

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 12, 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

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

Requirements, Expedients, and Violations

Through His word, the Bible, God has set forth His will for mankind. By various kinds of statements (declarative, imperative, hortatory, interrogative, etc.), approved apostolic examples, and implications (from which we draw logical inferences or conclusions), God has communicated in an understandable way what He expects of us as rational, responsible, and accountable human beings. "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

Along with what God has required are various expedients (practical, convenient, advantageous ways) for doing what God has authorized. These expedients themselves are not always specifically spelled out in scripture, but by their very nature they inhere in what God requires of us. We must recognize, however, that expedients may be employed only in doing what God has authorized. There is no practical, advantageous way to do something which God has not authorized! (A little later we will provide some examples of what we mean by expedients). Then there are violations of (disobedience to) what God has required us to do. The Bible includes a long, sad tale (beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden) of mankind's rebellion against God and his violation of God's law and the tragic consequences of such.

In evangelizing the world with the gospel, Christ commissioned the apostles, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." (Matt. 28:19). The apostles were required to "go," and in their time they were limited to walking, riding a beast of burden, or sailing on a ship. God's people today also are charged with the responsibility of evangelizing the world (1 Tim. 3:15), but we are not limited in our going to ways only available to the apostles. Today, we may utilize cars, trains, and airplanes to carry out the mission of preaching the gospel to every creature. These expedients inhere in the command to "go," and therefore are authorized. We violate what the Lord requires/authorizes when we fail to go, or when we turn the work of evangelism over to a missionary society or some parachurch organization.

In evangelizing the world and in strengthening Christians in the faith, Christ required the teaching and preaching of the gospel (Matt. 18:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). In Bible times this teaching and preaching could be done orally and in writing (as, for example, in the letters of Paul), and it could be done both "publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20). The fact that the early Christians did not have radio, television, newspapers, magazines, the internet, PowerPoint, etc. does not mean that it is wrong to use these advantageous means today. When we utilize these expedients we still are only doing

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Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
James 1:13-15

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what the Lord authorized us to do—to teach and preach the gospel. However, when we teach the doctrines and commandments of men, when we proclaim the creeds, catechisms, and decisions of the religious councils of men, when we preach “another gospel,” we violate what the Lord has authorized for none of these is the gospel (Gal. 1:6-9; Matt. 15:7-9; 2 Tim. 4:2-4).

The Lord required people to be baptized in order to be saved from their sins and to become His disciples (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-41; 22:16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21). “Baptize” is the anglicized form of the Greek word “baptizo” and means “to dip, plunge, submerge, immerse.” The New Testament was originally written in Greek, and if “baptizo” had been translated it would have come into our English Bibles as “immerse,” and John the Baptist would have been known as John the Immerser. All examples and descriptions of baptism in the New Testament show this to be the case (Matt. 3:13-16; Acts 8:38-39; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; et al). Expedient places for immersion/baptism to occur are a river, a lake, an ocean, a baptistery—anywhere there is enough water to immerse a person. But since scriptural baptism is only immersion, sprinkling and pouring are not expedient ways to baptize because they are not an immersion in water. Sprinkling and pouring are human substitutions for what the Lord has required, and therefore constitute a violation of what the Lord has authorized. Likewise, to reject the necessity of baptism for salvation constitutes disobedience to what the Lord has commanded.

Understanding what the Lord has required, what are expedient ways of doing what the Lord has required, and what are violations of what the Lord has required is one of the most important lessons to be learned in the practice of New Testament Christianity in the present age. Unfortunately, many have not learned to differentiate where these matters are concerned.

Christians are required to assemble for the purposes of worship, exhortation, and fellowship (John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; Heb. 10:24-25). While we read nothing of church buildings in New Testament times, such are not

wrong because they are expedient, convenient ways of doing what the Lord has authorized us to do. A place to assemble (including seats/pews, lights, etc.), whether in a private home, a rented hall, or a building constructed for that purpose inheres in and is authorized by the command to assemble. On the other hand, to fail to assemble and worship the Lord is a violation of His will, and therefore sin.

