

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



October 21, 2018

Contact Us:

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325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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

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

Heaven On Earth? No! (1)

Where will the redeemed be in eternity when this life is over? The Bible teaches they will go to be with the Lord in heaven (Jn. 14:1-3). Yet, some are saying the heaven we've always hoped for does not exist – that it's not going to be in heaven above (God's dwelling place), but it's going to be on earth below (man's dwelling place). They imagine that God's sole purpose through the ages has been to restore this sin cursed earth to its original condition (like that of Adam and Eve) and that man will live upon a "refurbished" and "renovated" earth forever. They call this "reversing the curse." But, according to inspiration, Peter wrote that this world, including everything God made and everything man made, will "pass away," be "burned up," "melt," "dissolved," GONE! (2 Pet. 3:10-13).

It's a false doctrine that says the redeemed have no hope of going to that realm beyond this world called heaven. Instead, this false doctrine teaches that God will leave His throne in Heaven and come down to live with the redeemed "on a refurbished earth." Sad indeed, but some of our own brethren are teaching and preaching that at the Judgment, Heaven will not be in eternity where God dwells, but will be on this Earth where man dwells. That God will come down from heaven and live with man on the earth, to them, is a very appealing and comforting doctrine!

Though this doctrine may be new to many, it's not new. It's been around for a long, long time. It raises its ugly head now and then and is always put down by faithful brethren. Then another group arises who consider they've "dug deep" in the Bible and have found a new gem that's never before been discovered.

"Heaven on Earth" is a doctrine rooted in MATERIALISM. Materialism considers physical, tangible, material things, more important than spiritual things. Its core belief is that "substance is everything" – this world is everything.

Jehovah's Witness have held on to materialism their entire existence (a little more than 140 years). They also teach that eternal life will be on earth. Except in some ways, they are closer to the truth than some of our own brethren. Jehovah's Witness doctrine says there is a heaven above, but that it's already full (holding only 144,000). The rest of the saved will live on a refurbished earth for eternity.

Anyone reading through the Bible, in even the most casual manner, would NEVER get the idea that eternal life will be on this earth (unless that's what you are looking for)! One needs help to see this idea in the Bible! And, sadly, there are many who stand ready to help.

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...once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an anti-type which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

1 Pet. 3:18-22

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

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Notice what Jesus said and taught about heaven...

Heaven is where God the Father is – His dwelling place. Jesus spoke of God His father “which is in heaven” at least 7 times. “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21; cf. 10:32-33; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10, 19).

Jesus spoke of God as our/your Father which is in heaven at least 14 times. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.” “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Mt. 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 14, 26, 32; 7:11; 18:14, 35; 23:9; Mk. 11:25-26; Lk. 11:13).

Heaven is God’s Throne / Christ’s Throne. This is mentioned at least 9 times in the New Testament. “Heaven...is God’s throne” (Mt. 5:34). “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool” (Acts 7:49). “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory” (Mt. 25:31). “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever...” (Heb. 1:8; Mt. 23:22; Rev. 4:2; 5:13; 16:17; 20:11).

The earth is God’s footstool, not his throne. “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest” (Acts 7:49; cf. Isa. 66:1). God cannot be confined to a physical house or place of rest like the earth—that’s ridiculous. At the dedication of the temple, Solomon said, “...will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded” (1 Kgs. 8:27)? He prays to God in verse 30, “...hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.” Heaven on Earth doc-

trine takes God off His throne in heaven and brings Him down to earth to sit on his floor mat.

Jesus can’t ever be a King or Priest on the earth. It is impossible for Jesus to ever occupy a throne on earth. Zechariah 5:12-13 speaks of the reign of the Messiah saying: “...he shall build the temple of the LORD; ...and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne.” Hebrews 8:1-4 says He can’t be a priest on earth. And, since he can’t be a priest on earth, he can’t be a king on earth because Zechariah says he will be both a king and priest at the same time. Also, Jeremiah 22:28-30 forbids the Lord Jesus from ever reigning on the throne in Judah (Zion). Coniah, king of Judah, was so corrupt that we read in verse 30: “Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.” Jesus is a descendant of Coniah (Jechoniah, Jehoichin), mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew as Jechonias (Mt. 1:11-12). He can’t be king on earth!

The Scriptures always speak of heaven being “up” – at least 18 times. “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God” (Mk. 16:19; cf. Mt. 14:19; Mk. 6:41; 7:34; Lk. 9:16; 18:13; 24:51; Jn. 1:51; 3:13, 31; 17:1; Acts 1:10-11; 2:34; 7:55-56; 11:10; Rom. 10:6).

The Scriptures always speak of coming “down from” heaven – at least 20 times. “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (Jn. 6:38; cf. Lk. 9:54; Jn. 1:51; 3:15; 6:33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58; Acts 11:5; Rom. 10:6; 1 Pet. 1:12; Rev. 3:12; 10:1; 13:13; 18:1; 20:1; 21:2).

