

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



August 5, 2018

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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

Evangelist:

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 ELIJAH COMPLEX

Elijah was a great oral (non-writing) prophet of God who lived around 860 B.C. His ministry was carried out during a time of great apostasy from the Lord and His law. 1 Kings 18 tells of the contest (debate) Elijah entered with the prophets of Baal who were leading the people of Israel into idolatry. Elijah challenged the Baal prophets to a showdown on Mount Carmel in which either Baal or the Lord would be shown to be the true God. Long story short, Baal was shown to be nothing, the Lord was shown to be everything, the people fell on their faces and repeatedly declared, *"The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"*, and the 450 prophets of Baal were summarily executed by Elijah (1 Kgs. 18:39-40).

The New Testament writer James tells us, *"Elijah was a man of like passions with us"* [ASV], or *"with a nature like ours"* [NKJV] (Jas. 5:17). In other words, Elijah was human and subject to all the foibles of humanity, including the tendency to become discouraged. Following the glorious defeat of the prophets of Baal, Elijah became despondent and thought he was the only one who was faithful to the Lord. He said, *"I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life"* (1 Kgs. 19:14). But God had a word for the discouraged prophet. The Lord said to him, *"Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him"* (verse 18).

Elijah's mind-set has been referred to as "the Elijah complex." It refers to those who think that they are the only ones who are faithfully serving the Lord. The fact is that today (as in Elijah's day) there are many good and faithful servants of the Lord. Not everyone has abandoned the Lord's army for the army of Satan. Not all who wear the name of Christ have become unfaithful. Not all churches of Christ have "thrown in the towel" when it comes to pleading for a restoration and practice of apostolic Christianity in the present age. Not all preachers, elders, and congregations have become liberal. As in Elijah's day, there still are many "whose knees have not bowed to Baal"! There are multiplied thousands who are committed to being the church of the New Testament and fully dedicated to the Lord in both their personal and congregational lives!

At the same time we must realize that the faithful people of God have always been in the minority. Only eight souls were saved from the massive, world-wide flood – Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their wives (Gen. 7:13; 1 Peter 3:20). Just ten righteous souls would have spared the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:32-33; 19). Of the thousands who left Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses, only two above the age of 20 – Joshua and Caleb – were eventually permitted to enter the promised land of Canaan (Num. 32:11-13).

Jesus warned that *"wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in through it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult*

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Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. **Isaiah 59:1,2**



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

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is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). Christ went on to say, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). The sad reality is that most people will not have the interest or be willing to take the time to learn the true way of the Lord as set forth in the New Testament. False teachers and false teaching will confuse many and cause them to be lost (Matt. 7:15; 15:8-9; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Thess.2:9-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Jude 3-4; et al).

One is not guilty of the Elijah complex to point out the preceding matters, and I have to wonder why some elders, preachers, Bible professors, and congregations seemingly never get around to addressing the above matters, the related texts, and how they apply to the contemporary religious scene. Do they not believe that *all* Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable? With the old apostle, “I marvel” (Gal. 1:6).

The great preacher and Bible scholar, Moses E. Lard, over a century and a half ago, with clear insight as to what was happening among the people of God at that time, said: “He is a poor observer of men and things who does not see slowly growing up among us a class of men who can no longer be satisfied with the ancient gospel and the ancient order of things. These men must have changes; and silently they are preparing the mind of the brotherhood to receive changes. Be not deceived, brethren, the Devil (sic) is not sleeping. If you refuse to see the dangers till ruin is upon you, then it will be too late. The wise seaman catches the first whiff of the distant storm, and adjusts his ship at once. Let us profit by his example.

“Let us agree to commune with the sprinkled sects around us, and soon we shall come to recognize them as Christians. Let us agree to recognize them as Christians, and immersion with its deep significance is buried in the grave of our folly.... Then the door of heresy and schism will stand wide open, and the work of ruin will begin. Let us agree to admit organs, and soon the pious, the meek, the peace-loving, will abandon us, and our churches will become gay worldly things, literal Noah’s

arks, full of clean and unclean beasts. To all this let us yet add, by way of dessert, and as a sort of spice to the dish, a few volumes of innerlight speculations, and a cargo or two of reverend dandies dubbed pastors, and we may congratulate ourselves on having completed the trip in a wonderfully short time. We can now take rooms in Rome, and chuckle over the fact that we are as orthodox as the rankest heretic in the land.”

