

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 26, 2018

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102

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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

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.

New Testament Giving

To be right with God one must give in a right manner. Sadly, New Testament giving is often misunderstood. Consider four mandates that the New Testament gives us.

Giving Must Be Authorized

Each act of worship has been regulated by our King (John 4:24; Matt. 28:18). Giving is no exception. The New Testament pattern of giving is found in 1 Corinthians 16. There Paul teaches, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

First, the authorized means of gaining funds for the local congregation is by a free will offering. There is no room in the text for bake sales, garage sales, car washes, or the like. God has informed us of what He wants. To give Him anything else would be vain and empty worship. Second, we see the regularity of our giving, "Upon the first day of the week." This should be no surprise to any Bible student since the New Testament is clear that the first day of the week was the day that God set aside for Christians to worship Him (Acts 20:7). Third, we are authorized to give as we have prospered. When income is earned, God expects us to lay some aside for Him.

Giving Must Be Sacrificial

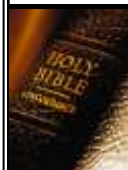
A sacrifice is something that is felt. If it is no bother to me, then I have not sacrificed anything. For example, if two men in the congregation each give \$300 every Sunday one might assume that both were excellent givers. But one is a multi-millionaire; the other lives paycheck to paycheck making \$600 a week. In reality only one of these men really made a sacrifice. David gave us an example of true sacrifice when he purchased Araunah's threshing floor. Araunah attempted to give the king the threshing floor but David replied, "Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24). What are we sacrificing for God?

Giving Must Be Purposed

We are a society of planners. We plan parties, vacations, weddings, and we even plan what to eat for supper. Planning is wise, so long as we include God

(Continued on page 2)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **2 Cor. 9:6-8**



(Continued from page 1)

in those plans (Jas. 4:15). To plan our finances without God in the picture is the mark of a selfish man. Paul wrote, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give..." (2 Cor. 9:7). One who fumbles for his wallet right before the plate is passed is not a man who has purposed to give, but rather a man who does so lazily and greedily.

Giving Must Be Enjoyed

Faithful Christians fully understanding what the Lord meant when He taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). In this He teaches true joy comes, not from what others give us, but from our abundant generosity to others. The same is true when it comes to us giving back to God. The devoted child of God is familiar with the bountiful bliss one feels when obeying the command to worship by giving. Paul instructed that we give, "not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

The word translated as cheerful is the Greek word *hilaros*, which means joyous. Giving, along with all acts of worship, must be enjoyed to be done properly. From this same word we get our English word hilarious. In the word *hilaros* is an implication of promptness as well. This means that not only is this something that it is enjoyable, but it is so enjoyable that we wouldn't think of missing our appointment each week to participate. This is all something that an obedient Christian already comprehends, that is, we love God so much that we enjoy sacrificing our finances. In fact, we enjoy it so much that we long for the opportunity to do it again.

Conclusion

We cannot out give God. It is simply impossible. Our benevolent Father has blessed us with innumerable gifts both physically and spiritually. That alone should be cause for us to rise up and be generous in our giving back to Him.

Jon McCormack (Christian Worker, July 2018, 5,6)

Worship - The Lord's Supper

The Bible tells us that the disciples came together every First Day of the Week to worship God. During this gathering, Christians communed with God and with one another in a memorial feast known as the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20). Dr. Luke records, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7). Obviously, this communion meal was shared every first day of every week because every week has a first day. We now refer to this day as Sunday.

The Lord's Supper is observed as an action of worship. We have shortened the word "action" to simply "act;" but the meaning is still clear. This meal constituted of two simple elements, unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Luke 22:18 and 1 Cor. 5:8).

Obviously we cannot improve on this simple plan given to us by God, but we can improve our attitude toward, and participation in, those five acts. Please consider these suggestions to help us better understand and participate in this great memorial feast. Please remember these seven suggestions the next time when partaking of the Lord's Supper: One Lord, two thieves, three crosses, four parts to His garment, five wounds, six hours of suffering, and seven sayings. Let's consider each one of these points to more deeply understand the implication of partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Clearly there is only ONE LORD (Eph. 4:5). The apostle Paul wrote, "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" (1 Tim. 6:13-16). John, the Revelator echoed these words when he said, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of" (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

Aug. 26 Jeremiah 13:1—16:9

Aug. 27 Jeremiah 16:10—20:18

Aug. 28 Jeremiah 21—24

Aug. 29 Jeremiah 25—27

Aug. 30 Jeremiah 28:1—31:20

Aug. 31 Jeremiah 31:21—33:26

Sept. 1 Jeremiah 34—36

Sept. 2 Jeremiah 37:1—41:10

"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 **32 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There will be a **teacher's meeting** immediately after worship services this evening.
- ◆ Next week—First Sunday Fellowship Meal.
- ◆ Ladies—the TLC retreat is now full. You can, however, still get on the waiting list in case something opens up.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting
- ◆ November 3—Ladies' Day w/ Evelyn Bonner

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Oct. 4-6—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat (Brady)
- ◆ Oct. 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Lawn w/ Dave Rogers
- ◆ Oct. 14-17—Lubbock Lectureship. *"Jesus Christ and Him Crucified"*

(Continued from page 2)

kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).

