

# 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



April 7, 2019

## Contact Us:

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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 Singularity of the Church

We have all heard the statement, "It is not *what* you say but *how* you say it." The truth of this statement is especially important when it comes to the topic of the singularity of the church. I have been asked several times, "Must one be a member of the church of Christ to go to heaven?" If by that statement one has a denominational view of the church in mind, then the answer is *no*. However, if by church of Christ the questioner means the New Testament church established by Jesus in the first century, then the answer is unequivocally *yes*.

In a world of religious pluralism, it is hard for some to understand how the Bible can teach that there is only *one* church. If you ride down any street in America, you are likely to see a variety of denominations—all claiming to serve the same Lord and lead individuals to the same heaven even though they often teach contradictory things. Denominationalism implies that truth is either unknowable or unimportant. However, Jesus says both of these conclusions are false (John 8:31-32). Scripture demonstrates that everyone who is saved must also be a member of the body of Christ, of which there is only one. So clearly is this taught in the New Testament that, if we were to compile a list of non-negotiable tenants of the faith, the singularity of the church must be near the top of the list.

## The Answer to Jesus' Prayer

Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed that all of His disciples would be united based on the apostles teaching (John 17:20-21). This shows us a few things. First, our Lord wanted Christians to be united, and that unity be based on the truth taught by His apostles (John 14:15, 15:14; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37). Secondly, Jesus thought that unity like this was possible. Sometimes people laugh at the idea of only one church as if it were an impossibility. Yet, Jesus did not think this idea was so far-fetched. Though men have written creeds and polluted the religious world with man-made doctrines, Jesus's prayer can still be answered if we discard any belief system that isn't the apostles' doctrine.

There are so many things in life that are beyond our individual skill set, but we can be the answer to Jesus' prayer by being members of the church for which He prayed. Jesus promised to build the church and was willing to shed His blood to purchase her (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 20:28). When Jesus returns, He is coming back to present the church to Himself without any spot or blemish (Eph. 5:25-27). The church is often referred to as the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:2). Jesus is no polygamist; He only has one bride, and we should seek too the one He recognizes.

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You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

**Psalm 22:3-5**

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

### What the Apostles Taught About the One Church

The apostles carried out this prayer of Jesus. When individuals obeyed the gospel in the first century, they simultaneously became members of the church (Acts 2:47). No one went “church shopping” in the first century; when you became a Christian, God put you in the church of *His* choice (1 Cor. 12:18). Think about it—how could a person unable to save himself be left with the decision of picking his own church? There was only *one* church to become a part of in the first century—denominationalism was virtually unknown.

Paul taught the body was the church, and there was *only one* body (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). Part of God’s plan that was being revealed was that he was saving both Jew and Gentile in the same church. Denominationalism, on the other hand, attempts to undo the marvelous plan of God (Eph. 2:14-16). Though made up of a variety of members in the first century, the body of Christ remained singular (Rom. 12:4; 1 Cor. 12:20). When Christians within congregations were experiencing division, they were commanded to speak the same thing and be united (1 Cor. 1:10). Every Christian in the first century was a member of the church of Christ.

To say that *all saved people* in the first century were members of the church of Christ is not an arrogant statement—it is just a matter of fact. We must not read our times back into the New Testament; we should read the New Testament back into our times and conform to what it teaches. No one could read the New Testament unbiasedly and come away with the idea that what Jesus prayed for and what the apostles taught is the prevalence of denominationalism that we see today. We must continue to preach and teach that Jesus only has one church, and when people become Christians the way the Bible says they become members of that one church (Acts 2:41). We must never apologize for the simple teaching of the New Testament.

### “Isn’t the church of Christ a denomination that is a part of the Stone-Campbell Movement?”

No. Unfortunately, even a few who pretend to espouse New Testament Christianity teach this error by claiming that churches of Christ owe their existence to Barton W. Stone and Alexander/Thomas Campbell. In reality, Stone and the Campbells were not the only ones who were seeking to go back to the New Testament—there were others before them. Additionally, there were many already doing so who were unaffiliated with these early preachers. Furthermore, the seed of the kingdom is the word of God (Luke 8:11). Whenever men and women take the Word of God and practice its truth on any subject, they are not originating truth, but merely upholding what God has already declared to be true (John 17:17).

