

# 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



December 15, 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

## Women's Roles & the LGBTQ Agenda: The Same Sermon

Two of the most controversial subjects faced by the church in recent years have been the role of women in the church and the LGBTQ movement. These controversies have raged as the world views the church and even at times inside of the church itself. If congregations are not talking about these issues from their classrooms and pulpits, it is **not** because members are not dealing with them regularly in society. Interestingly enough, as one starts to examine the arguments made in and around each of these topics, he will find that they revolve around the same issues. As a matter of fact, in preaching recently on the role of women in the church, I could not help but think that I was merely *re-preaching* an earlier lesson concerning the LGBTQ movement. The points were the same; only the specific application was different. As the church struggles with these issues, it should remember that the way we respond to one of these two issues will eventually mirror the way we approach the other one.

### Plain Bible Teaching

First, the sermon begins with straightforward Biblical teaching. There are certain things that, as a preacher, I would never have the nerve or audacity to say out loud if it were not for the unavoidable fact that the Bible clearly addresses them. **About the role of women in the church, Paul wrote, 1 Timothy 2:11-12, "Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet" (ESV). In reference to the LGBTQ movement, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 proclaims, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." Some would deny that these texts mean what they clearly state. I would advise anyone to steer clear of those who desire to explain away clear Bible teaching.**

### Don't be distracted by misrepresentations.

Second, the sermon spends some time on prefatory remarks that address some extremes a few have assumed on these issues: (a) Paul is not saying in 1 Timothy that the role of a woman in the church is limited to preparing food for the potluck. (b) This text is not about talent or ability. (c) This text is not about value or worth (Gal. 3:28). (d) It is not even about whether a woman can bring souls to Christ (Acts 18:26). **It is merely about submission to the way God has chosen to set up His Church.**

(Continued on page 2)



"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him" (Prov. 20:7).

"For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield" (Ps. 5:12).

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

(Continued from page 1)

In the same way, 1 Corinthians 6 is not saying that the practice of homosexuality is worse than other sins, nor is it saying that Christians should be abusive of these people. *Quite the opposite*. Paul shows us that the church at Corinth was actually comprised of some former homosexuals, yet they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Christ. Neither of these passages are about hate or oppression. They are actually about liberation through Christ and His Will.

### Paul’s writings are not based on 1<sup>st</sup> century culture alone.

Third, **the common objection that Paul’s Words are simply cultural must be addressed**. Many dismiss 1 Timothy 2:11-12 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and other words of Paul, by saying the culture around him overly influenced Paul. “That is why he taught a woman should not teach or have authority over a man and, why he said the practice of homosexuality is sinful,” it is often claimed. The arguments range from, (a) “We should look on Paul with pity as someone who just didn’t know any better,” to (b) “Paul was a bigot.” **The truth is that Paul spoke by inspiration (meaning He spoke the words of God), and he directly tied the rationale of his words to nature and creation rather than in culture.**

1 Timothy 2:13-14 reveals the reason for the submissive role of women in the church: “*For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.*” That reason is **still true today** and why its application is **still valid**. In addressing the subject of homosexuality in Romans 1:26-27, “*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*” **Proper sexual relations are rooted in nature itself.** Improper sexual relationships are a violation of nature itself. Paul’s words are based on creation and not culture, so

they cannot be dismissed by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians.

### Jesus and Paul do not disagree.

Fourth, there are always those who want to discount what Paul taught by separating him from Jesus. People have framed this argument with terminology such as, “We need to read Paul *through* Jesus.” Of course, the reason that this line of argumentation is used is because it is observed that Jesus did not directly deal with these issues like Paul does. Ironically, you never see people making this argument when it comes to other subjects that are not “hot-button issues.”

