

# 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 14, 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 Sufficiency of Scripture

Human beings enjoy innovation, and our technological progress is a testimony to this fact. Development and creativity go hand in hand with human civilization. We're always looking to do things in better, more efficient ways. We build taller buildings, travel farther distances more quickly, and push the boundaries of what is possible. Humanity has rarely ever stood still.

Change affects many areas of life, including spirituality. All religions change and develop over time. Some add new gods or find different ways of accessing existing deities. Ancient scribes wrote new myths and told new stories about the gods they served and the heroes they admired.

A prevalent tendency in religion is to divert into mysticism—Judaism, Islam, and Christendom all have experienced mystical offshoots.

Unlike other religions, the Christianity of the Bible was never intended to undergo the same developments that we see in other faiths. The Bible includes stern warnings not to add to Scripture or deviate from it (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19). In other words, the Bible commands us to remain firm in what the apostles taught—without modification. God's written revelation is entirely sufficient for our spiritual lives, without any need for supplementation. Having a high view of the sufficiency of Scripture is essential for the Christian who desires to be thoroughly biblical.

Throughout history, some have sought to add to Scripture. In the early church, pseudo-Christians such as the Gnostics added books filled with teachings that contradicted the New Testament authors. Later, church traditions developed to the extent that they were seen as having nearly equal authority to the Bible. Still, others claim prophetic status, viewing their own words as having been delivered by God Himself. These developments can be boiled down to three basic areas: authority, tradition, and revelation.

## Problems with Authority

Perhaps the most obvious challenge to the biblical faith comes from additional authority. Not only does this add unnecessary and even contradictory beliefs to what is taught plainly in Scripture, but adding more commands has also been abused. In this section, we will note a few blatant examples of apostasy in the form of extra-biblical authority.

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



In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses....

(Col. 2:11-13)

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Throughout church history, members of the papacy have used their power to coerce earthly rulers to bend to their will. Historians widely consider Pope Innocent III (1160-1216) one of the most politically powerful popes in history. He used a ban known as *interdict*, which prohibited entire populations from participating in the rituals of the Roman Catholic Church if their rulers refused to obey Innocent’s will. He also campaigned against anyone who disagreed with the Roman Catholic Church whom he identified as heretics.

Another notorious example of Catholic abuse is seen in Boniface VIII, who issued the papal bull *Unam Sanctam* in 1302, declaring that every human soul was responsible to the pope for their salvation. Boniface attempted to manipulate divine authority to suit his purposes, even though most people viewed it as a shameless power grab and refused to take him seriously. Nevertheless, Boniface, like others both before and after him, attempted to influence others with power that the Bible had not authorized.

The Bible gives us the only authoritative word from God. Every other avenue of revelation after the apostolic age has proven faulty. The ancient Gnostics married Christianity and Greek philosophy to create a new worldview whose teachings contradicted the Bible. The Mormon church has Presidents whose pronouncements have controverted past revelation in Scripture and changed Mormon doctrine. Modern-day prophets in the Pentecostal church routinely make predictions that fail to occur. Even in mainline denominations, we find teaching that diverges from Scripture or promotes ideas that the biblical authors themselves would no doubt find erroneous. Scripture states that human pronouncements do not lead to God, but away from Him (Col. 2:20-23).

### Problems with Tradition

Members of both the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches have differing opinions on tradition. For Roman Catholics, tradition includes theological developments that have occurred over time. Those with “teaching authority”—such as bishops and popes—can impose doctrine upon others (not to mention, these positions alone represent an unbiblical development in

church hierarchy). Over the last millennium and a half, this has amounted to the creation of new doctrines such as the Immaculate Conception, the perpetual virginity of Mary, and the Communion of Saints—**none of which can be found in the New Testament.**

Greek Orthodoxy recognizes something called *Holy Tradition*, which includes the New Testament as well as other sources of revelation connected to the apostles (cf. 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6). In addition to the Bible (including the Apocrypha), this divine truth is expressed through the Nicene Creed and the first seven ecumenical councils in church history. Wherever these councils agreed with Scripture, they were unnecessary. Whenever they disagreed with Scripture, they were unbiblical. Like any other manmade formulation of doctrine, it has the potential for error, which we see more and more as church history progresses.