God requires Christians to minister to the poor and needy, including widows and orphans (Matt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27). Both as individual Christians and as local churches we are to do this work of love and kindness (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; Gal. 6:10 [written to the churches of Galatia, Gal. 1:1-2]). We are to help needy individuals and needy families, the young and the old. An expedient way for providing for the needs of children who have lost their parents or who have been abandoned is to replace their natural home with a legal group home or what is sometimes referred to as an orphans’ home where several such children are cared for. The elderly may properly be cared for in a group home. The right of a church to help the natural home is the right of a church to help the restored home. These are expedient, practical ways for doing what God requires us to do. But failure to minister to the poor and needy, including widows and orphans, constitutes disobedience to the Lord.

The Bible authorizes Christians to eat the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Sunday, the Lord’s Day) in memory of the death of Christ for man’s sins and the shedding of His blood for our spiritual cleansing (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7). Two elements constitute the Supper—unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine (grape juice). How many trays are used to distribute the bread and how many containers are used to distribute the fruit of the vine (the cup, 1 Cor. 10:21; 11:26) are all matters of expediency, and should not become the source of contention and division among Christians. But, to forsake the assembly of the saints and fail to partake of the Lord’s Supper every Sunday when one is able to do so, to substitute Ritz crackers

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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. 12 Isaiah 19:11—24:6

Aug. 13 Isaiah 24:7—28:22

Aug. 14 Isaiah 28:23—32:20

Aug. 15 Isaiah 33:1—37:29

Aug. 16 Isaiah 37:30—40:31

Aug. 17 Isaiah 41—44

Aug. 18 Isaiah 45—49

Aug. 19 Isaiah 50—54

“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 **43 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **We host the area SYS Tuesday evening.** Ismael Berlanga from San Saba will be our guest speaker. The topic will be: "Remember You Are An Epistle." Foy Forehand will lead the singing. All are encouraged to attend. **Still need folks to sign up to bring cookies.**
- ◆ There is a new **The Spiritual Sword** on the back table. Theme: "A Handy Guide to Spiritual Leadership".
- ◆ Next Sunday **Dr. Charles Hall** will be our guest speaker, while Johnny and Cindy attend Polishing the Pulpit in Tennessee.
- ◆ Ladies—the **TLC Retreat** in October is filling up fast. If you plan to go, you need to get registered ASAP.

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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and Coca-Cola for the divinely appointed elements, or to add strawberry jam to the bread constitute a gross violation of what the Lord has authorized Christians to do in observing the Lord's Supper!

In our worship to the Lord, we are authorized to sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord, thereby teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Singing is the kind of music God has commanded in the Christian age. Hymn books, pitch pipes, tuning forks, projection of the words and notes on a screen are expedient ways of carrying out what the Lord has required. When these are used we have only done what the Lord has authorized us to do—sing. On the other hand, when instrumental music is incorporated into the worship something is done that the Lord has not authorized. Instrumental music is another kind of music—completely different from that which the New Testament authorizes. Rather than being an expedient, instrumental music is an addition to, and in many instances a substitution for, what the Lord has authorized (the instrument is played, while the congregation sits in silence), and its use is a violation of the Lord's will. Again, we must remember that there is no expedient way to do something which the Lord has not first authorized, and instrumental music has not been authorized in the worship of the church! Only singing has been authorized.

There was a time when these principles were understood and applied in the interpretation of Scripture by those seeking a return to the New Testament order of things. Over time, however, some failed to grasp these principles and began to object to the use of certain expedients in carrying out divinely authorized requirements. Others began to treat some matters of expediency as though they were requirements and endeavored to bind them as if they were the law of God Himself. Still others, in an effort to justify unscriptural innovations, tried to move things unauthorized into the realm of expediency. In all such instances, division and heartache occurred.

It is to be hoped that we may regain the ability to think clearly and biblically about these matters and to properly discern those things that are matters of faith (requirements), those things that are legitimate expedients for carrying out what is required, and those things that constitute a violation of what God has authorized.

