

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



September 2, 2018

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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

Evidence of Pardon: How Can I Know I Am Saved?

Christianity is a system of faith, but it is not a leap of faith. Our faith in God is founded firmly upon the evidence of His existence found in His creation. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork"* (Ps. 19:1). *"Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse"* (Rom. 1:19-20). Our belief in the resurrection of Christ is founded upon the testimony of eyewitnesses: *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life"* (1 Jn. 1:1; see also 1 Cor. 15:3-8). The assurance of these things gives us confidence, which is important. Without confidence we can begin to waver and lose our faith.


The most important thing to man is the salvation of his soul. Jesus asks, *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mt. 16:26). We need reliable evidence of our salvation. Without it, we can begin to doubt. And when we begin to doubt is when we become most vulnerable to the devil. The importance of this confidence, this assurance of salvation, is shown in a piece of the armor of God – the Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17). In battle, the helmet allows one to have confidence to boldly stand and fight. Assurance of our salvation does away with all doubt and gives us the ability to stand for the truth, defend our faith and resist Satan's attacks. We need this confidence.

The Bible tells us that we can be assured of our salvation. *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God"* (1 Jn. 5:13). God wants us to know that we are saved, not think we are or wonder if we are. We can know it! But the real question is, "How?" How can we have this assurance? How can we know that we are saved? What is our evidence of pardon? Is it:

Our Own Feelings?

Some people say that they feel they are saved. They had an emotional experience, a strong feeling came over them, and that's when they knew they were saved. Are personal feelings really proof? Even strong feelings? No! The only thing that feelings prove is that we feel a certain way. I'm sure there are a lot of prisoners who feel like they should be set free, but they are still behind bars. The Bible warns us about our feelings. Our hearts can deceive us: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"* (Jer. 17:9). The conscience alone is not a safe guide. The apostle Paul believed he was doing the Lord's will when he was persecuting the church (Acts 23:1; 26:9-11).

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 "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." **1 John 5:11-13**

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

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Some believe they are saved because they had an experience with the Holy Spirit. They would rather give a testimony than study the Bible. Some churches and people thrive on this kind of emotionalism, but it is not reliable. The fact is that our hearts can deceive us. We can't trust our feelings alone. They may be right, but what if they are wrong?!

The Words Of Others?

Some believe they are saved because a loved one, friend or preacher told them they were. I am glad that people have friends and loved ones that they feel they can trust. But the Bible tells us that our soul's salvation is too important to take anyone's word for. Paul told Christians to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). Peter admonished the Jews on Pentecost to "... save yourselves from this crooked generation" (Acts 2:40). The apostle John warned, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1). We are not to believe someone just because they claim to be speaking the truth. We are to test their message and prove it to be true to the word of God. The Bereans are noted for this very thing: "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily to see if those things were so. Therefore many of them believed" (Acts 17:11-12a). They were not willing to accept Paul's message as truth until they had first examined it in light of what the Scriptures said. Inspiration calls these people "noble" for manifesting such respect for what God's word teaches, even though it was one of Christ's apostles who was preaching to them! False teachers often resent anyone questioning what they teach and they often claim to be "Spirit led" – but what they teach doesn't agree with what the Holy Spirit has revealed in His word. In such cases the apostle Paul wrote: "...Yea, let God be true, but every man a liar:..." (Rom. 3:4). The Word Of God!

God's word gives adequate evidence of our salvation. The Bible is inspired by God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). What His word says is the truth. It is our evidence of pardon. But how?

Paul wrote, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom. 8:16-17). We don't have to trust our feelings, or take another's word for it. The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are saved. These two testify together. Some people have "their spirit" doing all of the "testifying" and what their spirit testifies to and their claims of salvation do not agree with that which the Holy Spirit has revealed! Unfortunately such will get to the judgment only to be told by the Lord, "I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:23). After saying this, the Lord gave the parable of the "two builders" to impress upon us the need to honor His word and be obedient (see Mt. 7:13-29). Please read it slowly, carefully, and prayerfully!

The Holy Spirit and My Spirit Must Agree!

If our salvation were on trial, the Holy Spirit and our own spirit would testify to the fact that we are saved or lost whichever the case may be. The testimony of the Holy Spirit is the word of God. The testimony of our spirit is what we have believed and done in response to the word of God. For example, the Spirit says, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). If our spirit can honestly say, "I've done that. I believe and have been baptized to be saved," (not because you thought you were saved when you accepted Jesus as your Savior, but baptized (immersed) "to be saved,") then you can know you are saved. Again, the Spirit says, "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). If my spirit can honestly say, "I've done that. I have turned away from my sins and error and have been baptized," (immersed) into the "one body" "for the remission of past sins," (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:1-6), then I can know that I am saved!

Compliance with God's word is our evidence of pardon.

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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

Sept. 2 Jeremiah 37:1—41:10

Sept. 3 Jeremiah 41:11—45:5

Sept. 4 Jeremiah 46—48

Sept. 5 Jeremiah 49—50

Sept. 6 Jeremiah 51—52

Sept. 7 Lamentations 1—5

Sept. 8 Ezekiel 1—2 (videos)

Sept. 9 Ezekiel 3—8

"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 **27 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The new year begins today for our Bible classes. We are using a new curriculum. Parents, grandparents, etc., be sure and look at what your child brings home, and discuss it with them.
- ◆ Sunday Fellowship Meal today.