The main problem with this line of argumentation is that it shows a complete misunderstanding of inspiration and the source of both Paul and Jesus’ message. **Paul was very clear that his message came through a revelation of Jesus Christ** (Gal. 1:11-12). He even referred to his words as the “*testimony of God*” and “*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*” (1 Cor. 2:1-2). **Jesus claimed the same source for His words in John 12:49:** “*For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.*” Neither Jesus nor Paul claimed to speak on their own authority, but rather that their words were the “testimony of God.” **It is irresponsible and disrespectful to try and play Jesus and Paul against each other, as if they taught a different gospel.**

As we reflect upon these issues—issues that in many ways really require the same sermon—we ought to be a reminded that these issues are not really about whether or not a woman can teach a man in the church or whether Christian can be involved in a loving homosexual relationship. The issues are much deeper and speak to the way we view the Scriptures as God’s revelation. **Theology matters. It is not just about what we believe, but why we believe it.** In congregations that are compromising on issues of women’s roles, it is only a matter of time before they start to compromise on the same issues regarding the LGBTQ movement. These issues stand or fall on the same foundation.

Westley Hazel (plainsimplefaith.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/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**Dec. 15 Daniel 10—12**  
**Dec. 16 Hosea 1—3 (videos)**  
**Dec. 17 Hosea 4—6**  
**Dec. 18 Hosea 7—9**  
**Dec. 19 Hosea 10—14**  
**Dec. 20 Joel**  
**Dec. 21 Amos 1—5**  
**Dec. 22 Amos 6—9; Obadiah**

*“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 **53** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who hosted, helped with, and/or attended the Progressive Dinner / Holiday Party yesterday evening. A good time was had by all.
- ◆ Next Sunday, **Justin Hopkins** will be with us, and will teach Bible class and bring the morning sermon. **Charles Hall** will be bringing the evening sermon.
- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** is cancelled until after the holidays. Normal schedule will resume January 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

## What Do We See?

*“As Jesus passed by, He saw a man” (Jn. 9:1).*

It is not difficult to recruit people to go on a mission trip to Nepal. Everyone knows about “The Rooftop of the World,” the home of much of the Himalaya Mountains. We are all fascinated by mountains, and that fascination increases exponentially when Mt. Everest and other Himalayan peaks enter into the discussion. The scenery is awesome, the sense of adventure overwhelming. One returns from a visit to such places with a tremendous feeling of accomplishment.

But there is much more to this remote, densely populated nation than magnificent vistas. More than 30 million people inhabit its approximately 57,000 square miles. More than 90% of the population claim Hinduism or Buddhism as their religious faith. Taken together, these constitute the world’s largest current polytheistic and idolatrous religion. In the New Testament, Paul spoke of his joy over those who turned *“from idols to serve the living and true God”* (1 Thess. 1:9). He regarded them as having escaped bondage to enjoy freedom in Christ Jesus.

The great commission given by Jesus to his followers challenges us to focus our vision. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”* (Matt. 28:19). Some scholars suggest a proper application of Jesus’ words is *“As you go...”* That suggests that evangelism is not only a purposed activity requiring a special itinerary, but something that Christians are alert to do wherever they are and whenever opportunities arise.

As Jesus traveled through Galilee, Samaria, and Judea he constantly met and interacted with people. On one occasion his attention was directed to something inanimate: *“His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple”* (Matt. 24:1). He responded to the effect that these were only temporary. *“Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, ... not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down”* (24:2). It was barely more than forty years later that the Roman army fulfilled his prophecy in the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D. Jesus’ attention was almost exclusively upon people, whom he came *“to seek and to save”* (Luke 19:10).

Buildings erected by humans, beautiful forests, even immense mountain ranges are all material and destructible. God promises, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”* (2 Pet. 3:10).

All that God has created will be done away with except for human souls. *“So also is with the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption”* (1 Cor. 15:42). The mountains we treasure will not last. The people we teach and bring to faith will live eternally. Let us look at more than beautiful scenery – let us see those who are longing for truth and help them to know and believe in Jesus.

