

# 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



August 25, 2019

## Contact Us:

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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)  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

## NEEDED: Faithful Servants!

The church of Christ is so blessed to have faithful men and women to glean from in the word of God. It has been men and women of God who have given us powerful examples of courage, tenacity, and service to God and man. When considering being a faithful servant today, some questions arise, such as "what is a faithful servant?" "What is required to be a faithful servant of God?" "Who can be one?" "How can service be accomplished?" "Why is it needed?" Hopefully we can answer these great questions and seek to increase our faith and service to the Lord, His people and the society we abide in to the glory of God (Matt. 5:13-16).

What is a Faithful Servant? What is required from them as servants of God? A faithful servant is one who is trustworthy to the Master. Paul said, "*moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*" (1 Cor. 4:2). This one pays attention to details. Jesus stated, "*he that is faithful in little is faithful in much...*", He on another occasion, would also commend for their faithfulness in little things (Luke 16:10; 19:17). A faithful servant today looks like Pricilla and Aquila or Phebe and Philemon, just common persons in Christ who are working out their salvation (Phil. 2:12). Furthermore, faithful servanthood is seen in men like, Fortunatus, Achaicus and Stephans, for Paul said they refreshed his spirit in their addiction to the ministry, in other words, their service (1 Cor. 16:15-18).

Who can be a servant of God? This question is good for many reasons. Everyone who is in faithful standing with Christ can be a servant of His. Those who cause divisions and offences contrary to the teachings of Christ are not servants of God. Paul stated clearly, "*for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly...*" (Rom. 16:18). Therefore, anyone in Christ who is not contrary to the will of God can fulfill the services of Christ as said by Him, "*inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me*" (Matt. 25:40). The question we must ask ourselves as Christians is, "am I willing to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Him" (Matt. 16:24). If the answer is yes, there is nothing to keep us away from having this attitude,

*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto His death* (Phil. 3:9-11).

How can the service of the Lord be accomplished? When considering the work of the local congregation, she is to be fervent (Rom. 12:11) in EVANGELISM, EDIFICATION and BENEVOLENCE. However, this article is not to exhaust those important topics. Yet, here is the point, as members of the church of Christ, we must find our strengths and talents and work within those and get better in those things we're weak in. For example, Barnabas was a great encourager and strove in that area (Acts 4:36ff). Philemon was very hospitable. Aquila and Pricilla were a great husband and wife team in the Lord (Acts 19). Epaphroditus was strong willed and loving (Phil. 2). Tryphena and Tryphosa were just laborers to the church and were commended by Paul for such (Rom. 16:12).

When considering the service we can accomplish for the Lord in the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15), it requires us having the desire and receiving the encouragement to work out that good in which God begun in us at baptism (Phil. 1:6). We can fur-

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

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ther accomplish this work of service by teaching our children the value of service to the Lord and how it's paramount in the life of a Christian (Eph. 6:1-4). Our families must see the value of the soul, therefore preparing oneself to be an influencer and instructor of righteousness in the area of soul winning (Matt. 16:26ff; 1 Pet. 3:15; Pro. 11:30). Also, to accomplish the role and privilege of being a faithful servant, we have to see the need to build up in the most holy faith (Jude 20). We can do so much when we ban together for the cause of God, thus bringing Him glory in all things.

In accomplishing our role as servants of the Lord in the local work, we must be willing to receive criticism. This author has learned that zeal is not always enough to be the best servant the Lord can have. Those in Rome were told how their zeal wasn't according to knowledge (Rom. 10:1ff). One can want to serve the elderly in the congregation or even want to aid one who is spiritually ill (as Gal. 6:1 states), yet if they're not educated about the elderly Christian and their situation, they could make the situation worse and even cause a rupture in fellowship. Furthermore, if one is spiritually ill and suffering with fornication and/or illegal substances, if you're not cognizant, you can personally get harmed in the situation. We have to walk in wisdom and always communicate with the eldership or someone in the know for the greatest possible outcome. It is about God being glorified.

In conclusion, let's do our part in being faithful to the cause of Christ and His beloved church and watch the beauty of Jesus be seen in you as the song says. Our faithful service will result in the Lord saying, "well done, thy good and FAITHFUL SERVANT..." Our devotion to the Lord and His work will cause our works to follow us, meaning, the things we have done in this body will benefit those who come after us for years to come and the Lord will not forget those great works (Rev. 14:13; Heb. 6:10). May we always realize how valuable faithful service is and how our faithfulness will help our brethren in their spiritual walk as well. Let God be true.

Mike Bonner (Christian Worker, July 2019, p. 1, 7)

## The Church and its Servants

1 Timothy 4 divides neatly into three sections. Verses 1-5 warn Timothy of the reality of false teaching and practice, including asceticism. This points us back to the first chapter, where Paul reminds Timothy of his responsibility to teach sound doctrine and oppose those who would do otherwise. The second section of the chapter, verses 6-11, contain instructions in relation to the context beginning in 2:1. Timothy was to "instruct" or "remind" the brethren of "these things." He was to reject that which was false and hold to that which was good. Finally, verses 12-16 order Timothy in regard to his own spiritual well being. He was to exemplify the doctrine of Christ and give himself completely to the instruction of God's Word.

