

# 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 10, 2019

## Contact Us:

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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

## More Precious Than Life

In the eyes of most of the world there is nothing more precious than life. But that is not true, because the righteousness of God is more precious than life.

The phrase "*righteousness of God*" labels God as right in all things. Since His plans and purposes for man are right, He has revealed, that above all else, He wants His righteousness manifested in us.

It was Jesus who said, "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*" (Mt. 6:33). He said it because the "*righteousness of God*" is more important than anything else, even more important than life.

From the early history of man, God has emphasized this principle. Over and over He had demonstrated it. However, throughout history, man has been reluctant to comprehend and accept it.

Abel's righteousness cost him his life, but the fact that Abel was righteous was more important than had he been unrighteous and lived a few more years.

In Noah's day, the unrighteousness of man was so prevalent that God destroyed the entire human race, except for righteous Noah and his family. The righteousness of God was more important than the lives of all who lived on the earth at that time.

On two occasions Abraham was so fearful for his life that he lied; first, to the pharaoh of Egypt, and later, to Abimelech, the king of Gerar. In both instances, Abraham tried to pass Sarah, his wife, as his sister. Both times, Abraham was taught a lesson that the righteousness of God is more important than life.

Before the Israelites entered the promised land, God warned them about the danger of there being torn away from following Him by the people of the land. To prevent such an apostasy, God gave them these instructions concerning the seven nations that occupied the land: "*...you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them*" (Deut. 7:2). Then He repeated this message in Deuteronomy 7:16. Because the influence of these heathen nations would be a snare and a stumbling block to the righteousness of God, the Israelites were told to "*consume their enemies.*" The righteousness of God is more important than life.

God's righteousness is ours when our faith leads us to obedience to God. Notice what God does for Abraham in James 2:22-23. "*Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God.*"

His righteousness is what God wants for all of mankind. However, the only way that can be accomplished is individually. Our belief leads us to be obedient to Him. Christ became sin that we might experience God's righteousness within our own lives. Notice 2 Corinthians 5:21, "*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*" Does this not clearly show us that God's righteousness is more precious than life?

Rick Austin (The Light [Cross Plains church of Christ bulletin], Oct. 24, 2019)

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

# Recruiting vs. Evangelizing

I've watched a couple of programs that have been on television lately about the history of college football. I hope to watch all of them at some point, but have not been able to do so.

One of the programs I watched was focused on how the entire process of recruiting young men (boys) to play football has changed over the years. Two scenes from that program still stand out in my mind.

The first scene was an interview with a man who played football for a legendary college coach a number of years ago. He described one memorable Thanksgiving dinner. At the time, he was a senior in high school. During the dinner, the telephone rang. When the phone was answered, to everybody's surprise, the person making the call was a man who was one of the four or five most famous college football coaches in the nation at that time.

The coach informed the family that he was in town and asked if he could stop by for a few minutes. The invitation was extended and accepted and, as it is sometimes said, the rest is history. The young man attended that university and played football for that coach.

During the interview, it was obvious that the critical factor in the entire process was the fact that a famous coach would sacrifice time with his own family on a national holiday in order to make a visit to this one family. After all of these years, the man still seemed to be elated about the fact that this coach thought that he was worth all of that effort.

To be fair, the player knew the reputation of the coach. He knew that much would be required of him and that playing for him would not be easy. That seems not to have mattered. What mattered was that somebody considered to be very important thought that he was important enough to sacrifice some time, effort, and personal convenience.

The second scene from that program was entirely different. It is a scene that demonstrates the pivotal moment in a present-day recruiting process.

In this scene, a number of assistant coaches and staff

members are in a room watching a huge television screen. On that screen is one young man (boy). All of these grown men are waiting anxiously for the young man to put on a cap and announce where he intends to play college football. When the young man puts on the cap of their school and announces that he will play for them, the celebration in the room is almost unbridled.

They have courted this young man for a long time. They have catered to him in so many ways. The school and its supporters have built locker rooms, weight rooms, cafeterias, dorms, etc. that are intended to impress this young man and others like him. "State of the art" doesn't even come close to describing the facilities.

All of this has paid off. They have their commitment.

Or do they?

How many times have you heard of an athlete "decommitting" and making a decision to go to another university? How many times have you heard of an athlete who doesn't think that he is being treated fairly at the school to which he "committed" and transferring to another institution?

