



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 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

Thanksgiving Pilgrims

As America prepares in anticipation of yet another annual Thanksgiving celebration, I could not help but consider some of the parallels between the birth, growth, struggles and direction of this country, as compared to the birth, growth, struggles and potential direction, of a New Testament Christian.

In 1620, the pilgrims, seeking a new life free from the tyranny of oppressive persecution, by their faith in the power and providence of God, determinedly "set sail" into largely uncharted territory across a vast ocean in order to gain separation from their oppressor and his servants once and for all. This body of water was as essential to their separation from their oppression, as the waters of Noah's day separated him and his family from the sin of their world, and as the waters of the Red Sea eventually separated God's Old Testament people from their Egyptian slave masters and oppressors as well (Exodus 14).

Similarly, when a lost sinner today finally tires of the relentless aggression and oppression of the power of sin, death, and Satan over him, he, too, must set out for a new world, separating himself, once again, through water, from Satan's tyranny and the power of sin (1 Peter 3:18-21; Rom. 6:1-23; Heb. 2:14-15). This is accomplished as he is, by faith in the power of God (Col. 2:12), born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:3-5), being obediently immersed in the waters of Christian baptism (Gal. 3:26-27) for the forgiveness (or washing away – Acts 22:16) of his sins, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Upon emerging from the watery first leg of their journey to freedom, both the pilgrims of 1620 and the Israelites of Exodus 14, took their first few steps on dry, solid ground, to begin a new life in a new land. But it would not be easy. There would be desperate hardships, deadly battles, and a whole new way of life to become accustomed to, and integrated into. Temptation to turn back to even such monstrous and oppressive masters as they had distanced themselves from via the watery wall of separation standing between them, was at times, almost too much too bear.

New Testament Christians taking their first few steps of fully forgiven freedom on the other side of their biblical, baptismal burial in water, also encounter all sorts of devastating life and death struggles as well. Many face their own potentially deadly, daily battles in the form of the terrible temptations, addictions, and/or immoral practices from their former way of life, which they must fight desperately to defeat, put to flight, and to fully and finally overcome (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 4:17-5:13). Others face contempt, rejection, and exclusion from their former friends and families due to their decision to become New Testament Christians (Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23; 1 Peter 4:3-16).

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

(Continued from page 1)

As the pilgrims' progress began to become obvious, and new life on a new level began to become prosperous, an old world nemesis who refused to recognize the loss of his dominion without a further fight, marshaled his forces in an all out assault on those seeking to live a new and better life in their new world. And the fight for freedom in the form of the revolutionary war was on. Even after a horribly costly and hard fought victory by those residents of the "new world," their former master still refused to accept their independence from him, and once again, it was war in 1812. Repeatedly their former master refused to accept their new found freedom and forced them to fight – hard – to maintain it.

Life as a Christian is very often like that; a series of hard fought and foe-forced battles against Satan and former sins that used to reign but now no longer do (Rom. 6:1-18) – but still repeatedly seek to try to re-assert their once-held and vice-like death grip on those living a new life of blood-bought freedom (Gal. 5; 2 Peter 2:20-22).

Fast forward to today. With many battles fought and won since that initial day in 1620 when the first steps of their still-wet ancestors' feet landed on this side of the water, America has been blessed by God with more abundance than anyone could have ever imagined. By God's power and providence, America has grown rich, fat, powerful and prosperous. And just like the much-blessed nation of Old Testament Israel before them, they have pridefully, purposefully, passionately and pointedly rejected the great God who gave it all to them (Deut. 31:20-21; Neh. 9:16-35). And in what has to be one of the saddest and most tragic ironies of our time, is that next week, this once-God-fearing and God-honoring nation, which now seeks to defiantly eliminate, eradicate, and extricate themselves completely from almighty God's authority on every level imaginable, will largely gather to give that same God they refuse to acknowledge by *their obedience*, thanks for the blessings they enjoy from *His abundance*...? (The utter epitome of irony, height of hypocrisy, and tragedy of thoughtless tradition, is it not?)

But before we judge our nation too harshly, perhaps we should acknowledge that the same thing can – and does – all too often just as easily happen within the Lord's church. How consistently does it happen, that some of those who were set free from sin and death in the waters of Christian baptism several decades ago, and who have fought and won to maintain that God-given freedom and victory through many a trial and temptation, may have since grown proud and prideful to the point of rejecting and rebelling against God's authority on almost anything they don't particularly want to do (such as evangelizing, repenting, or serving with the saints); but yet they still gather around the Lord's table, in the Lord's house, each Lord's Day, out of tradition, to give thanks to the Lord whom they, in all reality, pretty much virtually reject any true allegiance or obedience to otherwise, except for paying Him lip-service (Matt. 15:7-9)? And once again, the example of God's abundantly-blessed but unwilling to be truly grateful in return Old Testament people who did very much the same type of thing, can be seen throughout the Old Testament, in places like Isaiah, chapter one; Malachi, chapter one, and etc..

May God help us to ensure that none of us ever follow that example; and may He help any of those of us who might have started sliding in that direction, to fully recognize our condition, and truly repent of our rebellion. Let none of us ever allow ourselves to sit back and thoughtlessly partake of the Lord's Supper – this spiritual feast of "thanks giving" – simply out of some sense of time-tested, mind-numbed, assembly-asserted tradition. ***"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body"*** (1 Cor. 11:28-29). ***"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?"*** (1 Cor. 10:21-22).

