

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 16, 2018

Contact Us:

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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

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.

When Giants Fall

We all have Christians whom we admire. Perhaps some of them are preachers, writers, elders, Bible-class teachers, family members, or just fellow Christians who serve as role models to you. These are the people who seem larger than life. Those who fit this description probably come to mind pretty easily. While we all know there's no such thing as a "perfect" Christian, these particular people seem almost flawless. These are your spiritual giants. They stand for truth. They say courageous things. They have model marriages. They have well-oiled ministries.

But there's a good chance that the day is coming (if it hasn't already happened) when at least one of these giants will disappoint you.

Perhaps someone you thought was a true "bulwark of the truth" will start teaching something patently false. Maybe he/she will go through an "evolution" or "restudy the issue" and will change course. Maybe he/she will get swept up in a heresy or dangerous movement, or maybe he/she will leave disillusioned after falling in with the wrong crowd.

Perhaps one of your role models will have an affair or fall prey to some other sexual sin. Almost at the blink of an eye, his/her name will no longer be associated with integrity, but with scandal. His/her marriage will be destroyed and the church will be disgraced.

I have known many giants throughout the years, and some of them have fallen due to almost every kind of sin imaginable. Some fell because of alcohol, uncontrollable spending habits, living a double life, marital infidelity, pedophilia, a massive ego, drug use, voyeurism, etc. It seems the most common catalyst for most of these sins was pride or arrogance. ("Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" [Prov. 16:18].)

Out of all the people you admire in the church, whether one of them will fall is most likely not a matter of *if*, but *when*. Someone's giant—a man or woman who is thought of as being almost incapable of wrong—will fall away tomorrow. Someone will have an affair. Someone will leave the faith. Someone will get hurt. And when it happens, it will shake the ground on which you stand. Are you ready for that day?

Here are some things to keep in mind when giants fall:

1. Your faith must not be placed in men but in the truth of God's word.

Brother Jones may have been the one who taught you the gospel. Sister Smith may speak all over the country and may have authored 5 books. Brother Johnson may be a brilliant blogger and witty thinker. Sister Williams might be your own mother and closest confidant. But Jones, Smith, Johnson, and Williams didn't sanctify you—God *did*, and He accomplished this through His living

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And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Genesis 39:7-9

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word (Jn. 17:17). For that reason, we must always remember that the only person who will not disappoint is Jesus (Heb. 13:8). Don't ever forget this. Every other spiritual role model is just a fallible human, and thus needs the blood of Jesus just as much as you do.

Trust in God. Don't build your house on the faith of someone else, however strong you think he/she is. Otherwise, when giants fall, so will you.

2. **Don't ever stop examining the Scriptures daily to see if someone's words are true** (Acts 17:11).

Sometimes we become so impressed with our spiritual giants that we let our guard down. They "passed the test"—now we feel we can trust every word they say. Yet it is a recipe for danger if we ever stop comparing their words with God's word. Our giants are still human—and humans are always apt to miss the mark.

Almost every Christian I know has at least a basic awareness that they need to 'vet' any new preachers or writers before they start listening too closely. But what about those who we have already marked as "safe"? Do we stop scrutinizing their words in light of the gospel, or do we always take their words as gospel? Remember, no Christian is unsinkable—even the ones we trust implicitly.

Don't ever stop testing everything (1 Thess. 5:21). No giant should be given that kind of power over your heart. Both Jesus and the apostles repeatedly warned us that there would be wolves who would try to snatch us from the Lord (Matt. 7:15-20; 24:4-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Gal. 2:4; Eph. 4:14; 5:6; Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:1-3; 3:17; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 19:20).

I'm convinced that many wolves don't know they're wolves—they've just been honestly deceived themselves. After all, haven't you ever met a dog or cat that thought it was a human? If so, why can't there be wolves who think they are still faithful Christians? The words of your spiritual role model will only be true to the degree that they accurately capture the teaching of the Bible.

3. **Knowledge is an inadequate safeguard against apostasy.**

This is perhaps the biggest reason why news of a fallen giant is so shocking. We think to ourselves, "But they knew better than to do that!" How could someone whose mind is so brilliant—whose knowledge is so impressive—commit such a sin?

