



## 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  
325-217-4056 325-998-9030

## 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

## Idolatry, Our Biggest Challenge in 2020 and Beyond

Am I overstating this? Maybe. But I would argue that idolatry is a constant threat to every part of our lives. Paul used the word “*flee*” four times in his epistles, all in regard to addictive sins of the mind and body. Idolatry is one of those sins (1 Cor. 10:14). Paul used the word “*flee*” because of the powerful but subtle way idolatry creeps into our lives.

Consider Joshua’s words to Israel prior to his death when he challenged them to, “*choose this day whom you will serve...*” Israel was emphatic that they would serve the Lord and not their idols. However, they had not only carried their little idols with them throughout the wilderness and into Canaan, they kept the idols even after promising they would serve only the Lord (Cf. Ezekiel 20). Oh yes, they “served the Lord,” but it was easy to hide their idols from public view. Just as with our idols today, there was a certain comfort, security, and pleasure provided by their secret gods. The idea is, we will serve the Lord, but we need a little more just in case God doesn’t provide *all* our needs. As with Eve, wasn’t every tree in the Garden enough? That is idolatry, and we easily cross the line.

Paul defined idolatry as an exchange of passions (Romans 1:21-27). Paul used the word “*exchanged*” three times to indicate what a person “*worships*” and “*serves.*” When Eve sinned in the Garden, idolatry was the root sin. She was deceived into believing that God’s provisions were incomplete, that God had been selfish, and therefore she needed to pursue fulfillment outside of God. We do the same when we sin. We convince ourselves that if we make God our one and only passion, He will disappoint us, and we will be left unfulfilled and empty. When we decide to take matters into our own hands, Satan uses these doubts to offer us a “better” and more immediate remedy to our emptiness. Paul described this as “*not honoring him as God or giving thanks.*” We are not content with the blessings God has given and are unwilling to trust and wait on the Lord.

However, the challenge goes beyond an immoral act or pleasure. Those sins are easily recognized. Isaiah used Hezekiah as an example of this more subtle idolatry (Isaiah 36-39). Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came to invade the land. God had repeatedly urged Hezekiah’s wicked father, Ahaz, and later Hezekiah, to trust that God would save the nation and that they must not put their trust either in Egypt, their own wisdom, or their wealth. But Hezekiah did not trust God. He sent all the gold and silver to Sennacherib in exchange for his promise that he would spare Jerusalem. Where was the idolatry? *Hezekiah trusted Sennacherib’s word over God’s!* Sennacherib took the money and invaded anyway. During the threat, God even struck Hezekiah with an illness by which he would die. When Hezekiah prayed, God granted him 15 more years, and even moved the rotation of the earth back 10 degrees as a sign. Hezekiah should have used this to trust that God would rescue the city, but he did not trust until the city was surrounded and all hope was lost. Only then did Hezekiah turn to God. Sound familiar? Idolatry is evident when we trust the Lord only after we have no hope of any other deliverance.

## Who Is Number One?

The Preacher of Ecclesiastes helps us defeat idolatry by giving a detailed prescription for balanced living:

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

(Continued from page 1)

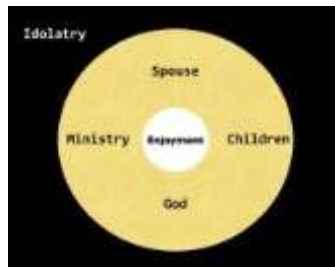
“Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going” (Eccl. 9:7–10 ESV).

- In this text, God is the first priority. When God is first, man is able to eat and drink with a merry heart. He keeps his life pure (white garments) and is optimistic and joyful (oil not lacking).
- The next priority is marriage. The godly person does not attempt to enjoy life apart from his or her spouse. Marriage is a special gift from God, and being able to love one’s spouse deeply results from a passionate love for God.
- Though children are not specifically mentioned, children are part of marriage and would certainly be the next priority. Raising godly children glorifies God.
- Finally, there is “*what your hand finds to do,*” which would include one’s career as well as one’s service to his fellow man. Career and ministry can be done “*with one’s might*” because God is our center and we desire to glorify Him in work and service.

Therefore, we can summarize our priorities by a pie chart in which God generates all aspects of life; marriage, children, career, and ministry radiate from him. Idolatry takes place when God is moved from the center and one of the



other relationships exchanges places with him. For example, when enjoyment is placed at the center, God becomes a piece of the pie. God is still “served,” but enjoyment is the passion from which all else radiates.



If children are placed at the center, both God and marriage become subservient to the pursuit of children. This is common today because parents are often living through the successes of their children whether in sports, education, music, or other hobbies. Children can become our idols when they and their interests dominate the home.