“Though we thus speak, and though we see the future not in the most enchanting light, we yet have hope. Many noble men are left. Many true hearts are still ready to be offered up on the altar of one Book, a pure faith, and faultless practice. In God and these we put our trust” (*Lard’s Quarterly*, April 1865).

Hugh Fulford

They Did What Was Right In Their Own Eyes

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6 ESV).

This statement introduces an episode concerning a Levite from Bethlehem who was looking for a different place to live. He ended up in the hill country of Ephraim, just north of Bethlehem. There a man named Micah hired him to be his own personal priest. This man had made an idol and his own shrine for worship. Originally one of his sons served as his priest but when he had the opportunity to have a Levite as his own personal priest he jumped at the chance (see Judges 17).

In the next chapter, we find the tribe of Dan looking for a place to settle. When the land was divided by Joshua, this tribe was given coastal land on the Mediterranean Sea. Unfortunately for them, this land was occupied by the Philistines and they were unable (and possibly unwilling) to conquer their allocated territory, even though God had said that he would be with his people and drive out those who lived there. (This places this incident earlier in the history that is recorded in this book.)

The tribe sent five men to explore the land. As they went through the hill country of Ephraim they happened on Micah’s home and recognized the young Levite. After discovering that he had been hired as a priest, they asked him to inquire of God whether their journey would be successful. The priest told them that they were under God’s eye.

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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

Aug. 5 Ecclesiastes 6—12
Aug. 6 Song of Solomon 1—8
Aug. 7 Isaiah 1:1—3:15 (videos)
Aug. 8 Isaiah 3:16—5:17
Aug. 9 Isaiah 5:18—9:12
Aug. 10 Isaiah 9:13—13:16
Aug. 11 Isaiah 13:17—19:10
Aug. 12 Isaiah 19:11—24:6

“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 **56 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Cindy Fuller would like to meet with the **ladies** for a **quick meeting between Bible class and worship in room 9**, regarding the topic for Ladies' Day.
- ◆ **SYS Tuesday night at Meridian.** Topic: *"Remember You Are A Sower."*
- ◆ **We host the SYS next week!** Menu will be hamburgers, as usual. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for needed items.
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal today** at noon.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series. Speaker: Ismael Berlanga. Topic: *"Remember You Are An Epistle."*
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge. *"The Church Shaped by Scripture"*
- ◆ November 3—Ladies' Day w/ Evelyn Bonner

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Aug. 17-23—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)
- ◆ Oct. 4-6—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat (Brady)

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After exploring the country all the way to the far north, they reported that they had found an ideal place to conquer. It was at Laish – the land was good and the inhabitants were unsuspecting.

An army of 600 was sent to conquer the land. Their journey took them by Micah's house. They took Micah's idols and household gods and made an offer to the Levite: *"Come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?"* (Judges 18:19 ESV).

The young man was overjoyed. What an opportunity! He could not only be a priest but he would be the priest for an entire tribe. So he traveled with them to the north, where the inhabitants were conquered and a new settlement of Dan was built.

The sad part of this incident is that idolatry was introduced to an entire tribe. At the end of the story, we find out more about this "young Levite". *"And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land"* (Judges 18:30 ESV).

Why was this young man, a grandson of Moses, so willing to forsake God to serve idols? At least part of the reason seems to be wanting something that he could not have. He wanted to be a priest, someone who would be looked on as important and spiritual. But, not being a descendant of Aaron, this was denied to him. So he did what he wanted, what was right in his own eyes.

How often are we like this? We know what God's word says, yet we want something different. So we forsake God's word and convince ourselves that we are still following God. We do what is right in our own eyes.

