

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



March 17, 2019

Contact Us:

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Gospel Meeting

March 17-20, 2019

"How We Got the Bible"

Gospel Meeting held at the building of the
4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 Fourth Street
Brownwood, Texas

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM
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

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

Service Times & Topics

- Sun. 9:45am "Why All the Fuss?" - A Matter of Concern
10:40am "Is It From God?" - A Matter of Inspiration
6:00pm "A Record of Writing" - A Matter of Transmission
Mon. 7:00pm "Is This the List?" - A Matter of Inspired Books
Tues. 7:00pm "Through the Centuries" - A Matter of Translation
Wed. 7:00pm "What Do We Do Now?" - A Matter of Practical Use

Lunch will be provided after services Sunday Morning.
Snacks & fellowship after Monday & Tuesday evening services.

Have you ever wondered about the reliability of the Bible you hold in your hand? Is it indeed the Word of God? If so, has it remained true as it has come to us though the passage of time? How can we be sure?

Our speaker for our Gospel Meeting is **Dr. Rick Brumback**, and he is well qualified to speak on this subject. He holds a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Baylor University, and he specializes in early church history and literature.

Rick currently serves as Associate Professor in the College of Biblical Studies and Graduate School of Theology at Freed-Hardeman University. In addition to his work at FHU, he also preaches for the Christian Chapel Church of Christ in Wildersville, Tennessee.

Please come join us as we explore "How We Got the Bible."



In addition, Rick will be teaching a combined Bible class at 10:00 Wednesday morning: "*A Walk Through the Bible Lands.*"



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)

...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Non-Negotiable: Believer's Baptism for the Remission of Sins

The word “Satan” means “adversary,” and the word “devil” means “slanderer.” According to 1 Peter 5:8, the devil is, literally, our accuser. The devil, then, is a deceiver who lies to us in order to have a reason to accuse us (Jn. 8:44). We might reasonably suppose that, of all the subjects about which the devil wishes to deceive people, near the top of the list would be the requirements for accessing salvation. If the devil can lead us to believe the wrong answer to the question “What must we do to be saved?” (cf. Acts 2:37; 16:30), then he will have won a great victory. So let us be clear about the topic under consideration, and let each of us ensure that he has done what the Bible says he must do to be saved.

Each of the terms in the title of this article is important. By “believer’s baptism for the remission of sins,” I mean *immersion administered to one who believes in Christ as the Son of God, in order to obtain the remission of his sins*. This statement is a summary of what the Bible teaches about baptism. Consider each part of the statement in turn:

Baptism is immersion. “Baptism” and “immersion” are synonymous. Immersion is the meaning of the New Testament Greek word transliterated into the English word “baptism.” It means “an act of immersion,” a “plunging” or a “dipping.” A form of the word occurs in John 13:26-27, where Jesus “dips” or “baptizes” the morsel of bread that He then gives to Judas Iscariot. Given this original meaning of the word “baptism,” it is literally impossible to speak of a baptism by sprinkling or pouring.

But even if we knew nothing about the original Greek word for “baptism,” we could determine the mode of baptism by observing that both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water for the baptism (Acts 8:38), and that baptism is portrayed as a burial (Rom. 6:1-11). If people attempt to administer “baptism” by pouring or sprinkling, they fail. *Baptism is for (in order to obtain) the remission of sins*. The apostle Peter said, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). While the English word “for” can be used in a backward-looking sense (“I am sad *for* my dog has died”) or a forward-looking sense (“I am going to

the store *for* some bread”), the New Testament Greek word translated “for” in Acts 2:38 is always forward-looking. As Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, he said, “[T]his is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Mt. 26:28). The Greek and English constructions of the phrase “for the forgiveness of sins” in Matthew 26:28 are exactly the same as those in the phrase “for the forgiveness of sins” in Acts 2:38. Obviously Jesus died not because forgiveness of sins *already* had been achieved, but *in order to* achieve it. And we are baptized not because we already have accessed forgiveness, but in order to access it. Not just any immersion into water (e.g., swimming in the ocean to hunt for shells) is salvific, but that particular immersion that has remission of sins as its objective.