This may seem counter-intuitive, but there is very little correlation between holiness from sin and knowledge of theology. In my experience, brand new Christians don't sin any more than those who have been Christians for 50 years. (In fact, it is not uncommon for them to sin *less*.) Some of the most despicable sinners are those who could run intellectual circles around me. But remember, even Satan has a good handle on Scripture (Matt. 4:6).

Paul accurately observed, "knowledge puffs up" (1 Cor. 8:11). Book knowledge will always be a false hedge against apostasy. Don't misunderstand: knowledge is a tool to help us better obey and love God. It is the means by which we learn how to love and serve God more effectively (Psa. 119:11). But knowledge must never be separated from the *heart*. Our knowledge of the truth is only as good as our willingness to obey it. When the heart goes, no amount of logic and reasoning with the Scriptures will rescue someone who has fallen into sin (Heb. 6:4-6).

5. **Sin must never be underestimated.**

Perhaps the one thing that every fallen giant has in common is that they didn't expect it to end this way. Eve just took a little bite (Gen. 3:6), Lot's wife just took a little look (Gen. 19:26); Uzzah just took a little touch (2 Sam. 6:1-11); the bridesmaids enjoyed just a little neglect (Matt. 25:1-11; Ananias and Sapphira told just a little lie (Acts 5:1-11). But these stories are in the Bible to remind us there's no such thing as "just a little sin."

You must never think that you are a strong enough Christian and thus can "hold your liquor" when it comes to sin. You have been snookered if you think you're too strong to fall. "Deceptive" is one of the primary ways the Bible describes sin (cf. Rom. 7:11; 2 Cor. 11:13-

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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. 16 Ezekiel 28:11—31:18

Sept. 17 Ezekiel 32:1—34:24

Sept. 18 Ezekiel 34:25—38:9

Sept. 19 Ezekiel 38:10—40:49

Sept. 20 Ezekiel 41—43

Sept. 21 Ezekiel 44—48

Sept. 22 Daniel 1:1—2:30 (video)

Sept. 23 Daniel 2:31—4:27

"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 **28 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ We have decided to **cancel** our **Fall Gospel Meeting**. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the other opportunities in the area listed below. We look forward to our Spring Gospel Meeting with Rick Brumback.
- ◆ **Phil Palmer** will be with us **Wednesday night** to make a presentation on **World Bible School**.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ November 3—Ladies' Day w/ Evelyn Bonner
- ◆ March 24-27—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Sept. 16-20—Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main (San Angelo) w/ Israel Rodriguez
- ◆ 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*" (Johnny speaks Monday @ 3:00pm)
- ◆ Oct. 20-21—Lectureship @ Hamilton.
- ◆ Oct. 21-24—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Lee Wright

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15; Eph. 5:6; 2 Thess. 2:3; 2 Tim. 2:26; Titus 3:3; Heb. 3:13; 1 John 3:7).

As we become increasingly aware of God's will, we become increasingly aware of the sin all around us (Rom. 7:13; cf. 7:7-9). If our theology motivates us to downplay the seriousness of sin, our theology is wrong. It shouldn't be any surprise to us that when our fidelity to Scripture deteriorates, so will our morality. There should be no point in the life of the Christian when sin shouldn't be absolutely abhorred (Rom. 12:9).

The fact that even a strong leader in the church or a respected role model can fall prey to sin should be a sobering reminder to us: Sin is deadly not only to those who are weak but also to those who are strong. It is naïve to think we can ever become immune to the allure of sin. Don't ever let your guard down.

5. Be kind.

While this article is about protecting yourself from the disillusionment of a fallen giant, it is important that we understand *the former giant's* own need for grace. Ephesians 4:29 sets the tone for the relationship we are to have with fallen giants: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Of course, Christ doesn't forgive those who are unwilling to receive forgiveness. But He is our Savior of grace. Depending on the situation, sometimes God's grace is a *rebuking* grace, at other times it is a *patient* grace, still, at other times, it is a *gentle* grace (cf. Jude 22-23). But no amount of disappointment will ever justify unkindness towards someone else. How would you want faithful Christians to treat you once you have been overcome, and repented of, sin (cf. Matt. 7:12)?

Conclusion

Giants will fall. Don't think *your* spiritual role models are somehow different from the fallen giants of others. Satan is active. And if he can trick giants, he can trick you. We are engaged in an invisible real war, with real casualties. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). You will never achieve a high enough rank in the Lord's army that you can take off your spiritual armor (Eph. 6:13-18).

