

# 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



November 3, 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)  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
World Bible School

## Is My Name Written There?

One the great hymns often sung for "teaching and admonishing one another" (Col. 3:16) is a song entitled, "I Know My Name Is Written There." This song was written by Daniel Sidney Warner, a denominational preacher in the Church of God in the late 1800's. This song centers around the "Book of Life." The Book of Life is a very special book that God revealed throughout the pages of inspiration. The things that God revealed about this wonderful book are comforting to those who have obeyed the Gospel and are remaining true to it.

**The Book of Life—Past.** The first mention of the Book of Life came from the pen of Moses. In fact, Moses offered to have his name erased from this book for the sake of Israel. "And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written" (Ex. 32:31-32). As noble as Moses' intentions were, thankfully, for Moses' sake, God does not operate in such a way. David went to the other extreme and asked God to remove the names of David's enemies from the Book of Life. "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous" (Ps. 69:28; cf., Isa. 4:3; Dan. 12:1; Mal. 3:16). From various other Old Testament passages, it appears that the Jews kept a register of their citizens, which was known as the Book of the Living (Ezek. 13:9; Neh. 12:22ff). From this register, they would add names of those born and remove names of those who died each year.

**The Book of Life—Present.** When we turn to the pages of the New Testament, we see the Book of Life again, but now it does not deal with physical Israel but rather with spiritual Israel, the church of our Lord. Upon returning from the Limited Commission, the disciples, excited about their God-given powers, were told to not rejoice in miracles, "but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Lk. 10:20b). Paul, by inspiration's pen, affirmed that the names of many of those who labored with him from the church in Philippi "are in the book of life" (Phil. 4:3). How comforting it must have been for the persecuted saints during John's time to know that faithfulness would ensure that their names would not be blotted out of the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5). Writing of Heaven itself, John penned, "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).

**The Book of Life—Personally.** Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Only those whose names are written there are going to Heaven (Rev. 21:27). Therefore, it is imperative that our names are inscribed upon the Book of Life's pages. How does one get his name written there? For God to record our names in the Book of Life, we must become spiritually alive to God. When we die to sin and are born again (Jn. 3:3-5; Rom. 6:1-5), our names are written in the book of the living. If we continue faithfully and never quit, our names will continue to be chiseled upon the scared pages of God's Book of Life (Rev. 3:5). However, our names can be removed from this book as well. If we become unfaithful to our Lord and His church, "God shall take away his part from the book of life" (Rev. 22:19).

Have you obeyed Jesus? Are you currently faithful to Him and His kingdom? There are only two groups of people—those whose names are written in the Book of Life and those whose names are not written therein (Rev. 13:8; 17:8). Eternity is at stake; make sure your name is written there! For what a comfort it is to honestly sing, "I know, I know my name is written there"!

Rodney Nulph (Gospel Gazette Online, Nov. 2019, p. 2)

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

# We Need a New Generation of Phinehases

The children of Israel were on their way from Egypt to Canaan, but they had some hurdles to overcome along the way. They had problems with faith, food and also with foreign enemies. One of the problems that Israel faced in the wilderness was a king named Balak, who hired a prophet named Balaam to curse them. God forbid Balaam from cursing the people of Israel. He was only allowed to bless them (Num. 23:1-12, 25-26). Once Balaam realized he could not curse the children of Israel with his speech, he attempted to seduce them to sin with the Moabite women (Num. 25:1). The Israelites gave in to Balaam's temptation and joined themselves to idols and displeased the Lord (Num. 25:2-3). God had Moses kill all of those who engaged in this idolatrous behavior in order to remove the wickedness from their midst (Num. 25:4-5; cf. Exod. 20:2-6).

After God had shown His hatred for the fornication of Israel mixed with idolatry, an Israelite man, Zimri (Num. 25:14), marched into the camp one day with a Midianite woman, Cozbi (Num. 25:15). Not only did the Israelite come in with the forbidden woman, but he also did it in the sight of all of the people, and no one did anything about it (Num. 25:6). It was at this time that Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, rose up with a javelin and killed them both (Num. 25:7-8). God blessed Phinehas and turned away from His anger toward Israel (Num. 25:10-15). While this Old Testament account of righteous indignation and punishment may be hard for many to accept, it teaches profound truths we need to remember and practice. Phinehas sets an example that must be reproduced today as we desperately need a new generation of Phinehases.

