

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 21, 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

Remembering His Resurrection Annually?

The calendar reads "Easter Sunday." As a result, many people throughout the world will be attending the "church of their choice" to remember the resurrection of Jesus. It won't be the "normal" service, but rather a "special" service of remembering the resurrection of our Lord that no doubt will include different plays, skits, and dramas. The world calls this day "Easter Sunday", the day of our Lord's resurrection from the grave. But is it really?

I don't recall reading anywhere in the Bible of the day nor the special celebration of the resurrection mentioned. Yet many "good intentioned people", honestly believing that they are commemorating the resurrection of Christ, celebrate this "holy day" having no biblical authority whatsoever for the practice. Because of tradition, most people today believe that Easter has always been observed from apostolic times and is authorized in the scriptures. But how could they get such an idea?

There is an unfortunate translation in the King James Version of the New Testament which has, perhaps, led some astray. The Greek, *pascha*, is translated by the word, "Easter" in Acts 12:4. This same word is properly translated in other versions and in every other passage where it is used in the King James Version, as *Passover*. Undoubtedly it was mistranslated here in Acts. And even if the word was properly translated, there is still no authority here for the observance of anything. That is why Easter, as we know it, is celebrated without proper Bible authority. The text of Acts 12:4 was in regard to the apostle Peter when he was put into prison during the days of Unleavened Bread or Passover as the NKJV, ASV, NASB, & NIV indicates. It is obvious that this passage of scripture is referring to the seven-day Passover festival. There is no place indicated in the New Testament that a *yearly* celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was ever practiced. Yet today, thousands of people remember Him only this one day per year and they make it a grand festival.

Where Did Easter Come From Anyway?

The word "Easter" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *Eostre*, the name of the goddess of Spring. Sacrifices were offered in her honor at the first full moon that came at the time of the vernal equinox. By the 8th century, the term came to be applied to the anniversary of Christ's resurrection [ISBE, Vol 2, page 6]. There has been much controversy about the time of this celebration. The Jewish Christians and Gentiles could not agree on a set date. But as time passed an increasing number of people celebrated the anniversary of the resurrection on the first day of the week annually. By the 7th century the practice of religious groups had become universally uniform. The agreed upon time is now the first Sunday following the full moon that comes on or after the vernal equinox and that date was set as March 21st. This is why there is a variation in Easter dates from March 22nd through April 25th.

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But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God...*

Ephesians 2:4-8

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

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There has even been talk among the different religions as setting the date permanently on one Sunday between March 21st and April 25th.

The Proper Remembrance Of Jesus

I've filled you in on the history of this word "Easter" so that you will understand that it originated as a pagan holiday festival and later became a yearly festival to remember the resurrection of Christ among different religious groups across the world.

The Lord's church does not celebrate Easter. Members of the Lord's church celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the first day of every week as we are instructed in the New Testament. We can turn to the book of Acts and read: "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread" (Acts 20:7). We have an approved example from this text that lets every Christian know when one is to partake of the emblems which represent Christ's shed body for us. It says the first day of the week. It does not say "The first day of the week, once a year!" In I Corinthians 11:23-29, we can further understand the significance of this memorial feast that we partake of weekly. We learn that it represents the body and blood of Jesus and it says: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." Again, how often should a Christian eat the bread and drink the cup? The first day of the week! There are many religious denominations out there today that do not partake of the Lord's Supper once per week. Some will do it bi-monthly, others monthly, still others just once or twice per year. Any individual that is striving to do "all the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11), must understand that God sets the standard (rules) that we must go by today—not man (Acts 5:29). The New Testament is our standard. I urge you to examine the Bible, and then look at what you may be practicing in your religion, and then determine whether it is from God or from man.

Richard Thetford (lavistachurchofchrist.org)

When the Glory of God Returned

The day the temple was dedicated, God's glorious presence filled His house (2 Chronicles 5:14; 7:1-3). It was a momentous day filled with praise, sacrifice, and feasting. God was with His people. But times would not always be so good. In a preview of Israel's fickle ways, God promised that if they would humble themselves, repent, and pray, then God would forgive them.

God's glory would remain in His house through many difficult days. But a time came when no repentance was forthcoming, and a cleansing needed to occur. The last resort, a carrying away of the people into captivity, had already begun. Soon the house would be toppled by foreign invaders.

Ezekiel was given a vision of the temple and the abominations that God's people were committing. These abominations drove God far away from the sanctuary (Ezekiel 8:6); there was no room for God in His house. Step-by-step, the glory of God left the house of God (Ezekiel 9:3; 10:4, 18), until His glory was upon a mountain outside the gates of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 11:22-23). God's glory was gone, but not forever.

The temple was rebuilt, and hopes were rekindled through the prophets. A ruler was promised, one who would come in the glory and majesty of the Lord to shepherd His flock (Micah 5:2-4). The people anxiously awaited this king.

One day, a humble family gave birth to a child in a humble house in a humble town. But this was no ordinary birth and no ordinary child. God had returned to His people (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus is declared to be "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature" (Hebrews 1:3 ESV). While the presence of God was overwhelming during the days of Solomon, the presence of God in Jesus could be missed unless one looked closely. Jesus did not physically resemble the glory of God, nor did He come clothed in glory (Philippians 2:6-8).

In Jesus, God revealed that true glory is not about riches, crowns, or beauty. Rather, it is about character, love, and sacrifice. Jesus came to heal and forgive. He came to humbly offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. That is glorious!

