

# 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 31, 2019

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

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

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 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

## Non-Negotiable: The Fruit of the Spirit

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23)*

No government in the history of the world will ever make a law declaring it illegal to practice self-control. It would be nonsensical and ludicrous. There has never been a *Declaration of Impatience*—that all men are created impatient—recognizing impatience as an inalienable right. A longsuffering spirit will always be seen as a virtue—even in a post-Christian, secular age.

Yet when it comes to the Fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23, many self-identifying Christians seem to think these virtues are mere *suggestions*. Even more are under the illusion that because salvation is a gift from God, there are no requirements expected of their conduct in order to receive it.

However, the Bible teaches that Christians are in fact under a spiritual law today (Rom. 8:1-2) and thus obligated to meet God's requirements for salvation. We have been made free from the law of sin and death, and are now living under a law written upon our hearts (Heb. 8:9-10). The *only way* to demonstrate adherence to this spiritual law is by bearing the fruit of the Spirit. It is non-negotiable.

An obedient child of God must demonstrate **self-control**. If there is ever a time when we lose our self-control, we should repent and confess our sin. Just as Jesus was **meek** (Matt. 11:28-30), every disciple striving to conform to His manner of life should be meek as well. Pride and arrogance are the opposite of meekness; God hates a proud look (Prov. 6:17). There should be no such thing as a proud Christian.

**Faith** comes through the diligent study of God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 2:15). Failure to trust God in moments of critical decisions is evidence of spiritual unfruitfulness. The most basic of all spiritual qualities is pure **goodness**. Intentionally choosing to be bad with a single word, thought, or deed is a violation of God's spiritual law. **Kindness** is an expression of the Spirit's presence in our hearts with which too many Christians struggle. Excuses don't make it right. How can it be hard for some Christians to be kind? If cruelty, unkindness, or meanness ever describe you, learn to choose a different reaction in those moments! Our Lord was the most **patient** individual ever to live. He endured the cross knowing he

*(Continued on page 2)*



For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. **Isaiah 9:6-7a**

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

(Continued from page 1)

was innocent. Patience in the face of temptation is part of the law of Christ (Jas. 1:12).

The **peace** of God may exceed our understanding (Phil. 4:7), but that peace is also the result of a particular understanding. Peace is the result of understanding and trusting God’s perfect control. If we cannot find peace in our souls, we are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit. I define **joy** as happiness with contentment. Being happy is great. But being joyful is even better. Joy exceeds happiness because joy knows there is nothing better than what I already possess in my soul — the joy of God’s salvation (Ps. 51:12). A malcontent is breaking the spiritual law by which Christians live. **Love** is essential (1 Cor. 13). A selfless search for the best in and for other people will result in the greatest joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control that a person can experience. To view anyone—whether in the workplace, in politics, in sports, or in our homes—with even an ounce of hatred means the law of Christ has been broken in your heart.

God be thanked that the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from our sins (1 John 1:7-9). None of us can be perfect in demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit. But the law of Christ **requires** that we pursue perfect adherence with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Total commitment to exhibiting these virtues is not up for negotiation in the Christian’s life. To be “on the fence” —to be lukewarm (Rev. 3:16)—to be double-minded is detestable (Jas. 1:8).

Paul says there is no law *against* the fruit of the Spirit, but he never explicitly states that bearing fruit is part of the spiritual law either. We understand it is the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus that *compels* us to bear fruit. Jesus said if we do not bear fruit we will be cast forth and burned like an empty branch. He also said that to bear fruit we must abide in Him (John 15:1-8). Producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is a non-negotiable matter. What kind of fruit are you producing?

David Dixon (plainsimplefaith.com)

# Yet Not With A Whole Heart

Why do you serve God? Perhaps you serve God because that is what your parents did. Perhaps you serve God because that is what your spouse desires. Perhaps you serve God for the sake of your children. Perhaps your reasons are less noble.

The Chronicles are often neglected books. But we do ourselves a disservice to neglect any of the sacred writings. There are a number of extraordinarily deep statements in the Chronicles. One that bears upon our thoughts today is a statement made in **2 Chronicles 25:2**. In a description of king Amaziah, the inspired text reads, “*he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart*” (ESV).

The depiction of the reign of this king shows him to be a man who was not completely devoted to God. Perhaps he served God because his father did. We are told that he “*did in all things as Joash his father had done*” (2 Kgs. 14:3). He did not serve God with a whole heart, and his errors are those which indicate a lack of faith.

Amaziah doubted the power of God to conquer his enemies. Instead of being content with warriors from Judah, he hired soldiers of fortune from Israel. When a prophet of God chided him for it, Amaziah was more concerned about the money he paid the soldiers than the disregard he paid to God. These mercenaries showed their character when they raided the cities of Judah while they were left undefended (2 Chron. 25:13).

Amaziah doubted the sovereignty and Lordship of God to control his life. After a victorious campaign against the Edomites, Amaziah returned with idols, set them up, and worshiped them (2 Chron. 25:14). He rebuked the prophet sent to him and threatened the prophet’s life. This resulted in an ignoble end to Amaziah’s reign and life. He was defeated by Israel, captured by Joash, and eventually killed by his own people.

(Continued on page 3)

## 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

[video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Mar. 31** Revelation 21—22

**Apr. 1** Genesis 1—3 (videos)

**Apr. 2** Genesis 4—6 (video)

**Apr. 3** Genesis 7—9 (video)

**Apr. 4** Genesis 10—12

**Apr. 5** Genesis 13—16

**Apr. 6** Genesis 17—20 (video)

**Apr. 7** Genesis 21—24

“*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 **39 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ First Sunday Fellowship Meal next Sunday.

#### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Terry Jackson.
- ◆ April 7-10—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Ross Haffner. "Spiritual Maturity"
- ◆ 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)

(Continued from page 2)

The story of Amaziah's half-hearted service to God should be a wake-up call to all. It should prompt self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5). Specifically, we should ask the question of ourselves which was posed at the outset of this article: "Why do I serve God?"

If our service is not from a wholehearted devotion toward our Maker, then we will not succeed in that service. When opposition arises, we will put our trust in something or someone other than God. When opportunity arises, we will fulfill our heart's desires instead fulfilling God's. And when we are opposed, we will disregard the message instead of heeding the correction, repenting, and being healed.

God has always been concerned about the heart. We can feign service to God, but we cannot fool the Almighty. We would do well to meditate upon the wisdom David left with Solomon, "know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought" (1 Chron 28:9).

Lee Parish (forthright.net)

Your words were found,  
and I ate them, and Your  
word was to me the joy  
and rejoicing of my heart.  
Jeremiah 15:16

## Celebrate

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

**April Birthdays:** Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Ginger King (8), Jimmie Claborn (9), Kristi Maninger (9), Becky Smith (9), Darlene Smith (10), Caroline Dennis (30).

**April Anniversaries:** John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	Mar. 17, 2019	Mar. 24, 2019
Bible Class	46	42
AM Worship	55	50
PM Worship	60	39
Wednesday PM	48	38
Contribution	\$1,993	\$2,028

	This Week: 3/31/19	Next Week: 4/7/19		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>March 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Allen &amp; Linda Griffith  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John &amp; Tina Barnum</p> <p><b>April 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff*, Rafe Smith Randy Huckaby, Coyce Reed	Randy Huckaby*, Caleb Dennis Kevin Ross, Vernon Zier		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Joe Dennis		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Mike Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 3 Prayer Night	April 10 Joe Dennis	April 17 Rafe Smith	April 24 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 March 31, 2019

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 2:14*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Old Testament History—Genesis 49:19*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christ in the Old Testament (2)</b>  <b>Christ in the Prophets: Isaiah's Portrait of Jesus</b></p> <p>The Old Testament can be summarized in three words: "Messiah is coming." Isaiah foresaw that the redeemer would come to bear a cross and then wear the Sovereign's crown.</p> <p><b>I. The Messiah's Kingdom (2:1-4).</b></p> <p>A. It would be established in the latter days.                      B. It would begin and flow from Jerusalem.                      C. It would be called "the Lord's house," a reference to the church of Christ.                      D. It would be exalted.                      E. It would have a universal outreach. All nations would flow into it.                      F. It would be extended and defended through spiritual weapons.</p> <p><b>II. The Son Of A Virgin (7:14).</b></p> <p>A. Its uniqueness.                      B. The word 'almâh could only mean "virgin" in this context.                      C. The "Son" would be "Immanuel" – God with us.</p> <p><b>III. The Prince Of Peace (9:6-7).</b></p> <p>A. He is <i>Wonderful</i>.                      B. He is <i>Counselor</i>.                      C. He is <i>Mighty God</i>.                      D. He is <i>Everlasting Father</i>.                      E. He is <i>Prince of Peace</i>.</p> <p><b>IV. The Precious Cornerstone (8:14a; 28:16).</b></p> <p><b>V. The Suffering Servant (ch. 53).</b></p> <p>A. "He shall be exalted" (52:13).                      B. "His visage was marred" (52:14).                      C. "He shall sprinkle many nations" (52:15).                      D. "As a tender plant, and a root out of a dry ground" (53:2).                      E. "He is despised and rejected of men" (53:3).                      F. "He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (53:4).                      G. "And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (53:6).                      H. "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth" (53:7).                      I. "He shall prolong His days" (53:10).                      J. "He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied" (53:11).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Paul's Picture of the Fullness of Christ (Col. 2:8-15) – Part 3</b>  <b>Life and Forgiveness in Christ (11-13)</b></p> <p><b>I. "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands".</b></p> <p><b>A. First, Paul compared physical and spiritual circumcision.</b></p> <p><b>B. Paul presented 3 former conditions of the Colossians and stated how they had been corrected by God:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Condition 1</b> – They had been spiritually uncircumcised in the flesh and contaminated with sin because of their fleshly passions.                      2. <b>Correction</b> – In baptism they were circumcised and their fleshly passions were removed.                      3. <b>Condition 2</b> – They had been spiritually dead.                      4. <b>Correction</b> – They were raised with Jesus to a new spiritual life by physically sharing Jesus' burial and resurrection in baptism because of their faith in the working of God.                      5. <b>Condition 3</b> – They had been dead in sin.                      6. <b>Correction</b> – They were made alive and forgiven of all their transgressions when they were baptized.</p> <p><b>II. "By putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ".</b></p> <p><b>A. The 2<sup>nd</sup> comparison is between Jesus' new life after His crucifixion and a Christian's new life after baptism.</b></p> <p><b>B. As Paul continued his discussion of spiritual circumcision, he named several resulting blessings, including a new life, forgiveness, and Christian freedom.</b></p> <p><b>III. "Buried with Him in baptism".</b></p> <p><b>IV. "In which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead".</b></p> <p><b>A. Do people have to put their faith in what God is doing when they are being baptized? Yes!</b></p> <p><b>V. "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh".</b></p> <p><b>A. Before the Colossians were forgiven, they were dead in sin.</b>  <b>B. The Colossians had been made complete in Jesus (2:10) during baptism: spiritually circumcised, made spiritually alive, and forgiven of their sins.</b></p> <p><b>VI. "He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses".</b></p>
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