## Courage Not to Follow the Crowd

As the Israelite Zimri marched into the camp with the Midianite woman, some Israelites might have whispered about how wrong it was. Perhaps some Israelites reasoned, "It was not lawful for him to have her," but no one did anything about it (cf. Mark 6:18). Sometimes we may see things that we know are wrong, but we are afraid to speak up and do something because we are all alone. The majority is not always correct, and just because most people are silent does not mean we should be (Exod. 23:2). Most peo-

ple are on the wide road that leads to destruction, and we should not expect them to speak up about unrighteousness (Matt. 7:13-14). When Phinehas saw wrong, he did not wait to get the approval of his contemporaries before he acted. Phinehas was convicted already because he knew that the fornication and idolatry of Zimri and Cozbi offended his God (Ps. 139:21-22).

We need a new generation of Phinehases who will not follow the blind culture in which we currently live, but instead will follow the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Matt. 15:14). It is possible to silently approve of the wrong of others. If we do, we will give an account (Rom. 1:32). God is pleased when His people do not follow the crowd, but instead follow the way of the cross. Be like Phinehas and avoid the temptation to do what everyone else is doing.

## Zealous for God

When God pronounced a blessing on Phinehas, He said that he was zealous or jealous for God, and this drove him to act (Num. 25:11). Phinehas did not stand up and strike Zimri and Cozbi because he simply did not think they were a cute couple. There was something deeper and more important driving Phinehas' behavior than whether or not he thought Zimri and Cozbi should be together. He was concerned with what God thought about it. God had already shown His disdain for these types of relationships. If Phinehas was going to have God's approval, he needed to be against it too. God described his attitude as zealous. This Hebrew word in this context means to campaign for someone. Phinehas' behavior was his effort to campaign for God as he was aligning himself with the God of Heaven (Exod, 32:26).

We need to be zealous for the Lord and to be "campaigning" for him in the same way that Phinehas did in the wilderness. When God calls homosexuality an abomination, we need to say the same thing without apology as we show the world around us that we are on the side of God and what He says about sexual immorality of any kind (Rom. 1:26-27; Lev. 18:22). We should be zealous for God as we speak of the pure worship of the New Testament that is free from the doctrines and deviations of men (Matt. 15:7-9). Being zealous for God is too many times defined as simply being excited about God and having a mind that is interested in the things of God. Biblically speaking, to be

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Television

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/)

**Nov. 3** Isaiah 21—24

**Nov. 4** Isaiah 25—28

**Nov. 5** Isaiah 29—32

**Nov. 6** Isaiah 33—36

**Nov. 7** Isaiah 37—41

**Nov. 8** Isaiah 42—46

**Nov. 9** Isaiah 47—53

**Nov. 10** Isaiah 54—58

*"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

- ◆ Last week 47 contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ We had a great **Gospel Meeting** this past week. Our thanks to **Bryan Braswell** for preaching the Word, and to **everyone** for all your help in making it a success.
- ◆ Johnny is on vacation this week. **Joe Dennis** and **James Fuller** will be presenting the lessons today. Wednesday evening, **Barry Hatcher** will be here to inform us about the missionary work going on in Indonesia. Our thanks to these good men for their work.
- ◆ There is a **new Spiritual Sword**, “*Can You Find Your Church in the Bible?*”, available on the back table.
- ◆ **Fellowship Meal** following this morning's worship.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey.

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Nov. 10-13—Annual Schertz Lectures. “*Studies in Genesis*”

(Continued from page 2)

zealous for God is more than just what we feel but also how we behave. It should also be noted that our zeal should be accompanied with knowledge (Rom. 10:1-4). To have zeal without knowledge is to run full speed into a ditch. Yet, to have knowledge without zeal is to be stagnant and useless in the kingdom of God. Our zeal must motivate us to speak up for God and serve Him, even when it is not easy (Matt. 16:24-25). In a country where so many campaign for so many earthly causes, we need a new generation of Phinehases who will campaign for the eternal cause of Christ.

## Enjoy Peace with God

God promised a covenant of peace with Phinehas as a result of the courage and conviction he showed (Num. 25:12). It is more important to be at peace with God than to have peace with man. Maybe Phinehas doing the right thing raised some eyebrows in the Israelite camp as Phinehas killed this couple right before their eyes. Some people might have even viewed Phinehas as a troublemaker and a disrupter of the peace. The truth was that Phinehas removed God's wrath from the people, and they enjoyed true peace as a result. God calls us to be peacemakers, and that often involves engaging in conflict to accomplish peace (Matt. 5:9). God made peace through the blood of Jesus' cross (Col. 1:20). Phinehas enjoyed peace with God, and that is what mattered the most.