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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/

Apr. 21 Exodus 25—28

Apr. 22 Exodus 29—32

Apr. 23 Exodus 33—36

Apr. 24 Exodus 37—40

Apr. 25 Leviticus 1—3 (video)

Apr. 26 Leviticus 4—6

Apr. 27 Leviticus 7—9

Apr. 28 Leviticus 10—12

"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 **46 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Ladies Day @ Comanche Saturday.** Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ **Cherokee Day @ Cherokee Home for Children** is Saturday, **May 4th.** A BBQ lunch will be served at noon. This is a great opportunity to take them some needed items and see first-hand the good work there that you help support as a member of this congregation. More information is available on the bulletin board.
- ◆ The recordings from our Spring Gospel Meeting with Rick Brumback are now available on our websight: 4thstreetcoc.org/tag/2019springmeeting/.

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

- ◆ May 5-9—Focal Point (San Marcos)
- ◆ May 28-31 (Tu-F)—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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But Jesus is still Deity. He is *"the one who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy"* (Isaiah 57:15). As His work was coming to an end, Jesus turned His attention to the glory He had from eternity past in heaven with the Father (John 17:5). This eternal glory was given back to Him following His redemptive work (Hebrews 1:3; 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22).

And His glory will be seen one more time before the culmination of all things. The Hebrews writer declares that Christ *"will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him"* (Hebrews 9:28).

What a glorious day that will be!

Lee Parish (forthright.net)

They have washed
their robes
and made them

white
in the
blood
of the
Lamb.

REVELATION 7:14

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

	Apr. 7, 2019	Apr. 14, 2019
Bible Class	36	30
AM Worship	54	44
PM Worship	33	42
Wednesday PM	39	30
Contribution	\$1,867	\$2,135

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/21/19	Next Week: 4/28/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>April 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Randy & Laura Huckaby Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p> <p>May 2019 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren</p>	
Greeters	Joe & Lasha Dennis	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, James Fuller Kevin Ross, Coyce Reed	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Vernon Zier, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	Vernon Zier	Kevin Ross		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 24 Don Smith	May 1 Prayer Night	May 8 Joe Dennis	May 15 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 April 21, 2019

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 3:10*
 Wed. Class *Old Testament History—Genesis 50:24*

Forgiven by God

The Peace of Living Without Our Past

We can know the peace that comes from living without a past. No matter what you or I have done, no matter what we have allowed ourselves to become, God offers us the feelings of His heart.

I. What Is Forgiveness?

FORGIVENESS God's forgiveness is the greatest gift man has ever been given.

A. To be forgiven is to graced by God.

1. One of the NT's words for *forgiveness* is akin to the Greek word which means *grace*.
2. Think for a moment of *grace* as a recipe with three special ingredients: mercy, love, and kindness (Eph. 2:4-8).

B. To be forgiven is to have something erased by God.

1. The other NT word for *forgiveness* means to *send away*.
2. That is what God does when He forgives; He graciously reaches out to us with His heart and throws away our sins.

II. Why Are We Forgiven?

A. We must realize that *we are not forgiven because of who we are*.

B. Rather, *we are forgiven because of who God is*. (Ex. 34:6-7)

1. First, *God identified Himself as "the LORD, the LORD"*.
2. Second, *God described Himself as "merciful and gracious"*.
3. Third, *God specified why He is willing to forgive*. He is "longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth".

III. What Happens When We Are Forgiven?

- A. *Forgiveness involves a Covering*. (Ps. 32:1)
- B. *Forgiveness involves a Carving*. (Isa. 1:18)
- C. *Forgiveness involves a Castig*. (Isa. 38:17)
- D. *Forgiveness involves a Cloud*. (Isa. 44:22)
- E. *Forgiveness involves a Concealing*. (Micah 7:18-19)

IV. How Can We Know We Are Forgiven?

- A. According to God, the **Bible** is necessary for our forgiveness.
- B. According to God, the **Blood** of Jesus is necessary for our forgiveness.
- C. According to God, **Believing** in Jesus is necessary for our forgiveness.
- D. According to God, being **Baptized** is also necessary for our forgiveness.

Paul's Admonition to Hold Fast to the Head (Col. 2:16-23)

Following Christ Instead of the Law (16-17)

I. "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths" (16).

A. The opening word, "So," identifies this statement as a conclusion to the preceding statements.

1. Having presented the preceding arguments, Paul gave further reasons why the Colossians should not be bound by rules imposed on them by human authority – whether the Law or man-made regulations.
2. They were free from these ordinances and were not to let others *judge [them]* in such matters.
3. Through the authority and work of Jesus, the brethren in Colossae had been liberated from the obligation to keep these practices.
4. Paul was not saying that the Colossians could not practice these customs; rather, he was saying that the brethren were not under obligation to practice these customs and were not to let others judge them harshly in regard to their keeping or not keeping them.
 - a. Since these were not matters of salvation, the Colossians could act according to their own discretion.
 - b. Paul used these observances as examples.
 - 1) "In food or in drink".
 - 2) "A festival".
 - 3) "A new moon".
 - 4) "Sabbaths".

II. "Which are a shadow of things to come" (17a).

- A. The practices Paul named in v. 16 had nothing to do with salvation or righteousness.
- B. The word is used of a *shadow* cast, revealing a partial likeness of a reality.
- C. Just as a shadow is not a reality, but only a representation, so also the things in the Law were only a shadow of the real.
 1. Jesus has brought the truth, the reality, while Moses brought the Law (Jn.

III. "But the substance if of Christ" (17b).

- A. The word translated *substance* normally means "body".
- B. Christians live in an era of fulfillment and reality, not in the shadow.