What does all of this have to do with the rest of us? What is the lesson, if any, for those of us who will never play one down of college football (or any other sport on that level)?

For one thing, this type of thinking has had an impact on the employer-employee relationship. It seems to be becoming increasingly the case that it is the prospective employer who is "on the hotseat" instead of the prospective employee. It is the prospective employee who wants to know "what can you do for me?" instead of the other way around.

This type of thinking has had an impact on us in other ways as well. At about the time I was entering my teen years, we had a president who challenged us with these words: "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." This was also at about the same time that the legendary coach was having Thanksgiving dinner with a prospective player and his family.

*(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. 10** Isaiah 54—58

**Nov. 11** Isaiah 59—62

**Nov. 12** Isaiah 63—66

**Nov. 13** Jeremiah 1—3 (video)

**Nov. 14** Jeremiah 4—6

**Nov. 15** Jeremiah 7—9

**Nov. 16** Jeremiah 10—12

**Nov. 17** Jeremiah 13—15

*"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 **46** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Special thanks to Joe Dennis, James Fuller, and Don Smith for filling in last week while Johnny and Cindy were gone. Also, to Barry Hatcher for his report on the work in Indonesia on Wednesday evening. I know you were blessed.

#### 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*”

## Because He Lives

**TEXT:** John 14:19, “*Because I live, you will live again.*” **SONG:** Because He Lives...

- 1. Because He Lives, I have HOPE:** “*I can face tomorrow.*”
- 2. Because He Lives, I have PEACE:** “*All fear is gone.*”
- 3. Because He Lives, I have CONFIDENCE:** “*I know who holds the future.*”
- 4. Because He Lives, I have PURPOSE:** “*Life is worth living, just because He lives.*”

SERMON STARTERS  
- Mark N. Posey

(Continued from page 2)

It may just be me, but it seems that many who now run for public office try to persuade us to vote for them by promising more and more programs, services, rights, etc. that are intended to benefit us. The message seems to be that we are not expected to make any sacrifice or to be inconvenienced in any way.

Sadly, for somebody like me whose interest for years has been preaching the gospel and trying to do what I can to reach people who need to hear and obey it, we may need to do some serious thinking and evaluating. I fear that we, even in the religious world, may have gone from evangelizing to recruiting.

I well remember that, during my years as a “full-time preacher,” I was encouraged to “court” a certain couple because they were “good prospects.” They were already Christians and had moved into our community and were looking for a church home. The reason that I was encouraged to pay particular interest to them seemed to be that they fit the preferred demographic profile of the one doing the encouraging.

I did what I tried to do with every person who showed some interest in our congregation. I called on them, visited with them a while, and kept in contact with them.

Ultimately, they decided to worship elsewhere. Apparently, the other congregation had more to offer them and was “more to their taste.”

Somehow, I felt as though I hadn’t had much success as a recruiter. I did **not**, however, feel as though I had been involved in any kind of evangelism. To me, there is a huge difference.

The message of the Bible is that the greatest sacrifice that could ever be made was made because “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*” (John 3:16). Paul made a personal application of this. He referred to Jesus as “*...the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*” (Gal. 2:20).

Maybe that’s one reason that Paul is often referred to in terms like “the great apostle Paul,” “the peerless apostle Paul,” etc. He knew the difference between recruiting and evangelizing.

We would do well to understand that same difference.

Most of us understand that the simplest definition of the word “gospel” is “good news.” The good news is **not** that I am so special that somebody wants me on their team (congregation).

The good news is that Jesus is Lord of all because He willingly gave Himself as the ultimate sacrifice and deserves my undivided and unending loyalty. We evangelize when we preach that message.

