

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



January 26, 2020

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

Four Thieves of the Crucifixion

When one reads the account of the crucifixion, it becomes evident that many wicked people conspired to murder the Son of God. All manner of criminal culpability is revealed in the Gospel accounts. Examining the thieves of the crucifixion provides insight into the events surrounding the death of Christ and our own answerability and guilt in regards to the death of Christ. For a moment, let us consider the four thieves of the crucifixion —the one who *betrayed*, the one who was *bargained*, the one who *blasphemed*, and the one who *believed*.

Judas was the thief who **betrayed** Christ with a kiss. Luke 22:47-48 says, “*And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?*” This was not just some light, quick peck on the cheek — it was an over abundant display of affection. Judas feigned a friendly, overt gesture so the temple guards would know exactly whom to arrest. His plan and his complicities in the arrest and trial of Jesus are undeniable. How cold and calculating Judas was to act like a friend all the while seeking an opportunity to turn Jesus over to the Sanhedrin!

Scripture reveals Judas for the greedy thief that he was. John 12:4-6 states, “*Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him, ‘Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*” It is little wonder that Judas was willing to betray the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15). Judas was more interested in money than in the truth of God incarnate.

Barabbas was the thief who was **bargained** for release over the sinless, perfect Son of God. The Bible makes the identity of Barabbas known to the reader in startling terms. Luke records Barabbas’ crimes twice to expose the enormity of his sins. Luke 23:18-19 reveals, “*And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)*” In a follow-up statement, Luke also reminds the reader, “*And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will*” (Luke 23:25). Barabbas’ crimes were manifold and mammoth in nature. One might observe that Barabbas was right where he deserved to be — in prison awaiting execution.

There is something profound about the release of Barabbas in light of our soul’s salvation. In reality, the thieves that were released on the occasion of Christ’s death were you and me! Christ was the propitiation or appeasement for our sins. First John 4:10 says, “*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he*”

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Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. **1 Corinthians 1:10**

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



(Continued from page 1)

loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” Without Christ’s atoning sacrifice, we would be just as condemned as Barabbas was and just as deserving of our sentence.

There is an interesting piece of history regarding the circumstances of Barabbas’ incarceration. He was chained to other thieves when he was brought before Pilate for the purpose of bargaining. Mark 15:7 says, “*And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection.*” While it is speculative, one wonders if the two crucified with Jesus were among those chained to Barabbas. If so, it is probably safe to say that the two crucified with Christ were also “notable” criminals. Regardless of their bondage or their circumstances prior to crucifixion, they were suitable candidates for capital punishment (Luke 23:39-43).

Both of the thieves on the cross were guilty of **blasphemy** against Christ. As we will note later on, one repented and one remained unchanged. Matthew 27:42-44 says, “*He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.*” These criminals, along with the Jewish counsel that was assembled before the cross, said wicked things about the identity of Christ. Still, a loving Savior was willing to forgive even this (Luke 23:34).

One of the two thieves on the cross evidently repented and became a **believer**. Luke 23:39-43 states, “*And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, ‘If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.’ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, ‘Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.’ And he said unto Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in*

paradise.” While one cannot avail himself to this type of forgiveness today, one can be saved through obedience to the Gospel (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 6:1-4). This thief realized and acknowledged the true identity of the Messiah just before the end of his life. Heaven forbid any person wait until it is too late (Heb. 9:27).

In order for one to have the same type of forgiveness as the repentant thief, Jesus would have to be available in the flesh to forgive sins. Scriptures teach that Jesus will come back, not to offer additional forgiveness, but to destroy the world and usher in the judgment of God. Second Peter 3:10 says, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*”

Since Jesus is not in the flesh to offer atonement for sins, the “*God breathed*” word of God supplies our needs regarding salvation, morality, and godly living. Second Timothy 3:16-17, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*”

Only one of the two men writhing in agony and pain at Calvary alongside Christ realized at last the true identity of Jesus and sought to be with the Savior in Paradise. This fact underscores something about human nature. Both men had equal access to Christ at the end of their lives, but only one sought out the favor of Christ. One of the lessons to learn is this — all men can potentially be saved (John 3:26), but some will chose to be lost!