God bless. And a Happy and Holy Thanksgiving to all ... ***today, the Lord's Day.***

Doug Dingley (churchofchristarticles.com)

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/

Nov. 24 **Jeremiah 34—36**
Nov. 25 **Jeremiah 37—39**
Nov. 26 **Jeremiah 40—42**
Nov. 27 **Jeremiah 43—45**
Nov. 28 **Jeremiah 46—48**
Nov. 29 **Jeremiah 49—52**
Nov. 30 **Lamentations 1—5**
Dec. 1 **Ezekiel 1—4 (video)**

"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 **41** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **No Ladies Bible Class this week** due to Thanksgiving holiday. Class will resume as usual next week.
- ◆ A holiday party is in the works. Stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Why Be A Christian?

In Isaiah 62:1-2, Jehovah God promised to give His people a new name. We see this promise fulfilled in the book of Acts when those who obeyed the gospel were called Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28). Sadly, this divinely bestowed title has been traded in for sectarian designations given by men, many of which are not found in Scripture and serve only to divide. Jesus said, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed”* (John 8:31). The Lord has invited each of us to come to Him and yoke ourselves to His teaching (Matt. 11:28- 30). Why should you be a Christian?

Jesus said, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 5:16). This dark world needs the light of Jesus Christ reflected by His followers (Phil. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:12). Everyone who wears the name of Christ should strive to be kind, compassionate, selfless, benevolent, holy, loving, peaceable, hardworking, honest, pure and gentle. You should become a Christian so you can have the greatest impact on the world around you.

Next, the Holy Spirit compares Christianity to an athletic event. In sports, most athletes will step up to a challenge and give their very best when they are competing for a prize or a title. Did you know that it’s no different in the spiritual realm? In speaking of the Christian race Paul said, *“know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain”* (1 Cor. 9:24). Christianity takes even more determination and discipline than Olympic athletes display! You should become a Christian in order to rise to the highest challenge.

Lastly, the best reason to become a Christian is seen in 1 John 3:1, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”* As God’s children, we can approach His throne of grace for help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). We can draw near to Him in every circumstance and know that He will draw near to us (Jas. 4:8). Our Father has invited us to cast our cares upon Him and assured us that He cares (1 Peter 5:7). You should become a Christian so you can enjoy an intimate relationship with your Creator.

If you have not been born again, you are not yet part of the family of God, but you can become a follower of Jesus Christ by obeying His gospel (John 3:5; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:3). Would you like to wear the most powerful name, influence your family, community, and world for good and aim for the highest of all goals? Come be a Christian.

“For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name” (Isa. 62:1-2).

Clay Bond (swcofc.org)

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

	Nov. 10, 2019	Nov. 17, 2019
Bible Class	48	45
AM Worship	69	53
PM Worship	34	43
Wednesday PM	31	37
Contribution	\$1,919	\$1,808

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 11/24/19	Next Week: 12/1/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom and Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Dennis Family December 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller	
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Randy Huckaby Vernon Zier, Kevin Ross	James Fuller*, Allen Griffith Coyce Reed, Caleb Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Vernon Zier		
Communion	Joe Dennis	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Kevin Ross		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 27 Don Smith	December 4 Prayer Night	December 11 Joe Dennis	December 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 November 24, 2019

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 7:25*
 Wed. Class *Servant Training: Making a Talk*

<p style="text-align: center;">Proverbs of Contrast: The Fool</p> <p>I. Characteristics Of The Fool. (No one is a fool by birth, rather, he is a fool by the choices that he makes.)</p> <p>A. Fools Refuse Instruction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since instruction produces wisdom, one will become a fool without it. 2. Wisdom comes from God (1:7; Jas. 1:5). 3. "A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent" (15:5). 4. "Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words" (23:9). <p>B. Fools Seek Their Own Way (12:15; 26:12; 28:26).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (14:12; 16:25). 2. "To do evil is like sport to a fool" (10:23). <p>C. Reproof And Rebuke Are Useless With Fools.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool" (17:10). 2. "As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly" (26:11). <p>D. A Fool Is Known By His Lips (13:16).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride" (14:3). 2. "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" (18:6-7). <p>E. Fools Do Not Control Their Wrath.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "A fool's wrath is known at once" (12:16). 2. "Any fool can start a quarrel" (20:3). 3. "The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps. ... A fool rages and is self-confident. A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated." (14:15-17). <p>II. Conduct Toward The Fool: Avoid Him (14:7; 26:4-5).</p> <p>III. Consequences For The Fool (26:2-3).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Live the life of a fool and suffer the consequences. B. This punishment for fools may come in this life. C. More significant is the spiritual consequence of being a fool. 	<p>The Model Church: A Strong and True Minister (1 Thess. 2:1-12)</p> <p>This passage gives us the picture of a strong minister—the kind of minister and servant of Christ that every Christian should be.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The strong and true minister has a full and fruitful ministry – not a vain ministry (1). II. The strong and true minister preaches boldly even when there is opposition (2). III. The strong and true minister preaches a pure gospel, lives a clean life, and does not deceive people (3). IV. The strong and true minister preaches and ministers to please God, not men (4), V. The strong and true minister does not preach and minister for what he can get out of it (5). VI. The strong and true minister does not preach or minister for glory nor for the prestige and authority of a position (6). VII. The strong and true minister preaches and ministers gently and lovingly (7-8). VIII. The strong and true minister preaches and ministers, laboring night and day (9). IX. The strong and true minister preaches and ministers with a clean life, an impeccable life (10). X. The strong and true minister preached as a father, tenderly giving direction (11). XI. The strong and true minister preaches and ministers with one objective—to lead people to walk worthy of the Lord (12).
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