Career often becomes the priority when our goal is a nicer car and bigger house with all the furnishings. As one mom said, “I want my children to have all the things I couldn’t have as a child.” That’s idolatry, and it teaches children to be idolators. What about the love of a nurturing mom and dad who have the hours per week it takes to direct their children to know God and passionately pursue him instead of secular desires?

Even ministry and service to others can be placed in the center when an individual finds greater fulfillment in what he *does* than in knowing and understanding God (Cf. Hosea 6:6). This can be a major problem with preachers and leaders who place service above their wife, children, and most importantly, their true inner relationship with God. We make ministry our idol when our pride in works of service replace knowing God.

Summed up, it takes time to develop and maintain love and passion for God so that He alone is number one. “Time” is what is compromised when idolatry takes place. Spiritual pursuits are gradually exchanged for secular desires. Therefore, do not do anything that creates desires that dwarf or diminish passion for God. Instead, follow Paul when he said, “*I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*” (Phil. 3:8).

Berry Kercheville (focusmagazine.org)

## If a Shooter Came to Church

Our Savior once preached, “*You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also*” (Matt. 5:38-39). The phrase, “*Turn the other cheek,*” has become perhaps the most famous description of the Christian practice of peaceful non-aggression. It carries with it Christ’s example on the cross, “*Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*” (1 Pet. 2:23). It, in a sense, is the “lay down principle” in the case of possible persecution. It is the opposite of the fundamental and basic human

### 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/)

- Jan. 12** Mark 1—3; Psalm 12 (video)
- Jan. 13** Mark 4—5; Psalm 13 (video)
- Jan. 14** Mark 6—7; Psalm 14
- Jan. 15** Mark 8—10; Psalm 15 (video)
- Jan. 16** Mark 11—12; Psalm 16
- Jan. 17** Mark 13—14; Psalm 17
- Jan. 18** Mark 15—16; Psalm 18
- Jan. 19** Luke 1—2; Psalm 19 (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 **48** contacts were made.

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

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

(Continued from page 2)

response to conflict. Jesus was teaching about eternity and spiritualism over the human tendency to be reactionary in the heat of the moment.

But what if a shooter came to church? What if he came into our house to hurt our families? Does the principle of “turn the other cheek” apply in these situations? You may remember the Columbine shooters asking their victims if they believed in Jesus before they executed them. If these victims had denounced their faith could they have saved their lives? Would they have lost their souls? At what point do we stand up for what we believe and fight back to the point that we may even have to take the life of the person who is threatening?

It is my firm belief that, while we are to be a peaceful people, there are times in which it is right to defend even with our lives those things we hold to be true. Jesus, in dying, brought forth our living, and He was teaching the value of rising above conflict rather than reacting to it. His example was to respond to threats with kindness and love and mercy and a non-combative attitude.

But He is still the same Savior who made a whip of cords and drove the moneychangers from the temple. He is still the same Savior who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and send the majority of this world to an eternal hell. He said so Himself (Matt. 7:13-14).

If someone walks into our churches, our businesses, or our homes with a loaded weapon we not only have a right *but a responsibility* to diffuse that situation as soon as possible. Innocent lives are at stake and we cannot lie down in the presence of evil. The church is the world’s last hope for love and truth and peace. We desire to preserve life, not end it. We can stop the killer from killing without violating the principle of non-aggression. Jesus’ statement was not within the context of defending our lives and freedoms, but rather it was to teach on the subject of retribution. We are not looking to get back at someone for the harm they have inflicted. We are to forgive them and, in mercy and grace, evil can be overcome.

We must not denounce our faith! And if it means death for us we must still burn at the stake, or be eaten by lions, or be shot before we would decry the name of our Lord and Savior. But if we have the opportunity to stop Satan’s evil work being carried out by someone else we must do so, that the Word of God may proceed and that people may be saved in the midst of this wicked and sinful world.

It is not only acceptable for your church to have a security team, but we are at a point in our society in which it is necessary. We do not wish to hurt anyone at any time. But we do wish to protect the innocent. We do wish to respond in the presence evil. We do wish to defend our freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion.

We hold these truths to be self-evident....