Hugh Fulford

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 29, 2018	Aug. 5, 2018
Bible Class	51	49
AM Worship	63	62
PM Worship	44	43
Wednesday PM	41	46
Contribution	\$2,903	\$2,112

	This Week: 8/12/18	Next Week: 8/19/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>August 2018 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Dennis Family</p> <p>September 2018 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz</p>	
Greeters	Mike & Patti Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Ryan Rudloff Larry Petty, Coyce Reed	John Barnum*, Hank Wheeler Ryan Settles, Rafe Smith		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Hank Wheeler	James Thomas		
Communion	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 15 Rafe Smith	August 22 5 th (4 th) Wed. Video	August 29 Don Smith	September 5 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 August 12, 2018

Sunday Class Romans 13:10
 Wed. Class Genesis 29:15

Scrutinizing Sin: Causes of Sin

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15).

God has always given man the information needed to make right choices. Sin is, and has always been, a choice.

I. The Message (4 prominent factors that cause people to choose to sin).

- A. **Temptation is the root cause for sin** (Mt. 26:41; Jas. 1:14).
- B. **Sin is often caused by our own selfishness** (Jas. 3:16; Phil. 2:3-4).
- C. **Worldly influence is a prominent cause for sin**.

- 1. Two influences exist in this world: bad and good (Rom. 8:6; 13:12b; Acts 26:18; Prov. 11:19).
- 2. Only submitting to the righteous influence can cause us to overcome temptation.

D. **False teaching is a cause for sin** (Mt. 24:11; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:8).

II. Application.

- A. **Sin is still sin even if everyone else is doing it** (Rom. 12:2; Col. 2:8).
- B. **Sin is still sin even if one refuses to admit it** (Prov. 14:12).
- C. **Sin is still sin even if it is difficult to make right** (Jn. 15:22; Jas. 4:17).
- D. **Sin is still sin even when standing in the grace of God** (Rom. 6:1-2, 12; Gal. 5:4; 1 Cor. 10:12).

III. Encouragement.

- A. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations" (2 Pet. 2:9).
- B. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).
- C. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).
- D. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

Paul's Personal Ministry to the Gentiles – Ephesians 3:1-7

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

G. Paul's Personal Ministry to the Gentiles (3:1-7).

1. **A Prisoner of Christ Jesus for the Gentiles** (1).
 - a. Paul referred to himself as *the prisoner of Christ Jesus*.
 - 1) This could mean that he viewed himself as having been freed from the slavery of sin, with absolute allegiance to Jesus.
 - 2) It is more likely, however, that Paul used "prisoner" here to refer to the fact that he was, at the time he was writing this letter, in prison.
 - b. *For you Gentiles* recalled the fact that Paul's work was primarily to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.
2. **A Dispenser [Steward, Administrator] of God's Grace to the Gentiles** (2).
 - a. *Dispensation [stewardship]* was used by Paul in 1:10 [administration].
 - 1) There, Paul spoke of God as administering His eternal plan; but here he had in mind his personal responsibility of administering, or preaching, *the grace of God* to the Gentiles.
 - 2) Paul was a steward of the grace of God, which was presented in the gospel that he preached.
 - b. *Which was given to me for you* modifies "grace" rather than "dispensation" [stewardship].
3. **A Recipient of the Revealed Mystery** (3-6).
 - a. Paul affirmed that the message of grace that he preached to the Gentiles had come to him from God.
 - b. In all the years before the coming of Christ, God's eternal purpose had been covered and was, therefore, a mystery.
 - c. The things of God have *now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets* (5).
 - d. *The Gentiles* had been made *fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of [God's] promise*; privileges no longer exclusively for Jews.
4. **A Minister of the Gospel** (7).
 - a. The Greek noun translated *minister* refers to one who "serves".
 - b. The grace that had come to Paul to transform him, to bring him the gospel, and to make him an apostle and a preacher of the gospel was *by the effective working of His power*.