*Michael Brooks (forthright.net)*

## Celebrate

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

**December Birthdays: Kaci Churchwell (18), Linda Griffith (20).**

**December Anniversaries: Allen & Linda Griffith (20), David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).**

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



## Records

	Dec. 1, 2019	Dec. 8, 2019
Bible Class	43	38
AM Worship	53	45
PM Worship	35	28
Wednesday PM	25	27
Contribution	\$2,095	\$1,797

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 12/15/19	Next Week: 12/22/19		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	<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>January 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister <b>Clean Building:</b> Mike & Patti Bannister	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen and Ashley Kahlich	John & Tina Barnum		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross*, Vernon Zier Coyce Reed, Caleb Dennis	Allen Griffith*, John Barnum Chase Churchwell, Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	Kevin Ross		
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross	Allen Griffith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	December 18 Rafe Smith	December 25 Don Smith	January 1 Prayer Night	January 8 Joe Dennis

## 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 December 15, 2019

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians 8:1  
 Wed. Class ..... Exodus 3:1

<u>Proverbs of Contrast: The Righteous Man</u>	<u>The Model Church: A Strong Love (1 Thess. 3:11-13)</u>
<p><b>I. The Providence Of God In The Life Of The Righteous Man.</b>                      The righteous man, while not immune from the ups and downs of life, will find himself blessed by the inherent advantages of his relationship to God.  <i>"The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish" (10:3).</i>  <i>"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (Ps. 37:25).</i>                      A. <i>The Potential (Hope) For The Righteous Man.</i>                      B. <i>The Problems Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      C. <i>The Prayers Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      D. <i>The Protection Provided For The Righteous Man.</i></p> <p><b>II. The Promises Of God To The Righteous Man.</b>                      The promises of God are soothing comforts to those who walk in the paths of righteousness and are harsh realities to those who shun the straight and narrow for their own devices (Rom. 11:22).  <i>"The righteous will never be removed" (10:30).</i>                      A. <i>The Positive Influence Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      B. <i>The Production Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      C. <i>The Possessions Of The Righteous Man.</i></p> <p><b>III. The Pity Of The Righteous Man.</b>                      In addition to having proper perspective concerning the receipt and stewardship of financial gain, the righteous man is a compassionate man.  <i>"The righteous considers the cause of the poor" (29:7).</i>                      A. <i>The Preference Of God For The Righteous Man.</i>                      B. <i>The Pleasures Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      C. <i>The Position Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      D. <i>The Path Of The Righteous Man.</i></p> <p><b>IV. The Perspective Of The Righteous Man.</b>                      The righteous man will find success in his endeavors via the blessing of God.  <i>"He who walks with integrity walks securely" (10:9).</i>  <i>"The righteous are bold as a lion" (28:1).</i>                      A. <i>The Plea Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      B. <i>The Prudence Of The Righteous Man.</i>                      C. <i>The Persistence Of The Righteous Man.</i></p>	<p><b>I. Paul's great prayer for the Thessalonian church and its members (11).</b>                      A. Paul knew that if he were ever to return to Thessalonica, it would be because his <i>God and Father Himself</i>, along with Paul's beloved Master, <i>Jesus our Lord</i>, intervened to <i>direct [his] way [clear the way - NIV]</i>.                      B. Paul revealed that God Himself is our Father and that Jesus Christ Himself is the Lord God from heaven—that both the Father and the Son have the nature of God; therefore, both have co-existed eternally.                      C. Paul request is that both the Father and the Lord Jesus be involved in directing and guiding his way to the Thessalonians.</p> <p><b>II. The great need: Love (12).</b>                      A. The great need for which Paul prayed is the supreme need of every Christian—the need for love.                      B. The love being spoken of is not what the world means by love.                      1. The love that we must grow in is the love that makes us love all men, not just one another.                      2. The source of love is the Lord.                      3. The kind of love which the Christian is to have for all people is <i>agapē</i>, the great love of God Himself. The meaning of <i>agapē</i> is more clearly seen by contrasting it with the various kinds of love.                      a. There is <i>passionate love</i> or <i>eros</i>.                      b. There is <i>affectionate love</i> or <i>storge</i>.                      c. There is an <i>endearing love</i> or <i>phileo</i>.                      d. There is <i>selfless and sacrificial love</i> or <i>agapē</i>.                      1) <i>Agapē</i> is the love of God, the very love possessed by God Himself.                      2) <i>Agapē</i> is a gift of God.                      3) <i>Agapē</i> is the greatest thing in all of life (Mk. 12:29-31).                      4) <i>Agapē</i> is the greatest possession and gift in human life (1 Cor. 13:1-13).</p> <p><b>III. The great result of love (13):</b> To be presented blameless before God at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>