

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 28, 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

John Barnum

Preacher:

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! (2)

Heaven is God's dwelling place from which He speaks (cf. Mark 1:11). Jesus taught us to pray "*our Father which art in heaven*" (Luke 11:2). We are to rejoice and be exceeding glad because our reward is great "*in heaven,*" not on the earth (Matt. 5:12). Jesus can never be a priest on earth (cf. Zech. 6:12-13; Heb. 8:1-4). He can never be a king on earth (Jer. 22:28-30; Matt. 1:11-12). Heaven is always UP, never BELOW (Mark 16:19).

There are those who will take God off His throne in heaven and bring Him down to earth and subject Him to reside on His footstool – a physical earth. Advocates of the "renewed earth" doctrine tell us that heaven and earth will become one and the same; i.e. at the Lord's second coming, heaven comes down to earth and joins with it to be "heaven on earth." The Bible doesn't teach this doctrine (cf. Acts 7:49; Isa. 66:1; Psa. 45:6).

Jesus revealed to the apostle John, "*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne*" (Rev. 3:21). Where is the Lord's throne upon which He now sits and rules? Where did Jesus go to sit on His throne? That's where we will go. The Scriptures are clear. He ascended up into heaven (leaving the earth) and sat down on His throne at God's right hand. "*So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God*" (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:2; Heb. 1:2-3; 10:12). John saw a "*throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne*" (Rev. 4:2). "*The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven*" (Psalm 11:4; 1 Kings 22:19; 2 Chron. 18:18; Matt. 5:34; 23:22; Rev. 16:17).

Man is condemned when he perverts the Scriptures in any respect (cf. Acts 13:10; Gal. 1:7). That's certainly true when he pulls God and Christ off their throne in heaven and has them to dwell on the earth with the redeemed. The righteous "*go*" to live eternally with God and Christ in heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17). But, renewed physical earth advocates have God and Christ leaving their throne in heaven and coming down to earth to live with man! This doctrine destroys the one hope we have and read about in Ephesians 4:4. A Christian's hope is far removed from this earth. Our hope is to be with God in heaven for eternity.

(Continued on page 2)



These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Prov. 6:16-19

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

(Continued from page 1)

Regarding our hope, look at the Holy Spirit’s words in Hebrews 6. This chapter describes Christians who remain steadfast and do not surrender to the temptations of this world. Some of the brethren in the first century were leaving the Lord’s church and going back into Judaism to live under the law of Moses. They were abandoning the Lord and returning to a system that could not save. There’s only one way to heaven and those who reject it can’t be saved. The way to heaven is in the church of Christ. Those who obey the Gospel are added to the church (Acts 2:47). The church is the Lord’s body (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). He is the savior of it (Eph. 5:23).

While exhorting Christians to remain faithful, Hebrews 6:7-8 reminds us that the earth “...which beareth thorns and briars **is rejected**, and is nigh unto cursing; **whose end is to be burned**.” It’s the same end of the earth described in 2 Peter 3:7-12. It’s the end that is “...reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (v.7). At the Lord’s second coming “...the heavens shall **pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up**” (v.10). The entire earth will be “dissolved” (v.11). “...Wherein the heavens being on fire shall be **dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat**” (v.12). Jesus plainly said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away” (Matt. 24:32).

Knowing that the earth and all the works in it are going to be burned up, dissolved, melted, gone; of those who remain steadfast in the Lord, Hebrews 6:9 says “*But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things which accompany salvation.*” Though the earth passes away (cf. Heb. 6:6; Matt. 24:35), those who have “*patiently endured*” have “*the full assurance of hope unto the end*” (Heb. 6:15, 11). The faithful “...have a strong consolation (encouragement, solace, comfort), *who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither*

the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus...” (Heb. 6:18-20). As a ship’s anchor holds it fast, a Christian’s hope is both sure and steadfast. Storms of life and persecution may rage, but our hope to live with God in heaven never falters. It holds us firm because God promised it and He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18). Socrates is credited with saying, “to ground hope on a false assumption, is like trusting in a weak anchor.”