But again, even if we knew nothing about the original Greek terms, we could tell that baptism must be done for the purpose of obtaining the remission of sins by observing the following, plain passages:

- ◆ Acts 22:16. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.
- ◆ 1 Peter 3:21. [B]aptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- ◆ Galatians 3:27. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

From these passages we observe that a person has not had his sins washed away until he has been baptized; he has not been saved until he has been baptized; he is outside of Christ until he has been baptized.

Baptism occupies a special role among all of those things that God expects people to do. For example, God expects people to help the poor (1 Jn. 3:17). And yet, nobody argues that a person cannot be saved until he helps the poor; he can become a saved person and *then* help the poor. Baptism is different. God expects people to be baptized, and until they do, they remain lost (even if they help the poor). Again, baptism is in order to obtain the remission of sins.

Only believers are candidates for baptism. Who would want to be baptized into Christ while believing that Christ was an impostor or otherwise unable to reconcile us to

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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

Mar. 17 Hebrews 7—10

Mar. 18 Hebrews 11—13

Mar. 19 James 1—3 (video)

Mar. 20 James 4—5; 1 Peter 1—3

Mar. 21 1 Peter 4—5

Mar. 22 2 Peter 1—3

Mar. 23 1 John 1—5 (videos)

Mar. 24 2 John; 3 John; Jude

“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 **48 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Fellowship Meal** following this morning's worship.
- ◆ There will be a combined (men & women) **Bible class Wednesday morning at 10:00**: *"A Walk Through the Bible Lands."* (Normal Ladies' Bible Class will resume next week.)
- ◆ We will need **snack foods for after services Monday and Tuesday evenings**.
- ◆ **Evening meal schedule** (5:15 each evening):
 - Underwood's Cafeteria (402 W Commerce)
 - Section Hand Steak House (4412 Hwy. 377 S)
 - Cici's Pizza (1107 Clement)
- ◆ **Song Leaders** for Gospel Meeting:
 - Monday: Joe Dennis
 - Tuesday: Johnny McCaghren
 - Wednesday: James Fuller

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ March 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Colleyville w/ John Hall. *"Inspiration to Change"*
- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Terry Jackson.
- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Ross Haffner.
- ◆ April 13—Ladies' Day @ Colleyville w/ Tish Clarke and Kayla Hyde. *"Be the Lighthouse"*
- ◆ May 5-9—Focal Point (San Marcos)
- ◆ June 23-27—Junior Camp.
- ◆ July 14-19—Senior Camp.
- ◆ August 16-22—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

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God? Baptism is for salvation, as we have seen (1 Pet. 3:21), and a person cannot be saved without believing in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn. 8:32; Rom. 10:10). So, no one can be baptized biblically without first believing in Jesus. We have no New Testament record of anyone being baptized prior to belief; in particular, we have no record of infant baptism. An infant, lacking the ability to choose sin, has no need of forgiveness anyway (Ezek. 18:20; cf. Mt. 18:3-4).

There are some prominent objections to the simple, biblical truth that I have presented here. Consider four of them: *"Baptism doesn't save. Jesus does."* The Bible never asserts that there is some special power in the water or that immersion, independent of Jesus, saves. Rather, the Bible teaches that Jesus saves us at the moment when we submit to baptism. According to the Bible there are many things that, in some sense, save us: God (Tit. 3:4-5), the gospel (Rom. 15:2), faith (Rom. 10:9), etc. The question is, *when* do these things save us? At what moment are sins forgiven? Sins are not forgiven at the moment when one believes that Jesus is the Son of God, for many who have such belief will be lost (Mt. 7:21-23). Sins are not forgiven at the point of repentance, for Saul of Tarsus was repenting of his sins prior to his baptism and salvation (Acts 9:1-19). Salvation occurs at the moment when sins are washed away, which is at baptism (Acts 22:16; cf. Tit. 3:5).