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"

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As long as we know we have believed and done what the Bible tells us to do, then we know we are saved. Saved people in the Bible times were not only "added to Christ's blood bought church" (Acts 2:22-47; Col. 1:13-14), these

"saved people" took the name that unites us. That name was and is, "CHRISTIAN", (Acts 11:26; 1 Cor. 1:10-12; 3:1-6; Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).

Assurance of our salvation is not meant to make us comfortable or negligent, nor should it make us arrogant or haughty. It is meant to give us confidence. We need to "continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." There are many inconsistent, unpredictable things in the world that can cause us doubt and fear. Assurance of our salvation isn't one of them. Christ's word is too plain to leave room for doubt. While the apostle Paul warned against over confidence and boastfulness where our salvation is concerned, (1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12), he also taught that we may know where we stand in regards to our salvation (see 2 Tim. 4:1-8). Are you sure there is a "crown of life" laid up or reserved in heaven for you? You can be!

Did Your Claimed Conversion Follow The Great Commission? (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-20; Lk. 24:45-49)

No inspired teacher ever taught that one may be "saved by faith alone." Nor did any inspired teacher ever teach people to, "Join the church of your choice." However, some of the most popular evangelist of our day teach exactly that. Surely you must know that this simply cannot be right since it contradicts the prayer of Jesus and the teaching of His inspired apostles (Jn. 17:17, 20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10-12; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:1-6). The following cases of conversion under apostolic and early evangelist's teaching are not the only cases of conversion to be found in the Acts of the apostles, but they involve some of the most prominently expressed cases. Will you consider each of them? If so, you will see a pattern develop which breaks down into a consistent plan of salvation which involves:

1. Preaching or teaching the gospel.
2. Faith in God and in His Son.
3. Confession of said faith before men.
4. Repentance from past sin and error.
5. Baptism into Christ and into the one body to have one's past sin and error forgiven.

Resulting in becoming a Christian, a citizen of Christ's kingdom, a member of Christ's New Testament church. If we follow these examples, believe what they were taught to believe, do what they were commanded to do, will we not become exactly what they became? I affirm the answer is YES! If not, can you tell me why not?

Kenneth E. Thomas (lavistachurchofchrist.org)

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: Jean Hamann (3), James Fuller (6), Emily Ochoa (11), Ryan Settles (15), Gene Bannister (16), Connie Reed (16), Matthew Ochoa (20), Glenda Milam (24), Matthew Howell (28).

September Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 19, 2018	Aug. 26, 2018
Bible Class	45	45
AM Worship	57	59
PM Worship	40	42
Wednesday PM	34	42
Contribution	\$2,039	\$2,328

	This Week: 9/2/18	Next Week: 9/9/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	September 2018 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz October 2018 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / Greer	
Greeters	Tom and Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	James Thomas*, Larry Petty Jack Turner, Ryan Rudloff	James Fuller*, Ryan Settles Randy Huckaby, Hank Wheeler		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Thomas		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Thomas	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 5 Prayer Night	September 12 Joe Dennis	September 19 WBS Presentation	September 26 Don Smith

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 September 2, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 14:1**
 Wed. Class **Old Testament History—Genesis 30:25**

We Can KNOW We Are Going to Heaven! (1 John)

There are members of the church who come to worship every Sunday and sing "Blessed Assurance", but in their heart they have no "assurance".

John began, "And these things we write to you that your joy may be full" (1:4)

- It is not God's desire for His children to walk around wringing their hands in constant anxiety over our relationship with Him.
- The Christian life should be one that we can confidently say, "I know that I am going to heaven!"

I. Continual Cleansing (ch. 1).

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (7).

- Sinless. No. We continue to sin while walking in the light (1:8).
- Not perfect, but faithful.

II. Perfect Propitiation (ch. 2).

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (2:1-2).

III. Destroying the Doubt (ch. 3).

"And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things" (3:19-20).

IV. Fixing the Fear (ch. 4).

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (4:16-18).

V. Complete Confidence (ch. 5).

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God" (5:13).

Do you have full confidence when you lay your head on your pillow at night that if you die before you wake, you will be going to heaven?

A Prayer for Power, Comprehension, and Fullness – Ephesians 3:14-21

I. The Prologue (14-15).

- For this reason refers to all Paul had said about the mystery and takes us back to the same words in 3:1.
- I bow my knees expresses an attitude of humility and dependence.
- To the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Every relationship in heaven and earth that can be designated as part of the whole family derives its name from God.

II. The Petition for the Power of the Spirit and Christ (16-17a).

- Paul began by saying that He asked God to grant these petitions according to the riches of His glory.
- He prayed that God's might would be unleashed to strengthen the Ephesians, that they might fulfill the mission announced in verses 10-11.
 - The strengthening was to be granted by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit.
 - The inner man identifies that part that has a relationship with God.
- He asked that the Ephesians be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in [their] hearts.
- The dwelling of Christ in the heart is through faith.

III. The Petition for the Comprehension of the Love of Christ (17b-19a).

- To be rooted is to be planted securely, and to be grounded conveys the idea of having a firm "foundation".
- Love is the soil in which the Christian is to be firmly planted and the foundation upon which the rest of life is to be built.
- Paul prayed they would be able to comprehend...the love of Christ.
- But he quickly add, concerning the love of Christ, which passes knowledge.

IV. The Petition for the Fullness of God (19b).

- A literal translation: "That you may be filled unto all the fullness of God".
- The petition is that the Christian may be filled with God Himself.

V. The Praise (20-21).

- This verse speaks of the God who is able.
- To do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.
- This "power" of God that is beyond what we can imagine works in us.
- To Him be [the] glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.