

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



July 14, 2019

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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

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

4 Simple Ways to Improve Your Worship

For nearly anyone, worship can become a bit rote at times. Though we know it is invaluable, we are human; thus, we struggle at times to stay truly engaged and thoughtful throughout the time.

But some seem to think that it would take some major thing to get out of the rut, or to make worship more meaningful. Tragically, some stop coming. Just as tragically, some think they have to change God's pattern (or worship where that pattern is not obeyed) and have bands, light shows, and more just to "up" the experience.

But there are far simpler steps that each person can make to improve worship for themselves, while still making certain they worship "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). Today, I share four that you can make this Sunday.

Prepare Beforehand. I know Sunday mornings are busy. It is remarkable we have any sanity by the time we make it to worship. But could we not take even 5 or 10 minutes on Saturday night to sing a song and pray so that our mind is headed in the right direction? What about laying out clothes so that the Sunday morning rush is less crazy? On Sunday morning, on the way to the building, listen to some worship music or talk about what you are excited about concerning the opportunity you are getting ready to take part in! Just this one step, I promise, will revolutionize worship.

Arrive on time (or a little early is even better). If you are constantly late, you are not even "settled in" before worship is partially over. When that happens, you spend the rest of the time playing catch-up in your mind. But if you are present on time, or a little early, and have visited with a few fellow Christians and had a chance to "settle" a bit, your mind is fresh and ready to worship from the first moment.

Sit closer to the front. I have sat in the back before. I have sat in a balcony before. Let me just put it this way: it is a whole different world! It's not a sin to sit in the back; after all, by definition, someone will be "in the back." That said, if you are trying to get out of a rut, or are just struggling to stay engaged in worship, you will be completely amazed how much easier it is to stay focused if you just move up a few rows. There are fewer distractions (because there are fewer people between you and the leaders) and just the change of scenery is sometimes enough to trigger your mind to be more focused.

Remember that God is the Audience. In the end, your goal is to give your best for Him; not just to see what you can get out of the worship time. If your mind is truly focused on that singular fact, your worship will improve, since you will be constantly striving to please Him with every action and every thought.

None of those things takes changes God's pattern for worship. Further, none of them requires a major overhaul on your part. Still, these four steps will change your worship for the better. Why not try them, even this Sunday, and just see if worship is not more encouraging for you than it has been in a long, long time.

"...worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness" (Psalm 29:2b)

Adam Faughn (alegacyoffaith.us)

Texts Used Out of Context

Context has to do with the setting and circumstances in which an event takes place or a statement is made. By ignoring context events can be misinterpreted and statements can be misunderstood. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence in today's world. A man may have made a statement (or be charged with having made a statement), and without knowing the context of his statement, he may be accused of saying and believing something that he neither said nor believes.

In studying the Bible it is important to observe the context of all that it says. Sometimes statements of scripture are lifted from their context and made to teach things that the inspired writer never intended to teach. The statement taken out of context may, indeed, set forth a truth that is taught elsewhere in scripture but not in the text cited. To use a passage out of context is unjustifiable, because as the old hermeneutical saw goes, "A text taken out of context is a pretext."

Following are a few of many examples that could be given of using a text of scripture out of context.

Psalm 14:1a — *"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* (This verse is repeated verbatim in Psalm 53:1). The statement is not referring to the atheistic fool, the person who openly and blatantly denies the existence of God. Rather, it has to do with the practical atheist, the person who with his mouth professes faith in God, but who in his heart and by his actions shows that he does not sincerely believe in God. His "faith" in God is only professed with his mouth, but by his life he shows himself to not really believe in God. In his letter to Titus, Paul showed clearly what the Psalmist had in mind. *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"* (Titus 1:16, KJV). While there are many texts that refute the view of the atheistic fool, Psalm 14:1 is not one of them. Let us understand it in its context.