Hebrews 6:19 assures us that Jesus entered “*within the veil*” with His own blood as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Where is the “*veil*” into which He entered? It’s in heaven of course! It’s not on earth! Read heaven’s words: “*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us*” (Heb. 9:12). “*For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us*” (Heb. 9:24).

Jesus not only entered within the veil (the holy of holies in heaven) as a sacrifice for man (Mark 10:45), but He entered that eternal place as a “*forerunner*” for us – the redeemed, the saved (Heb. 6:20). He went into heaven “*for us*” – on our behalf. A forerunner is one who goes before others, ahead of others, in advance of those who will follow. The idea presented is that of a scout who goes ahead of those who are following behind him. Again, the Scriptures are clear. Jesus went into heaven, ahead of the redeemed. This is the theme, the continuity, that runs throughout the Bible and matches in perfect detail in both Old and New Testaments. Jesus told the apostles, and all the saints of God, “...*I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also*” (John 14:2-3). You can’t get Jesus coming to live with man on the earth out of that. We go to Him. He does not come to us!

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2018, 74-75)

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. 28 Luke 5—6

Oct. 29 Luke 7—8

Oct. 30 Luke 9—10

Oct. 31 Luke 11—12

Nov. 1 Luke 13—14

Nov. 2 Luke 15—16 (video)

Nov. 3 Luke 17—18

Nov. 4 Luke 19—20 (video)

“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 **35 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The elders have received no objections (only positive comments) concerning **John Barnum** becoming a **deacon**. As of today, John is a deacon serving this congregation. We look forward to working with John for many years to come.
- ◆ **Our Ladies' Day is this Saturday!** All our ladies should make plans to attend, and invite your friends. There are still flyers available at both doors.
- ◆ There is a new ***Spiritual Sword*** available on the back table. Theme: "*Moral Collapse in Society.*"

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 24-27—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Rick Brumback

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

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



The God of New Beginnings: The Hope of the New Birth

We are all broken. We all need a fresh start. Through Christ, God delivers.

The letter of 1 Peter, which some have termed a handbook for new Christians, reminds God's people how God has enabled us to have a new life and what we can expect from this new beginning.

Peter opens his letter by praising God for granting us a new beginning. In his words, "*he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*" (1 Peter 1:3).

What Peter describes is more than just a second chance. For the new birth to provide us any real benefit, it must offer something more than a redo. To understand why consider the world of power lifting.

The world record in power lifting is 1036 lbs. So, how many attempts would you like to lift 1500 lbs? Granting us another chance to achieve the impossible does not help at all.

In the same way, how beneficial would the new birth be if it consists of nothing more than God wiping our sinful slate clean and saying, "Try not to mess up your life this time!" We need more than a second chance. We need to enter into another type of life.

By God's great mercy God gives us birth into a life whose final destination is not determined by nor measured by the righteousness we can generate. Rather, we enter into a new type of life whose future is tied to what has already happened, Jesus' resurrection.

This is no mere redo. Through Christ, God provides us confident expectation about our future. Jesus' resurrection points to where our new life is headed! Because of Christ's resurrection, those who belong to Christ can anticipate eternal life "*into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It is reserved in heaven for you*" (1 Peter 1:4). Ever thought about your name being embossed in heaven on your future inheritance?

Because God loves us, God has made it possible for us to experience something more than just taking another whack at a life dependent upon our performance. He offers us a fresh start built upon Christ. Not only does Christ' death make this new birth possible, his resurrection reveals what awaits those who have experienced the new birth.