Throughout this year, the *Christian Worker* has been dedicated to studying through 1 Timothy with the goal of applying its content to the church as a whole. You may be wondering how 1 Timothy 4 contributes to that purpose. The answer is found in v. 6. Paul wrote, "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ...." The term "minister" is not the word normally applied to preachers. It is the word *diakonos*, which is also translated "deacon" and generally refers to a servant. Though he was a gospel preacher, Timothy was a Christian and a servant of God, just the same as every other New Testament Christian. In view of this, this chapter contains 6 qualities that should be found in every faithful servant of God, regardless of their role in the church.

First, a faithful servant feeds of God's Word. Paul said,

*If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed (1 Tim. 4:6).*

In fulfilling his duties as a servant of God, Timothy was to engage in constant training and nutrition from God's Word. Tragically, too many servants are spiritually malnourished, and malnourishment—lack of knowledge—results in destruction (Hos. 4:6). We ought to have the attitude of Jeremiah who said, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...." (Jer. 15:16). The Word of God should be our delight and we should meditate on it day and night (Ps. 1:2). How great is your desire to be filled with God's Word? How often do you feast upon it? How can we serve the Lord faithfully if we do not know His will?

Second, a faithful servant excels in spiritual athletics. Timothy was instructed to "reject profane and old wives' fables and exercise yourself toward godliness" (1 Tim. 4:7-8). He was to reject

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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/)

**Aug. 25** Job 38—42

**Aug. 26** Psalms 1—4 (videos)

**Aug. 27** Psalms 5—8

**Aug. 28** Psalms 9—12

**Aug. 29** Psalms 13—16

**Aug. 30** Psalms 17—20 (video)

**Aug. 31** Psalms 21—24

**Sept. 1** Psalms 25—27

*"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 **30 contacts** were made.

#### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ Sept. 8 pm—Joey Treat reporting on work in Palau and Chuuk.
- ◆ Oct. 19—Ladies Day w/ Denise Surlis. *“Hope: The Anchor of the Soul”*
- ◆ Oct. 27-30—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Bryan Braswell. *“Evangelism in Word and Deed”*

#### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Sept. 22-25—Gospel Meeting at 9<sup>th</sup> & Main (San Angelo) w/ Brent Stubblefield
- ◆ Sept. 29—Oct. 2—Bangs Gospel Meeting w/ B. J. Clarke
- ◆ Oct. 3-5—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat @ Brady
- ◆ Oct. 12-30—Lectureship @ Hico. *“My Favorite Sermon”*
- ◆ Oct. 18-20—ReCharge Youth Conference @ Camp Bandina. *“My Lord and my God”*
- ◆ Oct. 19-20—Back to the Bible Lectures @ Hamilton. *“Doctrines/Attitudes Troubling the Church”*

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religiously bankrupt and silly myths and vigorously pursue a life that was totally consecrated to God for His glory. Spiritual training benefits us in this life and into eternity. We are athletes running a race for life (Heb. 12:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:24-27) and like any other athlete, it takes time and attention to perfect our craft—it takes dedication and sacrifice (Mark 10:29-30)! Do you invest time in spiritual athletics? Do prayer, study, worship, and service occupy a high place on your priority list? How could you serve God effectively without them?

Third, a faithful servant works hard. 1 Timothy 4:9-10 mentions laboring and suffering because of our faith in the living God. These two words are rich in meaning. *“Labor”* refers to hard, manual labor (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:6; etc.) and suffering refers to agony and the struggle of an athletic contest (cf. 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Thess. 2:2). Servants of God wear themselves out in His service and agonize through difficulty all because God is alive! We *“...believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God”* (1 Pet. 1:21). Are you laboring and agonizing in His service, to His glory?

Fourth, a servant is a good example: *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1 Pet. 4:12). Timothy was instructed to be a good example of godly living in order to silence his critics. Similarly, we all have our critics and a great way to silence them is to practice what we preach. Peter referred to this very concept in 1 Peter 2:11-12 by saying, *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the gentiles....”* Servants must be mindful of the example they put forth. Are you practicing that which you proclaim?

Fifth, a servant shows spiritual growth. Timothy was instructed to give himself entirely to the things of God *“that your progress may be evident to all”* (1 Tim. 4:13-15). *“Progress”* is a military term that describes soldiers who travel ahead of the troops and clear away obstacles along the path. Timothy was to give attention to teaching and working so that his spiritual growth would be evident to all and encourage those around him to grow as well. What about you? Can those around you see your progress (Phil. 2:15-16)? Does it encourage them to grow as well?

Sixth, a servant of God saves people. 1 Timothy 4:16 says, *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”* Timothy was to pay close attention to what he did and taught. In so doing, people would be saved—including himself! A faithful servant should constantly be mindful of why he serves. What is the ultimate aim? The Christian’s aim for service should be to glorify God now and in eternity (cf. Matt. 6:1-4). Why do you serve? What is your goal? Remember, *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise”* (Prov. 11:30).