It is very easy to judge the thieves that had a role in the crucifixion of Christ, but the reality of the matter is that all of our sins nailed Jesus to the tree. Isaiah 53:5 says, “*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*”

Jesus paid an extreme price to secure the souls of lost humanity. All humankind should avail themselves to the soul cleansing blood of Christ (Acts 22:16).

Johnny O. Trail (Seek The Old Paths, Jan. 2020, p. 6)

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/

Jan. 26	Luke 15—16; Psalm 26
Jan. 27	Luke 17—18; Psalm 27
Jan. 28	Luke 19—20; Ps. 28 (video)
Jan. 29	Luke 21—22; Psalm 29
Jan. 30	Luke 23—24; Ps. 30 (video)
Jan. 31	John 1—2; Psalm 31 (video)
Feb. 1	John 3—4; Psalm 32 (video)
Feb. 2	John 5—6; Psalm 33 (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 **50** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ A new *Spiritual Sword* is available on the back table—*“Following the Pattern”*.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ Feb. 22—Ladies Day @ Cherokee Home for Children
- ◆ April 5-8—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Kerry Clark
- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

Notes On Marriage

Marriage is a covenant between a man and woman whereby they pledge to belong to one another in a lifelong union.

This is an important theme in this day of serial marriages. Marriage was not a humanly designed relationship to be entered and then abandoned on the whimsical decisions of men or women. Yet in today’s world marriage is treated with a flagrant cheapness that virtually defies human description.

Instituted By God

Marriage is a human relationship instituted by our Creator. It has its origin from the initial week of Earth’s history, being designed and implemented by the Lord God Himself (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).

Man and woman, therefore, are not lawmakers unto themselves regarding the marriage institution. Humanity must respect the divine regulations pertaining to this relationship. Otherwise, the sexual union is adulterous and is condemned repeatedly in the Scriptures.

While certain violations of this sacred union were temporarily tolerated in the ages of more limited revelation as the human family was maturing, the divine ideal of marriage under Christian law was restored by the New Testament administration.

Purposes Of Marriage

The purpose of marriage is manifold. The marital union (the home) is the cement that holds society together. For example, it provides the ideal climate for the rearing of children. Likewise, it facilitates the cultivation of society in the satisfying of innate sexual desires, if men and women are wise enough to enter the divinely designed wedded relationship (1 Cor. 7:1ff). Sexual activity beyond the bounds of marriage is biblically condemned.

Key To Great Joy

Marriage is the key to one of mankind’s greatest earthly joys. Any assault on the integrity of this institution, therefore, undermines the stability of the human family at large. Additionally, this domestic unit facilitates the ideal environment for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ, which contains the divine plan for humanity’s redemption. This establishes a strong rationale for the preservation of the sanctity of marriage.

Not To Be Altered

The regulations regarding marriage have been divinely imposed and may not be altered by human civil adjudication. Marriage was designed as a **heterosexual** arrangement (cf. Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Jude 7), involving one man and one woman abiding in the relationship for life (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2). The modern practice of “homosexual marriage” is a farce that vainly attempts to legitimize a perverted form of fornication. The Scriptures are clear: God will judge fornicators (Heb. 13:4; cf. Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Wayne Jackson (Christian Courier, Feb. 2019, pp. 5-6)

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

	Jan. 12, 2020	Jan. 19, 2020
Bible Class	29	43
AM Worship	42	53
PM Worship	32	30
Wednesday PM	35	38
Contribution	\$1,662	\$1,759