While the Roman Catholic church sees tradition as ever-expanding, the Eastern Orthodox Church views it as limited to the teachings of the apostles as received from Christ, passed on without any development. While these councils did rightly condemn heretical movements, they also upheld the use of what are called “icons.” These images of saints are used in worship as a means of accessing the spiritual realm but are not endorsed by the Bible (in fact, the biblical authors would have seen little or no difference between icons and idols).

### Problems with Additional Revelation

False prophets have long plagued God’s people. Even during the time of Moses, God offered a test for identifying such men (Deut. 18:15-22; see Mark 13:22-23; 2 Pet. 2:1). In the last few centuries, these charlatans have turned up in spades. Self-appointed prophets crave influence and power. Those tied to the prosperity gospel are so often motivated by greed, much like their spiritual ancestor Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-24). Others may be driven by sensuality, which led some like Joseph Smith and David Koresh to take multiple wives (cf. 2 Pet. 2:2). Such men (and women) use additional “revelation” from God for personal benefit. Their messages often tickle the ears of their followers and win over legions of fans to a message about Christ that is not only unbiblical but spiritually deadly.

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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. 14** Genesis 48—50

**Apr. 15** Exodus 1—4 (video)

**Apr. 16** Exodus 5—8 (video)

**Apr. 17** Exodus 9—12

**Apr. 18** Exodus 13—16

**Apr. 19** Exodus 17—20 (video)

**Apr. 20** Exodus 21—24 (video)

**Apr. 21** Exodus 25—28

*“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 **38 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ The recordings from our Spring Gospel Meeting with Rick Brumback are now available on our websight: [4thstreetcoc.org/tag/2019springmeeting/](http://4thstreetcoc.org/tag/2019springmeeting/).
- ◆ **Moving Party—April 19<sup>th</sup>**—Ryan and Tammy will be moving to their new house. They plan to start loading at their house in Bangs (402 S. 4<sup>th</sup>) at 8:30. Pickups, dollies, etc., welcome, but mainly strong backs! Ask them for more details.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 6—we host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ Oct. 27-30—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Bryan Braswell

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ 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)

(Continued from page 2)

The beauty of Scripture can be seen in its comprehensive nature and timeless applicability. It is complete and needs no supplementation. If God indeed oversaw the inspiration and collection of Scripture, then everything we need can be found in the Bible. He left nothing out that you and I need to be His faithful followers.

Scripture is complete, and it is both infallible and inerrant. The doctrine of infallibility teaches that Scripture cannot lead someone to make a mistake. Being the word of God, we should assume this naturally. Similarly, the doctrine of inerrancy teaches that Scripture does not err. Legions of critics have tried to undermine the authority of Scripture and deny its divine origin by pointing out what they consider to be mistakes and errors. These so-called errors are due to the critic's unfamiliarity with the language of the Bible or its ancient context, working too hard to create contradictions where none truly exist, and failure to appreciate literary devices. The Bible has passages that may be difficult to interpret, but this is a far cry from saying it contains mistakes. The Bible's detractors often wrongfully assume the Bible is guilty until proven innocent.

The Bible provides a universal, unchanging standard for morals and ethics, meaning that discussions of right and wrong center upon the same content that holds true for all believers everywhere, regardless of time and place. The Bible is varied enough that it meets our needs in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves. When anxious, distressed, confused, or otherwise beleaguered by the problems of life, Scripture is like an old friend who waits to comfort us. When we find ourselves in the wrong, it sets us back upon the path of righteousness. But above all else, it offers a consistently marvelous portrait of the God we serve. Scripture is so rich and so profound that no other source of information is needed.

Dewayne Bryant ([plainsimplefaith.com](http://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. 31, 2019	Apr. 7, 2019
Bible Class	40	36
AM Worship	45	54
PM Worship	37	33
Wednesday PM	36	39
Contribution	\$2,033	\$1,867



# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 4/14/19	Next Week: 4/21/19		
<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>	James & Cindy Fuller	Joe & Lasha Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis		
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Ryan Rudloff, John Barnum	Allen Griffith*, James Fuller Kevin Ross, Coyce Reed		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	John Barnum		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Rafe Smith	Vernon Zier		
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Maninger	Allen Griffith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 17 Rafe Smith	April 24 Don Smith	May 1 Prayer Night	May 8 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 April 14, 2019

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 3:4*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Old Testament History—Genesis 50:12*