As we strive to be faithful servants of God, it is good for us to meditate on these principles and examine our lives to see how they can be better applied.

Cody Westbrook (Christian Worker, July 2019, p. 2-3)

## Celebrate

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

**August Birthdays:** Joe Dennis (9), Rafe Smith (11), Jessica Dennis (13), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Ryan Rudloff (20), **Roy Dodson (29), Coyce Reed (30).**

**August Anniversaries:** Matthew and Kaci Churchwell (15), **Don and Darlene Smith (29).**

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Aug. 11, 2019	Aug. 18, 2019
Bible Class	50	35
AM Worship	52	42
PM Worship	37	35
Wednesday PM	43	32
Contribution	\$1,613	\$1,315



# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 8/25/19	Next Week: 9/1/19			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>August 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister</p> <p><b>September 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      John Barnum Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John Barnum Family</p>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Joe & Lasha Dennis	Mike & Patti Bannister			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox			
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Randy Huckaby, Chase Churchwell	Ryan Rudloff*, Don Smith Rafe Smith, Coyce Reed			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Kevin Ross			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Vernon Zier	Vernon Zier			
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Dennis	Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Kevin Ross	Allen Griffith			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	August 28 Don Smith	September 4 Prayer Night	September 11 Joe Dennis	September 18 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 August 25, 2019

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians 6:11  
 Wed. Class ..... Servant Training: Prayer

<u>Man's Relationship to His Family</u> <i>The Husband/Wife Relationship</i>	<u>Final Remarks (Col. 4:2-18)</u> <i>Admonition to Act Wisely Toward Outsiders (4:5-6)</i>
<p><b>I. Finding A Faithful Husband/Wife.</b></p> <p>A. "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD" (18:22)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a wise and good thing to be married.</li> <li>2. No truly godly home can be built on anything other than the wisdom that originates from the Lord (24:3-4; 14:1).</li> </ol> <p>B. Prerequisites in finding that godly mate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marriage is not for children; only self-sufficient adults are ready for marriage (Mt. 19:5; "A man shall...").</li> <li>2. Date only adult Christians who meet your criteria for marriage.</li> <li>3. Go into marriage with the correct attitude toward marriage.</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Staying Faithful and Growing in the Relationship.</b></p> <p>A. "Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. ... Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth" (5:15-19).</p> <p>B. God's wisdom is that one man should marry one woman for life (Gen. 2:24).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "... let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence..." (Mal. 2:15-16).</li> <li>2. To those who read and study the Bible, it is obvious that certain features are inherent in marriage and eternal in their consequences.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. One feature, marital fidelity, is the one in fact that, when broken, allows for remarriage after divorce.</li> <li>b. God wants each man and woman to "drink waters from your own cistern".</li> <li>c. In God's eyes, "until death do us part" is not an insignificant phrase.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>III. Dealing With an "Out of Control" Marriage.</b></p> <p>A. Love or hatred can be the spirit of a marriage, it's our choice (cf. 17:1).</p> <p>B. The second section of the Proverbs (19:13; 21:9; 21:19; 25:24; 27:15-16) all deal with a "contentious" woman.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contentious people are a displeasure to any relationship, esp. marriage.</li> <li>2. Perhaps the need most often missing in quarrelsome marriages is submission—to Christ and each other (Eph. 5:21-32).</li> </ol>	<p>Christian living is important not only in regard to our relationships with God and within the church, but also in the examples set before the world. Paul gave the Colossians four guidelines on how to conduct themselves toward outsiders.</p> <p><b>I. "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside" (5a).</b></p> <p>A. <i>Walk</i> [conduct yourselves] is used in a figurative sense of one's behavior.</p> <p>B. The Colossians were to practice wisdom in their association with those outside of the body of Christ.</p> <p>C. "Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God" (1 Cor. 10:32).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They were to be "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).</li> <li>2. They could be lights to a world in darkness by allowing Jesus to shine through them (Mt. 5:14-16).</li> </ol> <p><b>II. "Redeeming the time" [making the most of the opportunity]" (5b).</b></p> <p>A. A literal translation is "continuing to buy up all the time".</p> <p>B. Christians should not be idle, but should make the most of every opportunity for worthy service to Jesus.</p> <p><b>III. "Let your speech always be with grace, [as though] seasoned with salt" (6a).</b></p> <p>A. Paul addressed the concern of <i>speech</i> (λόγος; word).</p> <p>B. He was not referring to the gospel message; rather, to the vehicle, the words, through which the message is communicated.</p> <p>C. Christian's words are to be spoken <i>with grace</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He was urging them to use <i>tasteful speech</i> and to speak <i>graciously</i>.</li> <li>2. Some might be offended by the message itself, but they were <i>not</i> to be offended by the messenger's choice of words or presentation.</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. "That you may know how you ought to answer each one" (6b).</b></p> <p>A. Paul again emphasized the importance of careful Christian communications.</p> <p>B. While not every Christian is an evangelist, each one should be prepared to respond in a meaningful and polite way in every setting (1Pet. 3:15).</p> <p>C. The Colossians were to <i>learn to answer each other</i> acceptably because of having <i>practiced</i> gracious speech.</p>