	This Week: 1/26/20	Next Week: 2/2/20			
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>January 2020 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Mike & Patti Bannister Clean Building: Mike & Patti Bannister</p> <p>February 2020 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Maninger Family Clean Building: Randy & Laura Huckaby</p>		
Greeters	Dennis Family	Mike & Patti Bannister			
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Allen Griffith			
Communion	Don Smith*, Coyce Reed John Barnum, Joe Dennis	James Fuller*, Caleb Dennis Randy Huckaby, Vernon Zier			
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	Kevin Ross			
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum			
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
Opening Prayer	Ryan Rudloff	Ken Maninger			
Scripture Reading	Chase Churchwell	Rafe Smith			
Communion	Don Smith	James Fuller			
Closing Prayer	Rafe Smith	John Barnum			
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 29 5 th Wednesday Video	February 5 Prayer Night	February 12 Joe Dennis	February 19 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 January 26, 2020

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

<p>The Church or Denominationalism</p> <p>American "Christendom" is abounding with various denominations – each believing, teaching, and practicing differently. Yet amid such an assortment of confusion the one true church of the New Testament still exists. All mankind has the choice of either choosing the Bible and the church of the Bible, or else some other contrary path.</p> <p>I. Denominationalism Does Not Fit the New Testament Pattern.</p> <p>A. The New Testament is the <i>rule, or standard</i>, according to which one must walk in order to be pleasing unto God; it is the Christian's <i>pattern</i>.</p> <p>B. Any concept that cannot be substantiated on the pages of God's word must be discarded and refused; this is the downfall of denominationalism.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inherent in the word "denomination" is the idea of <i>division</i>. Denominationalism could be defined as follows: "...belief that God's children, Christians, are scattered throughout various groups, sects, or organizations (denominations) under the labeling of various names and practices various doctrines." <p>II. The "Invisible Church" Concept Is Foreign to the New Testament.</p> <p>A. Proponents of denominationalism assert that when the Bible speaks of the church (especially in singularity), that it is speaking of the "invisible church" (comprised of all the saved throughout all the denominations).</p> <p>B. There are some serious scriptural problems with this doctrine.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One, denominations and denominationalism are not warranted by Scripture nor condoned by God; therefore, any structure of doctrine that incorporates denominations or denominationalism into God's plan is a faulty structure. Two, the saved souls of humanity need not to be further classed into some "invisible church"; the saved souls of humanity are the church! Three, God's "real" church is seen plainly on the pages of the NT, as it was seen plainly in the world of the 1st century; anything seen plainly is hardly "invisible"! <p>III. Attitudes at the Heart of Denominationalism.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of respect for authority. Self-sufficiency. A lack of reverential awe and fear. 	<p>The Second Coming of Jesus Christ:</p> <p>The Lord's Return and Behavior in the Church (1 Thess. 5:12-22)</p> <p>There is one thing that will change the behavior of man as much as anything else: <i>seeing and grasping the Lord's return.</i> If a person truly believes that Jesus Christ is coming again, it will radically change his life</p> <p>I. Behavior Toward the Leaders of the Church (12-13).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paul's first request was that they <i>recognize</i> [in order to "appreciate" and "respect"] their leaders. The persons Paul wanted them to "<i>recognize</i>" and "<i>respect</i>" were described as persons who did <i>all</i> of the following things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They are <i>those who labor among you.</i> They are <i>over</i> [have charge over] <i>you in the Lord.</i> They are to <i>admonish</i> [give instruction]. The only ones in the church who meet these three criteria are the elders. The elders are to be held in the highest <i>esteem</i>. <p>II. Behavior Toward the Church Family (14-15).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Warn</i> [admonish] <i>those who are unruly</i> [those who are idle]. <i>Comfort the fainthearted</i> [disheartened, discouraged, feeble-minded [ASV]]. <i>Uphold</i> [help] <i>the weak.</i> <i>Be patient with all</i> [everyone]. <i>See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.</i> <p>III. Behavior Toward God – Personal Behavior (16-22).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rejoice always.</i> <i>Pray without ceasing.</i> <i>In everything give thanks.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The prayer of v. 17 is above all else a giving of <i>thanks</i> [expression gratitude] <i>in everything</i> [in whatever situation one might find himself]. <i>For this is the will of God ... for you</i> (refers to all three of the above). <i>Do not quench the Spirit.</i> <i>Do not despise prophecies.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hold fast what is good.</i> <i>Abstain from every form of evil.</i>
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