Barry Newton (forthright.net)

Celebrate

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

November Birthdays: Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Marcia Turnbull (24).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), Coyce & Connie Reed (7), Charles & Bennie White (19).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Oct. 14, 2018	Oct. 21, 2018
Bible Class	61	40
AM Worship	65	48
PM Worship	35	35
Wednesday PM	36	26
Contribution	\$1,540	\$1,589

	This Week: 10/28/18	Next Week: 11/4/18				
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	October 2018 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: M. & P. Bannister / Greer			
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum	Tom & Carol Wilcox				
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller				
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Coyce Reed Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	Allen Griffith, Vernon Zier Hank Wheeler, John Barnum				
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby				
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum				
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger				
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister				
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis	November 2018 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Churchwell Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby			
Communion	Randy Huckaby	Allen Griffith				
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Ryan Rudloff				
Wednesday Devotionals:	October 31 5 th Wednesday Video	November 7 Prayer Night			November 14 Joe Dennis	November 21 Rafe 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 October 28, 2018

Sunday Class **Romans 15:2**
 Wed. Class **5th Wednesday Video**

<p>Hands That Shed Innocent Blood</p> <p>One of the things the Lord hates is "hands that shed innocent blood" (Prov. 6:16).</p> <p>I. God Hated Hands That Shed Innocent Blood in the Patriarchal Age.</p> <p>A. The Author of life has the right to determine the value of life, and the punishment one should receive for taking an innocent life.</p> <p>B. When Cain murdered Abel, God confronted him: "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground" (Gen. 4:10-12).</p> <p>C. Centuries later, Reuben stopped his brothers from killing Joseph, showing that shedding innocent blood was still considered a very serious matter.</p> <p>II. God Hated Hands That Shed Innocent Blood in the Mosaic Age.</p> <p>A. The Books of Law (Ex. 23:7; Deut. 27:25; Ex. 22:2-3; Num. 35:11; Deut. 21:1-9).</p> <p>B. The Books of History (1 Sam. 19:4-5; 1 Kgs. 2:31; 2 Kgs. 21:16; 24:3-4).</p> <p>C. The Books of Wisdom (Ps. 10:8; 94:21; 106:37-38).</p> <p>D. The Books of the Prophets (Joel 3:19; Isa. 59:3, 6-7; Jer. 7:5-7; 22:3-5; 26:15; Lam. 4:13; Ezek. 16:38; 22:4, 6, 12, 27, 31; 23:45; 33:25; 36:18-19; 35:5-6).</p> <p>III. God Hates Hands That Shed Innocent Blood in the Christian Age.</p> <p>A. Jesus told the lawyers of His day: "That the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation" (Lk. 11:49-50).</p> <p>B. John heard the angel say unto God: "For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink" (Rev. 16:6).</p> <p>C. Abortion sheds innocent blood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some claim that abortion does not take a human life; that it is merely the harmless cutting away and disposing of pre-human medical tissue. The key question is, when does human life actually begin? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The answer is that human life begins at conception; thus, abortion is the murder of a human being (the shedding of innocent blood). Medical evidence proves that human life begins at conception. Scriptural evidence proves that human life begins at conception. God's view of life in the womb proves that human life begins at conception. The distinction made between zygote, embryo, fetus, and newborn baby is not one of nature, but of environment, growth and development. To shed such innocent blood is an abomination in the sight of God. 	<p>Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind (2) – Ephesians 4:25-32</p> <p>III. The Practice of the Glorious Church (4:1 – 6:20).</p> <p>D. Being Renewed in the Spirit of the Mind (4:17-32).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Turn from falsehood to truth (25). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Therefore, links what Paul was about to say with what he had just written. The Greek words for putting away lying indicate that lying was to be put away once and for all. Turn from anger to control (26-27). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be angry, and do not sin. Not all anger is wrong, but anger many be dangerous. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul prohibited a settled disposition of anger: <i>Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.</i> Nor give place to the devil. Turn from stealing to working (28). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Let him who stole steal no longer. The antidote for stealing was hard work – but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good. Paul's motivation for work was twofold. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is beneficial. It provides the means to have something to give him who has need. Turn from corrupt words to edification (29). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the place of words that corrupt unity and tear down others, speak words that are good for necessary edification. Words like these will always impart grace to the hearers. Turn from grieving the Spirit to bringing Him joy (30). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In essence, "Stop grieving the Holy Spirit of God by continuing to do the things just prohibited". Paul added, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Turn from bitterness to tender-heartedness (31-32). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six specific vices are to be avoided: <i>bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, ...evil speaking ... [and] malice.</i> In place of these vices, three virtues were to be added to their lives: <i>be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.</i>
--	---