Proverbs 23:7 — *"For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he."* That is the way we often quote the verse and the way we often hear it quoted, but that is not exactly what the verse says. The complete verse says, *"For as he (emphasis mine, hf) thinks in his heart, so is he. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, but his heart is not with you."* Who is the

"he" spoken of in this verse? The previous verse provides the answer: *"Do not eat the bread of a miser (literally, one who has an evil eye), nor desire his delicacies."* The context is speaking of dining with a person who is a miser (or one who has an evil eye) who says one thing (something nice and good — *"Eat and drink!"*), but he is not sincere and *"his heart is not with you."* In this respect, he is like the "fool" of Psalm 14:1. It is not his words but what is in his heart that shows his real character. So, yes, it is true that *"as he thinks in his heart, so is he,"* but the context of the statement needs to be explained and understood.

Matthew 18:20 — *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them."* I do not have the slightest doubt but that Christ is with His people when they gather for worship, but this verse is not the proof-text for that. In fact, this verse has nothing to do with the worship assembly and everything to do with two or three unbiased and objective persons being *"gathered together"* in agreement as to how to handle a conflict between two brethren, one of whom has sinned against the other (verse 15-19). *"But if he refuses to hear you, then take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established' . . . For where two or three are gathered together in My name there I am in the midst of them"* (verses 16, 20). If you are looking for a passage on the presence of the Lord in the worship assembly, look elsewhere, but do not use Matthew 18:20 to make that point. That is using the text out of its context.

1 Corinthians 2:9 — *"But as it is written, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'"* On numerous occasions this verse has been read or quoted at funerals to refer to the exquisite beauty of heaven. While I have not the slightest doubt that man is unable to conceive of the glories of that place God has prepared for the redeemed, in context heaven is not the subject under consideration in 1 Corinthians 2:9. The verse is an inspired paraphrase of Isaiah 64:4, and is used by the apostle Paul to speak of the full and complete revelation of the gospel scheme of redemption. Before the birth and earthly life of Christ, before the making known of the gospel, and before the founding of the church, men could only look down the stream of time and dream of what God had

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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/

July 14	2 Kings 17—19
July 15	1 Kings 20—22
July 16	1 Kings 23—25
July 17	1 Chronicles 1—3 (videos)
July 18	1 Chronicles 4—5
July 19	1 Chronicles 6—7
July 20	1 Chronicles 8—10
July 21	1 Chronicles 11—13

"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 **50 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There is a **sign-up sheet** on the back table for things needed for the **Summer Youth Series** here, **August 6th**.
- ◆ **Jack Hill's 90th birthday celebration** will be Saturday, **July 27th**, 1-3pm, at the 1st Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 2411 Coggin Ave. No gifts, just cards.
- ◆ **James Fuller** will be bringing the lesson this evening, and **Don Smith** will be handling the service at CARE this afternoon, while Johnny continues his recovery.
- ◆ **No Summer Youth Series** this week due to senior camp.
- ◆ Ladies—registration for **TLC 2019** (Oct. 3-5) is open at texasladiesinchrist.org. Spots are limited, so get your registration in ASAP.
- ◆ Ryan Rudloff has a **hospital bed** that is needing a home (free). If you could use it, or know of someone who could, see Ryan.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 6—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ Oct. 19—Ladies Day w/ Denise Surlles
- ◆ Oct. 27-30—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Bryan Braswell

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **July 14-19—Senior Camp.**
- ◆ July 27—VBS @ Hamilton
- ◆ August 16-22—Polishing the Pulpit (Sevierville, TN)
- ◆ Oct. 3-5—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady
- ◆ Oct. 12-30—Lectureship @ Hico
- ◆ Oct. 19-20—Lectureship @ Hamilton

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in mind for their redemption from sin. No one fully comprehended it, not even the angels of heaven. Eye had not seen and ear had not heard! Many passages speak of this anticipated matter (see 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Eph. 3:1-13; Col. 1:24-29; Rom. 16:25-27 and a host of other enlightening passages dealing with the gradual unfolding of God's grand scheme of redemption from the time of its inception in His infinite mind until its complete revelation and fruition in the gospel, the New Testament, and the church). There are many wonderful passages that speak of the glory of heaven, but 1 Corinthians 2:9 is not one of them! Rather, it is speaking of the glories of the gospel age. Let us respect the text's context!

2 Peter 1:20 — **"...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation."** This verse has been used to teach that one must not interpret the scriptures for himself. But the fact is that anything written or spoken

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Celebrate

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

July Birthdays: Laura Huckaby (6), Jason Warman (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26).

