. God always accomplishes His Will, despite the odds – Isa. 55:11.
  - E. God's power is shown in weakness – 2 Cor. 12:7-10.
- IV. **God's people have never been numerous – Mt. 7:13-14.**
  - A. 7,000 faithful in all Israel – 1 Kgs. 19:14-18.
  - B. Only a small number returned from captivity, but Isaiah said they would take root and grow – Isa. 37:31-32.
  - C. Only a small number of Jews became Christians – Rom. 11:1-6.
  - D. Of the 7 churches in Asia, it is the weak church in Philadelphia that no fault is mentioned – Rev. 3:8-10, 12.
- V. **I may be small, but there is a mighty big God behind me – Ps. 119:141.**
  - A. He cares and protects even the smallest – Mt. 18:1-5.
  - B. No one here is unimportant – 1 Cor. 12:14-26.

#### Spiritual Blessings: Given an Inheritance, Sealed in Christ (Eph. 1:11-14)

- II. **The Purpose of the Glorious Church (1:3 – 3:21).**
  - A. **All Spiritual Blessings and the Purpose of the Church (1:3-14).**
    6. Given an inheritance (11-12).
      - a. Paul had said that we are reconciled to God according to His purpose in Christ. As such, we "have obtained an inheritance".
      - b. Careful attention must be given to the phrase *obtained an inheritance*.
        - 1) Means "to cast lots, determine by lot", and "a portion allotted".
        - 2) The verb here is in the passive voice – "to be appointed by lot".
        - 3) A better translation – "We have been chosen as God's portion".
      - c. God's purpose for His people comes from His love (4), His "good pleasure" (5, 9), and His grace (6-8).
        - 1) Those in Christ are God's heritage by His predetermined choice (4-5).
        - 2) Three words need further examination.
          - a) *Purpose* is to "plan, purpose, resolve, will" – suggests intention.
          - b) *Counsel* – "deliberation and reflection; the assembly of the council". God did not act arbitrarily in His purpose in Christ.
          - c) *Will* – signifies the will that urges us on to action.
      - d. All that God has done for us in Christ, He has done to give us *trust* (hope in advance) – that we might exist for *the praise of His glory*.
    7. Sealed in Christ (13-14).
      - a. *The Holy Spirit of promise* refers to the promise of Acts 2:38-39.
      - b. *The word of truth* – the gospel, or "good news", of your salvation.
      - c. After the Ephesians had heard the gospel and believed (obeyed) it, they "were sealed with the Holy Spirit".
        - 1) This gift is a guarantee.
        - 2) The guarantee is not the sealing, but the HS, who is the guarantee.
      - d. In v. 14, Paul gave two reasons for the sealing of the saints by the HS.
        - 1) First, Christians receive the Holy Spirit until the redemption of the purchased possession.
          - a) The "purchased possession" is that which is being redeemed – us.
          - b) The final redemption by God means His taking "full and complete possession of those who have already become his".
        - 2) Second is to the praise of His glory.