*Jeremiah Tatum (alegacyoffaith.us)*

## Celebrate

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

**January Birthdays: Rachel Smith (15), Bruce Blassingame (16), Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Mattison Churchwell (25), Vernon Zier (28), Charles White (30).**

**January Anniversaries:** None.

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



## Records

	Dec. 29, 2019	Jan. 5, 2020
Bible Class	40	48
AM Worship	47	57
PM Worship	38	43
Wednesday PM	33	35
Contribution	\$1,777	\$2,564



# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/12/20	Next Week: 1/19/20		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>January 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister</p> <p><b>February 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Gene Bannister  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Maninger Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Randy Huckaby	Ken Maninger		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff*, Coyce Reed Chase Churchwell, John Barnum	Rafe Smith*, Vernon Zier Caleb Dennis, Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
<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	John Barnum		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
<b>Communion</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Rafe Smith		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	January 15 Rafe Smith	January 22 Don Smith	January 29 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Video	February 5 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 January 12, 2020

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians 8:9  
 Wed. Class ..... Exodus 6:1

<p><b>Proverbs of Contrast: The Immoral Woman (Part 3)</b></p> <p>IV. What is the Best Defense Against an Immoral Woman?</p> <p>A. Pay attention to wisdom/understanding (5:1, 7, 12; 6:23, 32; 7:1ff; 8:1-3).</p> <p>B. Memorize Scripture (7:1-5). Worldly discretion, secular education, nor moral precepts are sufficient preservatives against lust; only God's commandments have that much power (1 Tim. 1:18; Ps. 119:9).</p> <p>C. Keep good company (7:7).</p> <p>D. Remember the lessons of your parents/teachers (5:12-13); follow the example of older, faithful men (23:26).</p> <p>E. Stay away from her (5:8; 7:8, 25).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some temptations we defeat by "standing and fighting"; others we defeat by "turning and running": Sexual temptations are in the second category.</li> <li>God put a "quarantine" around the harlot's house.</li> <li>Do not put yourself in compromising situations (Deut. 11:16; Prov. 4:14; 6:24).</li> <li>Some guidelines to help avoid sexual temptation.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize your weak points.</li> <li>Don't send mixed messages to those around you.</li> <li>Don't listen to complaints about another person's spouse if you are the opposite sex.</li> <li>Always be aware of your surroundings.</li> <li>Be especially careful when out of your routine (1 Pet. 5:8).</li> <li>Keep visual reminders of your marriage contract.</li> <li>Watch your friendships and don't let them cross the line.</li> <li>Be aware of the power that immodest dress has on you, or the message it might send to someone else.</li> <li>If a line has been crossed, you are afraid it might soon be, or you have feelings that you know you should not have, take whatever actions are necessary to separate yourself from that person.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>F. Have a healthy sexual relationship with your own spouse (5:15, 17, 19).</p> <p>G. Have children with your spouse (5:16).</p> <p>H. Enjoy recreational companionship with your spouse (5:18).</p> <p>I. Remember that God sees and ponders our actions (5:21).</p> <p>J. Don't lust after her beauty in your heart (6:25).</p> <p>K. Don't touch her (6:29).</p> <p>L. Don't overestimate your strength (7:26).</p>	<p><b>The Second Coming of Jesus Christ:</b></p> <p><b>The Lord's Return and the Resurrection (1 Thess. 4:13 - 5:3)</b></p> <p>This begins a new subject, the return of Christ and the resurrection of the dead. This will bring blessings to Christians and terrifying judgment on unbelievers.</p> <p>I. <b>The Concern: Will Departed Saints Be Resurrected When Christ Returns?</b> (4:13).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concern of the Christians at Thessalonica involved their brothers and sisters who had died.</li> <li>Paul says two striking things as he addresses their concern.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First, "I do not want you to be ignorant [uninformed] ... concerning those who have fallen asleep [a euphemism for death]".</li> <li>Second, do not "sorrow [grieve] as others who have no hope".</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>II. <b>The Fact: Those "who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means proceed those who are asleep"</b> (4:14-15).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which direction is He bringing them with Him: <u>When He comes down from heaven, or when He goes back into heaven?</u></li> <li>Verse 14 does not imply a secret rapture of some faithful Christians before the end of time.</li> </ol> <p>III. <b>The Events of the Lord's Return</b> (4:16-18).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First, <u>the Lord Himself will descend from heaven.</u></li> <li>Second, <u>the dead in Christ will rise first.</u></li> <li>Third, <u>we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them.</u></li> <li>Paul's words were to be useful so that they could comfort one another.</li> </ol> <p>IV. <b>The Time of the Lord's Return and of the Day of the Lord</b> (5:1-3).</p> <p>Paul was concerned about the attitude of the Thessalonians regarding their loved ones who had passed on, but he was even more concerned with their own understanding (or misunderstanding) of Christ's second coming.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Concerning the times and the seasons.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They had already come to know perfectly some truths about this event; such as, <u>that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.</u></li> <li>It is certain that He will come sometime, so we should keep ourselves prepared (Rev. 16:15; Heb. 10:31).</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Destruction on the disobedient.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destruction comes upon them.</li> <li>They shall not escape.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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