July Anniversaries: John & Tammie Ross (1).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	June 30, 2019	July 7, 2019
Bible Class	37	35
AM Worship	48	41
PM Worship	32	37
Wednesday PM	32	32
Contribution	\$1,796	\$1,184

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 7/14/19	Next Week: 7/21/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p align="center">July 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller</p> <p align="center">August 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Mike and Patti Bannister</p>	
Greeters	Mike & Patti Bannister	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Communion	Randy Huckaby*, Coyce Reed Ken Maninger, Hank Wheeler	Don Smith*, Ryan Rudloff Keven Ross, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Kevin Ross		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Chase Churchwell		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Vernon Zier		
Communion	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Rafe Smith	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	July 17 Joe Dennis	July 24 Rafe Smith	July 31 Don Smith	August 7 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 July 14, 2019

Sunday Class **1 Corinthians 6:1**
 Wed. Class **Servant Training: Leading Prayer**

Wisdom in Proverbs

In Proverbs 4:1-8, Solomon affirms that his father (David) had taken the time to teach him the words and commandments of God. In so doing, David was observing the commandments which God had given to the children of Israel by the mouth and pen of Moses (Deut. 6:6-9; 11:19-21). Apparently, the number one thing that David taught Solomon to do was to "Get wisdom! Get understanding," and "Do not forget" (Prov. 4:5). It is not surprising then, when given the opportunity to ask anything of God, Solomon asked for "an understanding heart" (1 Kgs. 3:5-9). We can benefit from Solomon's God-given wisdom. Of the 3,000 proverbs that "he spoke," approximately 900 of them are recorded in Holy Scripture.

I. The Value of Wisdom.

- A. Solomon encourages his readers to do the same thing his father David had encouraged him to do: "Get wisdom" (Prov. 4:5).
- B. The Hebrew word for "Get" is translated "Buy" in 23:23, "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding."
 1. Solomon praises the value of wisdom in Proverbs (3:14-15; 8:10-11, 19; 16:16).
 2. We need to be like the men Jesus described in Matthew 13:44-46.
- C. Solomon does not tell his son "to talk out his problems, as in much of modern counseling; rather he should listen to the wise advice of others."
 1. He should listen to the wise advice of his father and embed it in his heart.
 2. Solomon exhorts the young man to search diligently for wisdom.

II. The Voice of Wisdom. (Wisdom is personified as a woman lifting up her voice and pleading for men to listen.)

- A. The first thing of note is the **visibility** of her voice (1:20-21; 8:1-4; 9:1-6).
- B. In an attempt to influence the simple-minded to change the course of their lives, Wisdom loudly proclaims the **veracity** of her words (8:5-9, 12-16).
- C. The voice of Wisdom is also **vigilant** to remind the foolish of the vanity of following after Folly (1:22-32; 9:6).
- D. The voice of Wisdom also proclaims the **vantages** of following after her.
 1. It offers us quantity of life.
 2. It offers us quality of life.
 3. It will bring eternal life.

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has to be interpreted in the sense that it has to be comprehended/understood by the reader or hearer. (You are interpreting these words even as you read them). We interpret — rightly or wrongly — what we hear on the radio and TV, what we read in the newspaper, in a magazine, in a book, and in the Bible. Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch confessed that he did not and that he needed help. (Acts 8:30-31). The Bible is an understandable book (Eph. 5:17; John 8:31-32; 17:17). So, 2 Peter 1:20 is not talking about properly interpreting and correctly understanding and applying the Scriptures; rather, it is speaking of the origin of scripture. The next verse clearly explains the matter: "For no prophecy ever came by the will of man (private interpretation, hf), but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Rather than arising out of the private, personal, subjective interpretations and observations of what was going on in the world around them (the "will of man"), the writers of Scripture were "holy men of God" who "spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." The "private interpretation" of 2 Peter 1:20 has to do with the origin of scripture, not the way we arrive at the correct understanding of the Scriptures!

Let us not be among those who are "untaught and unstable" and who "twist" the scriptures "to their own destruction" (2 Pet. 3:16), but let us strive to understand and respect the context of every statement, command, example, and implication set forth in the divinely inspired word of God.

Hugh Fulford