Ben Giselbach (plainsimplefaith.com)

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

	Sept. 2, 2018	Sept. 9, 2018
Bible Class	48	41
AM Worship	57	57
PM Worship	42	40
Wednesday PM	50	41
Contribution	\$2,018	\$1,635

	This Week: 9/16/18	Next Week: 9/23/18		
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	Maninger Family	Hank Wheeler & Jessica Stultz		
Opening Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Jack Turner, Don Smith	Tom Wilcox*, Hank Wheeler Coyce Reed, Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Randy Huckaby		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Don Smith		
Scripture Reading	Rafe Smith	John Barnum		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Joe Dennis		
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 19 WBS Presentation	September 26 Don Smith	October 3 Prayer Night	October 10 Joe Dennis

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 16, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 14:4**
 Wed. Class **World Bible School Presentation**

Living Right in a World Gone Wrong: The Example of Joseph (Gen. 39:6-23)

- I. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he said, "No"; and meant it.**
 - A. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego said, "No"; and meant it (Dan. 3:13-30).
 - B. Daniel said, "No"; and meant it (Dan. 1:8).
 - C. Vashti said, "No"; and meant it (Esther 1:10-12).
 - D. Jesus said, "No"; and meant it (Mt. 4:1-11).
 - E. Thank God Joseph was no situationist.
- II. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he would not betray the confidence others had in him.**
 - A. God had confidence in Job; and Job did not let Him down.
 - B. Paul had confidence in Philemon.
 - C. There are so many who have confidence in us.
- III. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he knew there were some things in life that did not belong to him.**
 - A. Another's marital companion is not yours.
 - B. Someone's future marital companion is not yours.
- IV. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he knew that though sin may be committed against another, ultimately, all sin is against God.**
 - A. David realized this principle.
 - B. Paul taught this principle.
 - C. There is always a third party to be considered in sinning.
- V. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he knew that immorality is sin.**
 - A. David similarly regarded his sin with Bathsheba.
 - B. Paul discussed the sin of immorality, and the Christian's body, at length; and, emphatically put immorality in its place (1 Cor. 6:13-20).
 - C. We must stop minimizing sin.
- VI. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he would not flirt with evil.**
 - A. The NT gives ample instruction concerning fleeing from what is wrong.
 - B. We must never overly estimate our strength of resistance.
- VII. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he was aware of the seductive measures of the immoral.**
- VIII. **Joseph lived right in a world gone wrong because he would not let his assets become the occasion of his stumbling.**

Have a Sevenfold Unity (Eph. 4:4-6)

- III. **The Practice of the Glorious Church (4:1 – 6:20).**
 - B. **Have a Sevenfold Unity (4:4-6).**
 1. **One Body (4a).**
 - a. *There is one body* is a reference to the body of Christ, the church.
 - b. The "saved" and "the church" are one and the same group of people.
 - c. The body is to be united;
 - d. Christ has only one church.
 2. **One Spirit (4b).**
 - a. The *one Spirit* is the Holy Spirit who made known, by revelation, the eternal purpose of God (see 1 Cor. 2:13; Eph. 3:1-10).
 - b. This one Spirit gives those in the body access to God (2:18) and is the source of unity within the body.
 - c. Therefore, this unity is called "*the unity of the Spirit*" (4:3).
 3. **One Hope (4c).**
 - a. The concepts of *called* and *calling* were presented earlier in the letter.
 - b. *Hope* means the "*desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it*".
 4. **One Lord (5a).**
 - a. *One Lord* refers to Jesus Christ.
 - b. The title "*Lord*" included a fourfold meaning: authority, ownership, master, and king.
 5. **One Faith (5b).**
 - a. *One faith* is a reference to the whole body of truth embraced by the Christian religion and a reference to Christianity itself.
 - b. It is "*the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3),
 - c. There is "*one faith*" because there is only one Christianity, one body of truth for the church, and only one revelation from God to people today.
 6. **One Baptism (5c).** The *one baptism* – the one that is valid today – is an immersion or burial in water, according to Rom. 6:4 and Col. 2:12.
 7. **One God (6).** *God is one*, and through Christ He has become the *Father* of Christians because *all* who are in Christ are His children (Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:26-27). Paul laid down the 7 "*pillars of unity*" – 7 truths that must be accepted as we seek to have a proper attitude toward God's revealed will. Only by accepting these basic truths can we "*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (4:3).