### “Are you saying all of these other churches are wrong?”

Truth does not abide with the majority nor the minority. Truth is still reality, regardless of how many people happen to believe it or disbelieve it. We can take the word of God and determine whether or not a church is “of Christ” based on what it practices and teaches. If it is the case that the majority of those professing to be part of the one church of the New Testament fail to align with the New Testament pattern, then the majority must be wrong. This is just objective truth. We must kindly yet unapologetically stand for truth no matter who disagrees (Prov. 23:23; Mt. 7:13-14).

### “Is the church really that important? Isn’t it all about Jesus?”

Yes, it *is* all about Jesus, and yes, the church *is* that important. The church shows the world the manifold wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10-11). The church upholds God’s truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The church was worth the

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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

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

**Apr. 7** Genesis 21—24

**Apr. 8** Genesis 25—28

**Apr. 9** Genesis 29—32

**Apr. 10** Genesis 33—36

**Apr. 11** Genesis 37—40

**Apr. 12** Genesis 41—44

**Apr. 13** Genesis 45—47

**Apr. 14** Genesis 48—50

*“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 **47 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Today is our **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** following our morning worship. All are welcome, especially our visitors.
- ◆ **Area Gospel Meetings this week** (see flyers on bulletin board):
  - **Bangs**—Terry Jackson
  - **Hamilton**—Ross Haffner—*“Spiritual Maturity”*
- ◆ **Moving Party—April 19<sup>th</sup>**—Ryan and Tammy will be moving to their new house. Ryan does not need to do any heavy lifting due to his kidney removal, so any and all help is welcome and appreciated. Ask them for details.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** schedule is on the bulletin board. Check it out! (Our is August 6<sup>th</sup>)

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **April 13—Ladies’ Day @ Colleyville w/ Tish Clarke and Kayla Hyde. “Be the Lighthouse”**
- ◆ April 27—Ladies’ Day @ Comanche
- ◆ May 5-9—Focal Point (San Marcos)
- ◆ May 27-30—Gospel Meeting @ Meridian w/ Ross Haffner
- ◆ June 5-9—Men’s Development Conference (College Station)
- ◆ June 23-27—Junior Camp.
- ◆ July 8,9,11,12—Deaver-Rodriguez Debate @ Ft. Sam Houston church of Christ, San Antonio
- ◆ July 14-19—Senior Camp.
- ◆ August 16-22—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)

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blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28). Jesus is exalted in the church and thus to minimize the church is to minimize Christ (Eph. 3:21). The church is not some after-thought in the mind of God, but it was in His mind from eternity and should likewise be on your mind until you reach eternity (2 Tim. 1:9).

### “How can one identify the church of Christ on earth?”

There is no exhaustive checklist provided in the New Testament, but we can study the New Testament and note some things that are clear indicators of the New Testament church. The church of Christ will identify herself with a description that honors Christ and not some man or other religious movement (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Cor. 1:12-13). The church of Christ will be known for the love the members have for each other (John 13:34-35), worship that is in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), scriptural organization (1 Tim. 3), teaching the truth concerning salvation (Acts 2:37-41), and a sincere pursuit of godly living (Tit. 2:11-14). Again, this list is hardly exhaustive, but it is a good starting point.

There is a temptation to cease affirming the singularity of the church. Humans make up the church and are imperfect and often stumble. Even so, Christ—who died for the church—is perfect. Jesus prayed that we might all be united and He said that if we were, it would lead others to believe. The apostles taught that there is only one church and all saved people are in that one body. We do not have to start a new church (we may need to disband a few). We just need to humbly open the pages of the New Testament and then align with those Christians who are reflecting what we find on its pages (Jude 3).

Do not apologize for being a member of the church of Christ. Do not speak of the church in denominational terms. Jesus is coming back for His bride one day, and may we look forward to that day with great joy.