Jim Faughn (faughnfamily.com)

## 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. 27, 2019	Nov. 3, 2019
Bible Class	45	42
AM Worship	54	54
PM Worship	45	33
Wednesday PM	38	26
Contribution	\$1,894	\$2,030



# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 11/10/19	Next Week: 11/17/19		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>November 2019</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom and Carol Wilcox <b>Clean Building:</b> Dennis Family  <b>December 2019</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Allen & Linda Griffith <b>Clean Building:</b> James & Cindy Fuller	
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Joe Dennis		
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross*, Vernon Zier Allen Griffith, Randy Huckaby	Ryan Rudloff*, Caleb Dennis Chase Churchwell, Coyce Reed		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Chase Churchwell	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	November 13 Joe Dennis	November 20 Rafe Smith	November 27 Don Smith	December 4 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 November 10, 2019

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 7:16*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Servant Training: Making a Talk*

<p><b>Proverbs of Contrast: Pride vs. Humility</b></p> <p>Throughout the Bible, and especially frequently in the book of Proverbs, God contrasts the <i>sin of pride</i> with the righteous virtue of <i>humility</i>.</p> <p>I. <b>Attitudes Toward the Lord</b> (3:5-7).</p> <p>A. Trusting in the Lord, not in oneself, requires humility.</p> <p>B. The very first sin involved pride.</p> <p>C. One who rejects sinful pride and follows God's Word will be directed in the right way.</p> <p>II. <b>The Lord's Response</b> (3:34).</p> <p>A. The Lord <i>scorns the scornful</i>; that is, He scoffs at the scoffers.</p> <p>B. What right-thinking man honestly desires the God of heaven and earth to stand against him?</p> <p>C. Not all will humble themselves before the Lord now, but all will someday—only then, it will be too late for those who would not serve Him.</p> <p>III. <b>Relationships with Men</b> (11:17).</p> <p>A. The man who extends mercy to others also helps himself, but the one who oppresses and afflicts others also afflicts himself.</p> <p>B. <i>Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war</i> (20:18).</p> <p>C. <i>In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them</i> (14:3).</p> <p>D. The humble man does not presume a place of honor for himself (25:6-7).</p> <p>E. Nor does the humble man "toot his own horn" (27:2).</p> <p>IV. <b>Punishment and Reward.</b></p> <p>A. <i>A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin</i> (21:4).</p> <p>B. <i>Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord</i> (16:5).</p> <p>C. <i>Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him</i> (26:12; cf. 25:27).</p> <p>D. <i>By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life</i> (22:4).</p> <p>V. <b>Remedy for Pride.</b></p> <p>A. <i>The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility</i> (15:33).</p> <p>B. <i>If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth</i> (30:32).</p> <p><i>Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall</i> (16:18).</p>	<p><b>First Thessalonians Background Information</b></p> <p>I. <b>Author:</b> Paul, the Apostle. Paul's authorship is seldom questioned.</p> <p>II. <b>Date:</b> A.D. 50-52.</p> <p>III. <b>To Whom Written:</b> "To the church of the Thessalonians" (1:1).</p> <p>A. <i>The City of Thessalonica.</i></p> <p>B. <i>The Church of Thessalonica.</i></p> <p>IV. <b>Purpose:</b> To encourage the church to stand fast against persecution.</p> <p>A. Paul commends their strong faith and love and hope (1:3f).</p> <p>B. He answers the malicious charges against himself (2:1f).</p> <p>C. He encourages the church to stand fast against persecution and to live holy lives (3:1-4:12).</p> <p>D. He reinforces the great hope of the Lord's return and the resurrection of those who have already passed on (4:13f).</p> <p><b>The Model Church: A Strong Congregation or Work (1:1-4)</b></p> <p>I. <b>A congregation that has ministers who are faithful:</b> "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy" (1a).</p> <p>II. <b>A congregation of the people:</b> "To the church of the Thessalonians" (1b).</p> <p>III. <b>A congregation "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"</b> (1c).</p> <p>IV. <b>A congregation that possesses God's supreme gifts – grace and peace:</b> "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (1d).</p> <p>A. <i>Grace</i> – the undeserved favor and blessings of God.</p> <p>B. <i>Peace</i> – to be bound, joined, and woven together; to be assured, confident, and secure in the love and care of God; to sense and know that God will guide, provide, strengthen, sustain, deliver, encourage, empower, and bless.</p> <p>V. <b>A congregation that stirs prayer:</b> "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers" (2).</p> <p>VI. <b>A congregation that is stirred up and aroused to work:</b> "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father" (3).</p> <p>A. <i>Faith</i> stirs the church to work.</p> <p>B. <i>Love</i> stirs the church to labor.</p> <p>C. <i>Hope</i> stirs the church to <i>patience</i> in its work and labor.</p> <p>VII. <b>A congregation elected (chosen) by God:</b> "Knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God" (4).</p>
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