<u>Do We Have A Sinful Nature?</u>	<u>Paul's Picture of the Fullness of Christ (Col. 2:8-15)</u> <u>Opposition Exposed by God Through Christ (15)</u>
<p><b>I. Do We Have A Sinful Nature?</b></p> <p>A. The concept of a "sinful nature" is a theological supposition that mankind is born with a corrupted nature inherited from Adam and Eve.</p> <p>B. Two biblical statements indicate that Adam and Eve did <u>not</u> become corrupt in nature: Genesis 3:7-10 &amp; 3:22.</p> <p>C. Instead of saying that Adam and Eve became evil, we could as logically conclude that they developed a <i>good nature</i>; they had gained knowledge of good as well as evil.</p> <p>D. "The circumcision of Christ" (Col. 2:11) does not remove an inherent sinful nature; it removes the contamination accumulated through submission to fleshly passions and sinful acts because of wrong moral and spiritual choices.</p> <p>E. All have sinned, <u>but</u> "all" in Romans 3:9, 19, 23 should be understood to include <i>only</i> those in the category being discussed.</p> <p>F. Romans 7:18-23 is misinterpreted by those who teach that mankind has an inherent sinful nature.</p> <p><b>II. Does "Flesh" (Σάρξ) Mean "Sinful Nature"?</b></p> <p>A. Various forms of σάρξ appear in the Greek NT about 150 times.</p> <p>B. When σάρξ is used to refer to a person as a being whose body can be used for holy or for evil purposes, it means his good or bad "fleshly passions".</p> <p>C. Not one major Greek lexicon, dictionary, or encyclopedia defines σάρξ as "sinful nature".</p> <p>D. While human beings are weak and prone to sin, we are <u>not</u> forced to do evil by a sinful nature.</p> <p>E. Σάρξ in the New International Version.</p> <p><b>III. Should Infants Be Baptized?</b></p> <p>A. Colossians 2:11-12 is used as a "proof" that infants should be baptized.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "children" of Acts 2:39 are not infants, but offspring.</li> <li>Prerequisites for baptism include requirements that children cannot fulfill.</li> </ol> <p>B. Another argument made in favor of infant baptism is based on the statement that household baptisms included the baptism of infants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This <i>presupposes</i> that all households have infants.</li> <li>The contexts of recorded household baptisms indicate that infants were not included.</li> </ol>	<p><b>I. "Having disarmed principalities and powers".</b></p> <p>A. "Disarm" can mean "take off, strip off," as with the removal of clothing; in this context, however, it refers to what God did through Jesus in making the forces of evil ineffective.</p> <p>B. The One acting in this case must be God ("He" = God; "Him" = Jesus).</p> <p>C. "Principalities" is translated from the word ἀρχή, sometimes meaning "beginning," "preeminence," or "source".</p> <p>D. The word "powers" suggests the right to exercise power.</p> <p>E. How did God disarm these powers, make a public spectacle of them, and triumph over them? – By overcoming and defeating them through Jesus' death and resurrection.</p> <p><b>II. "He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it".</b></p> <p>A. God publicly exposed and displayed the weakness of all opposing forces by His victory of over them through Jesus.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By "spectacle", Paul meant that God revealed the true nature, the utter powerlessness and helplessness, of the principalities and powers.</li> <li>Satan cannot see into the future, and neither can those who are subservient to him.</li> </ol> <p>B. The Greek phrase at the end of the verse can grammatically mean "in it" (KJV, NKJV, ASV) or "through Him" (NASB, ESV).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If it is "through Him", it refers to Jesus.</li> <li>If it is "in it", it refers to "the cross" (14, NIV).</li> <li>Since all is being accomplished in and by Jesus in the preceding verses (9-13), God's continuing to act <i>through Him</i> seems best to suit the context.</li> </ol> <p>C. The Greek word for <i>spectacle</i> is used of public disgrace.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Even though Jesus was exposed to shame and public disgrace by His death on the cross (Heb. 12:2), God turned what seemed to be defeat into a glorious victory in the Resurrection.</li> <li>The figure of the "triumph" (θριαμβεύω) is an allusion to a practice of victorious Roman generals.</li> <li>After the defeat of the evil forces, Paul pictured them as being displayed as a vanquished and disgraced army.</li> </ol>