What is sad about this incident is that it seems to have influenced this tribe for generations. May we realize that what we do now can have a lasting impact, either good or bad, for generations to come.

Jon Galloway (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

August Birthdays: Joe Dennis (9), Rafe Smith (11), Jessica Dennis (13), Brandi Kite (14), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Ryan Rudloff (20), Roy Dodson (29), Coyce Reed (30).

August Anniversaries: Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), Don & Darlene Smith (29).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	July 22, 2018	July 29, 2018
Bible Class	41	51
AM Worship	56	63
PM Worship	40	44
Wednesday PM	42	41
Contribution	\$1,650	\$2,903

	This Week: 8/5/18	Next Week: 8/12/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	August 2018 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis Family September 2018 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz	
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mike & Patti Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Jack Turner, James Thomas	Tom Wilcox*, Ryan Rudloff Larry Petty, Coyce Reed		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 8 Joe Dennis	August 15 Rafe Smith	August 22 Don Smith	August 29 5th Wednesday Video

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 August 5, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 13:9**
 Wed. Class **Genesis 29:15**

Scrutinizing Sin: Consequences of Sin

"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:1-2).
 There will be a "payday" for sin: "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23a).

I. The Message.

A. Sin has physical consequences.

1. "...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17).
2. "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4, 20).

B. Sin has psychological and emotional consequences.

1. After sinning, Adam and Eve were fearful of God and tried in vain to hide (Gen. 3:7-10).
2. They felt shame, guilt, and the loss of innocence.
3. Regret and remorse may continue even after one has done what is necessary in order to gain forgiveness.

C. Sin has social consequences.

1. Sin also has consequences that resonates outward and affects others.
2. The evening news testifies clearly to this reality.

D. Sin has spiritual consequences.

1. These others pale in comparison to the dreadful consequences that result spiritually when one sins against God.
2. The ultimate spiritual consequence of sin is spiritual death.

II. The Application.

A. Sin robs one of physical health.

B. Sin robs one of emotional health.

C. Sin robs one of spiritual health.

1. Sin will result in an eternal separation from God.
2. This separation from our holy God is too horrible to comprehend.

III. The Hope.

- A. The consequences of sin described in Scripture are to deter us from sin.
- B. God allowed His Son Jesus to suffer the penalty of sin on our behalf.
- C. Obeying the gospel and living faithfully enables one to escape the consequences of sin.

Peace Made Possible in His Body – Ephesians 2:14-22

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

F. Peace Made Possible in His Body (2:14-22).

1. Peace among all people in the one body (14-15).

- a. Paul presents Jesus as *our peace* – both the peace among men and the peace between men and God are bound up in Him.
- b. "Peace", in this context, is associated with "things joined together that once were separated" (in this case, Jews and Gentiles).
 - 1) Christ *made both one*.
 - 2) Christ *has broken down the middle wall of separation*.
- c. God accomplished this union *having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances* (15).
- d. Christ died to reconcile the two groups to each other and to break down the dividing wall of the Law, *so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace*.

2. Peace with God in the one body (16-22).

- a. *Enmity abolished in one new body* (16-17).
 - 1) Reconciliation *to God* takes place in the *one body*.
 - a) The body of Christ in Ephesians is the church, the "new man".
 - b) Every person who is reconciled to God is a part of the church.
 - 2) *Through the cross God [put] to death the enmity*, ending the hostility
 - 3) In ending hostilities, Christ made peace possible.
- b. *Access through Christ* (18).
- c. *Citizens, not foreigners* (19-22).
 - 1) The Gentiles had been considered *strangers and foreigners*.
 - 2) Jews and Gentiles in Christ were *fellow citizens with the saints*.
 - 3) "And members of the household of God" further emphasizes the Christian's sense of belonging in the body of Christ.
 - 4) *Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets* refers to the church as a spiritual building.
 - 5) *Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*.
 - 6) *In whom (Christ) the whole building* (the household of God).
 - 7) *Being fitted together, grows into a holy temple... a dwelling place of God*.