The expression “from heaven” is used more than 45 times in the New Testament. The point is, heaven is not earth. Earth is not heaven. They are two separate and distinct places. “The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men” (Mt. 21:25; cf. Mt. 16:1; 28:2; Mk. 8:11; 11:30-31; Lk. 11:16; 17:29; 20:4-5;

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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

Oct. 21 Mark 6—7

Oct. 22 Mark 8—10 (video)

Oct. 23 Mark 11—12

Oct. 24 Mark 13—14

Oct. 25 Mark 15—16

Oct. 26 Luke 1—2 (video)

Oct. 27 Luke 3—4 (video)

Oct. 28 Luke 5—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 **23 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **John Barnum's** name has been put before the congregation for consideration to become a **deacon**. If you have any feedback, especially any scriptural objection, please get the information to one of the elders ASAP.
- ◆ Johnny is on vacation this week. **We are thankful to have brother Foy Forehand with us today.** His topics will be: *"The Figure"* (am) and *"In View of the Resurrection"* (pm).
- ◆ **Bangs' Gospel Meeting** with **Lee Wright** begins today and goes through Wednesday: *"God's Lost and Found (Luke 15)."* See flier on bulletin board.

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

- ◆ Nov. 10—Ladies' Day at Oldham Lane (Abilene): *"Broken But Blessed"*

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22:43; Jn. 1:32; 3:13, 27, 31; 6:32-33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58; Acts 11:5, 9; Rom. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:47; 2 Cor. 5:2; Gal. 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:16; 2 Thess. 1:7; Heb. 12:25; 1 Pet. 1:12; 2 Pet. 1:18; Rev. 10:1, 4, 8; 11:12; 13:13; 14:2, 13; 18:1, 4; 20:1).

God speaks "from" his lofty place "in" heaven – at least 6 times. *"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Mk. 1:11; cf. Mt. 3:17; Lk. 3:22; Jn. 12:28; Acts 10:15; Deut. 4:36; 30:11-14).

We "pray" to God who is "in" heaven. Jesus taught his disciples, *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name"* (Mt. 6:9). Jesus said, *"...When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name"* (Lk. 11:2). God told Solomon, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"* (2 Chron. 7:14; cf. Ps. 20:6; 1 Kgs. 8:30-32, 34, 36, 39, 43, 45, 49).

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Celebrate

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

October Birthdays: Lisa Greer (5), Matthew Churchwell (7), Jo Maninger (12), Hank Wheeler (13), Tina Barnum (14).

October Anniversaries: Ryan & Caitlin Settles (7), Rafe & Becky Smith (16), **Mike & Patti Bannister (27).**

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 7, 2018	Oct. 14, 2018
Bible Class	51	61
AM Worship	64	65
PM Worship	49	35
Wednesday PM	47	36
Contribution	\$2,241	\$1,540

	This Week: 10/21/18	Next Week: 10/28/18		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>October 2018 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / Greer</p> <p>November 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John & Tina Barnum		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Gene Bannister		
Communion	James Fuller*, Kevin Ross Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler	Randy Huckaby*, Coyce Reed Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Ryan Rudloff		
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 24 Don Smith	October 31 5 th Wednesday Video	November 7 Prayer Night	November 14 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 October 21, 2018

Sunday Class Foy Forehand: "What's New?"
 Wed. Class TBA

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The angels of God are "in" heaven —found at least 12 times. "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as **the angels of God in heaven**" (Mt. 22:30). "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven" (Mk. 12:25). (See also Mt. 18:10; 24:36; 28:2; Mk. 13:32; Lk. 2:15; Jn. 1:51; Gal. 1:8; 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 8:13; 12:7).

Our reward is "in" heaven. Found at least 9 times. "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven...**" (Mt. 5:12; cf. Lk. 6:23). He did not say our reward is great "on earth," he said our reward is great "in heaven." Jesus said, "**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**" (Mt. 6:19-21). If heaven is going to be on earth, then Jesus missed a great opportunity here to tell us. But he didn't miss the opportunity, he told the truth about our eternal reward —heaven is NOT going to be on earth. He knew there would be a false doctrine arise that taught heaven will be on the renovated earth, so he drove a death-knell through its heart in these verses. Our heart must be focused on heaven, not on the earth (Col. 3:1-2). Also, Paul wrote the church at Corinth, saying, "**For**

*we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, **an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**" (2 Cor. 5:1, it's not on earth in this verse). Our physical (earthly) body will be changed into a spiritual (heavenly) body and we will be with God "in the heavens," not on the earth. (See also Mk. 10:21; 12:33; Lk. 18:22; 2 Cor. 5:1-2).*

Heaven and earth are different places. Jesus told the apostles, "**I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven**" (Mt. 16:19; 18:18). God did not allow the apostles to make their own laws (bind on earth) and then he would honor it in heaven (bind it in heaven). The point is, whatever they "bind on earth" will have already been "bound in heaven." When the apostles spoke and wrote, they did so by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The emphasis we're calling attention to is that "heaven" and "earth" are two different places. God dwells in heaven above and we dwell on the earth below. 1 Corinthians 15:47-49 says, "**The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.**" (See also Mt. 28:18; Mk. 11:30; Lk. 10:20; 20:4; Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24; Eph. 1:10; 3:15).

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Sept. 2018, pp. 66-67.)