Concerning the thieves, we read, *"Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left"* (Matt. 27:38). One of these thieves became the most well-known thief in the world.

The next thought concerns the three crosses. One cross for the sinless Lamb of God (John 1:29); and two more crosses for the thieves. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah predicted this very event (Isa. 53:12).

The Bible also teaches us that Jesus' garment was divided into four parts (John 19:23). Again, this was prophesied in the book of Psalms (Ps. 22:18).

Jesus suffered five wounds during His scouring and crucifixion. When we say five wounds, we know that He was beaten unmercifully; but Jesus suffered the wound to His head (Matt. 27:29). He suffered numerous wounds during His scouring. He also suffered three more wounds, two to His hands, and one to His feet when they nailed Him to the cross.

Jesus suffered six hours on the cross. According to Mark's record of the crucifixion, Jesus was on the cross from approximately 9 am (third hour of the day) until 3 pm (ninth hour of the day). See Mark Chapter Fifteen to see this recorded.

Our Lord then uttered seven saying while hanging on the cross.

- *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"* (Lk. 3:34).
- *"Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in Paradise"* (Lk. 23:43).
- *"Woman, behold thy son. Behold thy mother"* (Jn. 19:26).
- *"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani"* (Mt. 27:46).
- *"I thirst"* (Jn. 19:28).
- *"It is finished"* (Jn. 19:30).
- *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* (Lk. 23:46).

When a person communes with God during the Supper of the Lord, I hope this article will impress more deeply this precious act of worship.

Kerry Clark (Christian Worker, July 2018, 6,7)

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

	Aug. 12, 2018	Aug. 19, 2018
Bible Class	49	45
AM Worship	65	57
PM Worship	43	40
Wednesday PM	43	34
Contribution	\$1,690	\$2,039

	This Week: 8/26/18	Next Week: 9/2/18		
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	John Barnum Family	Tom and Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell	James Thomas*, Larry Petty Jack Turner, Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Don Smith		
Communion	Joe Dennis	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	August 29 James Fuller	September 5 Prayer Night	September 12 Joe Dennis	September 19 WBS Presentation

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 26, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 13:13**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History—Genesis 30:1**

Joyful Giving – An Oxymoron?

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Lk. 6:38).
 If we are faithful stewards and handle our money wisely and give liberally, we will be blessed.

I. Why We Should Give Liberally and with Joy.

- A. First and foremost, because **our giving is an act of worship.**
- B. We give **so the gospel may be preached to the whole world.**
- C. We give **for the joy of giving.**
 1. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
 2. Someone has said this is the most disbelieved verse in the Bible.
- D. We give **to satisfy human needs.**
- E. We give **to prove our love for God.**

II. What Joyful Giving Does For Us.

- A. Joyful giving **destroys that covetous disposition that tends to possess man.**
- B. **The way we give shows our priorities in life.**
- C. **The way one gives is a good barometer of his or her spiritual life.**
- D. **Giving strengthens one's faith.**

III. Why Do Some Not Give Joyfully?

- A. **Many are untaught.**
- B. **Some do not give because of unbelief.**
- C. **Some do not give because of fear.**
- D. **Some do not give because of a bad attitude.**

God's Wisdom Made Known – Ephesians 3:8-13

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

H. God's Wisdom Made Known (3:8).

1. Grace to Preach to the Gentiles (8).
 - a. When Paul spoke of himself as *less than the last of all the saints* he was not expressing a false humility; this was how he felt about himself.
 - 1) He had been a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent aggressor.
 - 2) If he could be saved, then anyone could be saved!
 - b. It was by God's grace that Paul became the "apostle to the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:13), to whom he preached *the unsearchable riches of Christ.*
2. Grace to Bring to Light God's Mystery (9).
 - a. According to Paul, part of the privilege and the task given to him by God's grace was to explain the mysterious plan that had been hidden.
 - b. *Fellowship* (κοινωνία; KJV, NKJV) is a completely different word than found in the more reliable transcripts, which have οἰκονομία [administration, stewardship].
3. The Purpose to Make Known God's Wisdom (10).
 - a. Paul had been given the task of proclaiming God's purpose to the Gentiles. However, in this passage Paul announced that *the mission of the whole church is to make the purpose known.*
 - b. Paul's goal was to "preach among the Gentiles" (3:8) and to "make all see" the mystery of God (3:9), *to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known.*
 - c. "Now", in the present time, *the church* is to make God's plan know.
4. The Fulfillment of God's Eternal Purpose (11-12).
 - a. *Eternal purpose*, literally "purpose of the ages".
 - b. *Accomplished* has the meaning of something achieved. The eternal purpose of God has been accomplished in *Christ Jesus our Lord.*
5. Encouragement Not to Lose Heart (13).
 - a. Paul did not want the Ephesians to be discouraged, to grow weary, or *lose heart* because of the *tribulations* he faced or the pain he endured.
 - b. Therefore, he reminded them that his sufferings were *for [their] glory.*
 - c. Others benefitted from Paul's struggles in that they experienced salvation and the hope of heaven.