We too must prioritize peace with God above peace with all others. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, but He also promised to bring division (Matt. 10:34-36). The division that Jesus brought about came as some believed in Him and others did not. Even within the same household there might be differing views of Jesus that could lead to problems within a family (Matt. 10:37). If we cherish peace with our family over peace with our God, we will forfeit the covenant of peace that we can have with the Lord. Phinehas was willing to be at odds with everyone else if it meant peace with God, and we should do the same (Rom. 5:1-2).

## Conclusion

The Old Testament was written and preserved so that we could learn from it (Rom. 15:4). The world wants to muzzle Christians and to tie our hands, but we must resist the world (1 John 5:4). It is not enough to whisper about righteousness among ourselves. We must speak of it openly to the world. We can stand up for God and stand against sin while still being respectful and kind (2 Tim. 2:24-26). We need a new generation of Phinehases who will stand up, confront evil and enjoy God's blessing as a result.

*Hiram Kemp* (Gospel Gazette Online, Nov. 2019, p. 7)

## Celebrate

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

**November Birthdays:** Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Marcia Turnbull (24).

**November Anniversaries:** Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), Coyce & Connie Reed (7), Charles & Bennie White (19).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	Oct. 20, 2019	Oct. 27, 2019
Bible Class	50	45
AM Worship	56	54
PM Worship	39	45
Wednesday PM	35	38
Contribution	\$2,252	\$1,894

	This Week: 11/3/19	Next Week: 11/10/19		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>November 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Tom and Carol Wilcox  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Dennis Family</p> <p><b>December 2019</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Allen &amp; Linda Griffith  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      James &amp; Cindy Fuller</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff*, Coyce Reed Chase Churchwell, Caleb Dennis	Kevin Ross*, Vernon Zier Allen Griffith, Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	John Barnum		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	John Barnum	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Kevin Ross		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 6 Barry Hatcher	November 13 Joe Dennis	November 20 Rafe Smith	November 27 Don 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 November 3, 2019

Sunday Class ..... **Joe Dennis**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Barry Hatcher**

## Thanks be Unto God

We praise (Heb. 13:15-16), preach (Rom. 8:28) and pray (1 Tim. 2:1) about God's great giving and goodness. He is the Giver of every good and perfect gift (Jas. 1:17). For all His goodness we are eternally thankful! What are some of the great blessings and benefits given to us by God for which we should always be thankful?

- Thank God for His goodness (Rom. 2:4).** God's goodness is intended to cause man to repent. Oh how good God has been to us when we had no goodness demanding His mercy. Cf. 2 Cor. 7:9-11; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Pet. 3:9.
- Thank God for His love (John 3:16).** John 3:16 has long been celebrated as a powerful and succinct declaration of the gospel. Of the 31,373 verses in the Bible, it may be the most popular single verse used in evangelism.
- Thank God for His gift (2 Cor. 9:15).** If we really understand and appreciate the "indefinable gift" God has given us, our lives will be saturated with gratitude; we will praise and proclaim His excellences (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
- Thank God for His blessings (Eph. 1:3).** Paul called for a blessing upon the Father (in the sense of recognizing His glory, honor, and goodness), because the Father has already blessed the Christian with every spiritual blessing. For physical and spiritual blessings, Christians should be thankful.
- Thank God for His grace & mercy (Titus 2:11-12).** The ancient Greek word for *teaching* has in mind what a parent does for a child. It speaks of the entire process: teaching, encouragement, correction, and discipline. Grace is a teacher in this sense and a powerful teacher it is.
- Thank God for His promises (2 Peter 1:4).** God's promises are both exceedingly great (in the sense of being large and imposing), and they are precious (in the sense of being valuable). We might break a promise, but not God!
- Thank God for His word (2 Tim. 3:16).** With great spiritual power beyond our intellect...
  - The Bible gives us eternal life (1 Peter 1:23)
  - The Bible spiritually cleanses us (Eph. 5:26)
  - The Bible gives us power against demonic powers (Eph. 6:17)
  - The Bible brings us spiritual strength (Ps. 119:28)
  - The Bible builds faith in us (Rom. 10:17).

**Conclusion:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Mark N. Posey