*Hiram Kemp* (plainsimplefaith.com)

## 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. 24, 2019	Mar. 31, 2019
Bible Class	42	40
AM Worship	50	45
PM Worship	39	37
Wednesday PM	38	36
Contribution	\$2,028	\$2,033

	<b>This Week: 4/7/19</b>	<b>Next Week: 4/14/19</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<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> <p><b>May 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Johnny &amp; Cindy McCaghren  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Johnny &amp; Cindy McCaghren</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Randy Huckaby*, Caleb Dennis Kevin Ross, Vernon Zier	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Ryan Rudloff, John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Chase Churchwell	Matthew Churchwell		
<b>Communion</b>	Randy Huckaby	Ken Maninger		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 10 Joe Dennis	April 17 Rafe Smith	April 24 Don Smith	May 1 Prayer Night

## 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 April 7, 2019

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 3:1*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Old Testament History—Genesis 49:28*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Christ in the Old Testament (3)</u></b>  <b><u>Christ in the Psalms: Psalm 22</u></b></p> <p>What we are studying today was written 1,000 years before Jesus was born, yet it reads like an eyewitness account of Jesus' death.</p> <p><b>I. Jesus Suffered at The Holy Hand of God.</b></p> <p>A. Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (1).</p> <p>B. "O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent" (2).</p> <p>C. "Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed" (4-5).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God spared others, but God <i>did not</i> spare His own Son!</li> <li>When Jesus Christ took our sin, not only did He take our <i>separation</i>, but He took our <i>sentence of death</i> – and this was the eternal purpose of God.</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Jesus Suffered at The Hateful Hand of Man.</b></p> <p>A. "But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 'He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!'" (6-8).</p> <p>B. Notice His loneliness in v. 11: "For there is none to help".</p> <p>C. A thousand years before Jesus' death, the agony of the cross is described.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me" (14).</li> <li>"My tongue clings to My jaws" (15).</li> <li>"For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet" (16).</li> <li>"I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me" (17).</li> <li>"They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots" (18).</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Jesus Suffered at The Hellish Hand of Satan.</b></p> <p>A. A "heel-wound" thrust upon the "seed of woman" by Satan (Gen. 3:15).</p> <p>B. "But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!" (19-21).</p> <p>Notice the abrupt change at the end of v. 21: "You have answered Me!"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Paul's Picture of the Fullness of Christ (Col. 2:8-15)</u></b>  <b><u>Freedom in Christ from the Handwriting of Requirements (14)</u></b></p> <p><b>I. "Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us".</b></p> <p>A. In order for us to understand what was <i>wiped out</i>, "taken ... out of the way", we must determine the meaning of the <i>handwriting of requirements</i>.</p> <p>B. The following verses (15-17) indicate that Paul was talking about the Law.</p> <p><b>II. "Which was contrary to us".</b></p> <p>A. In what way was the Law <i>contrary to us</i>?</p> <p>B. The penalty for violation of the Law was death in most cases.</p> <p>C. Instead of bringing the blessings God had promised to Abraham's seed (Gen. 22:18; Gal. 3:16), the Law cursed those who lived under it (Gal. 3:10).</p> <p><b>III. "And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross".</b></p> <p>A. While the Law served its purpose, there was much it could not do.</p> <p>B. "He" refers to God, who acted through the cross in the removal of the Law contained in the <i>handwriting of requirements</i>.</p> <p>C. The NT is consistent in teaching that the Law has been taken out of the way.</p> <p>D. The OT contains more than the Law that has been taken "out of the way".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Law is found mostly in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.</li> <li>The application of the Law is made known in the remaining books of the Old Testament.</li> <li>The early church was not dedicated to the keeping of the Law; rather, it continued in the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42).</li> </ol> <p>E. Paul made three statements to show that the Law had been abolished: it was "wiped out", "taken ... out of the way", and "nailed ... to the cross".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of these words express the same truth.</li> <li>These three statements stress the fact that the Law, no longer a living document, had been erased or set aside.</li> </ol> <p>F. The phrase "having nailed it to the cross" is not to be taken literally; rather, this is a figure referring to the <i>process</i> by which the Law was taken out of the way and identifying the <i>time when</i> it was taken away.</p> <p>G. Paul wanted the Colossians to know that, through Christ, they had been made free and would continue to be free from the Law.</p> <p>H. Since Paul concluded that Christians are free from the Law, he did not need to state that other religious laws of human institution have no authority.</p>
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