"Baptism is a beautiful symbol, yet baptism does not result in our salvation." Baptism symbolizes a number of realities (i.e., circumcision, the flood, and the burial and resurrection of Christ), but the Bible *never* says that baptism symbolizes the removal of sins prior to immersion. And the passages we already have seen clearly teach that baptism is more than just a symbol. Paul baptized the Philippian jailer immediately, in the middle of the night, risking terrible consequences—because baptism is essential to salvation (Acts 16:33).

"We are saved by faith and not by baptism. There are many verses that teach only that we should believe in order to be

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Celebrate

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

March Birthdays: Kevin Ross (1), Ken Maninger (4), Wayne Kahlich (9), Ann Walker (10), Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), Ginger Adams (23), Jessical Stultz (28).

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 3, 2019	Mar. 10, 2019
Bible Class	38	32
AM Worship	48	44
PM Worship	32	33
Wednesday PM	21	31
Contribution	\$2,036	\$2,028

	This Week: 3/17/19	Next Week: 3/24/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>March 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: John & Tina Barnum</p> <p>April 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>	
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum	Tom & Carol Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Kevin Ross, Vernon Zier	John Barnum*, Don Smith Randy Huckaby, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Joe Dennis		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Rafe Smith		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Joe Dennis	John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Mike Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 20 Gospel Meeting	March 27 Don Smith	April 3 Prayer Night	April 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 March 17, 2019

Sunday Class **Gospel Meeting**
 Wed. Class **Gospel Meeting**

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 saved. For example, John 3:16 says that if we believe we will be saved." The argument is that a sinner is saved at the moment he believes the proposition that Jesus is the Son of God, or prior to doing any works of obedience. But many passages that mention only faith in connection with salvation say nothing of repentance. Does anyone really believe that folks are saved just by believing, without repenting of their sins?

What, then, is going on in passages such as John 3:16? Saving faith is trust that leads to obedience (Jas. 2:14-26), and so "faith" in many passages is used as a synecdoche—a part of the whole of obedience. This makes sense, for if someone does not believe in Jesus he will never obey Him. On the other hand, if someone truly believes (trusts!) in Jesus, he will do whatever Jesus asks. John 3:16 says that "whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," but Jesus had just said "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn. 3:5). Belief may be mentioned alone as a condition of salvation in one verse of Scripture and yet stand for the whole of obedience leading to salvation. See this in action in Acts 16:31-33:

Paul and Silas said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

"Baptism is a work, and we're not saved by works." The Bible teaches that we are saved by some works but not by others. For example, belief itself is a work that God expects us to do (Jn. 6:29). Consider the following charts, and the accompanying Scripture references:

Works of Obedience as a Condition for Salvation	
Passage	What it teaches about works
Matthew 16:27	We will be judged according to our deeds.
Romans 2:6	God will render to each according to his works.
Romans 2:8	We must obey the truth or we will be lost.
John 6:29	To believe in Christ is to do the work of God.

Works of Obedience as a Condition for Salvation	
Passage	What it teaches about works
John 6:27	We must work for salvation.
2 John 8	Do not lose the salvation for which you have worked.
Galatians 5:6	Faith must work in love.
Philippians 2:12	We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

The New Testament	
We are saved by	We are not saved by
	Faith alone (Matthew 7:21; James 2:24)
Faith (Galatians 2:13) and works of obedience (James 2:14-26)	Works of the law of Moses (Galatians 2:15)
	Works by which we earn salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9)
	Works by which we might boast (Ephesians 2:9)

God requires works of obedience. Obedience is not equivalent to earning or meriting salvation, any more than depositing a gifted check for \$1,000 is equivalent to earning the money. The gifted money must be appropriated to the recipient's account, and the gift of salvation must be appropriated to our souls. This appropriation occurs on God's terms.

Have you submitted to the baptism of the Bible?

Caleb Colley
 (plainsimplefaith.com)