



## 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

## The Unity Christ Demands #4 Barriers to Unity

There are many barriers to unity. We must avoid them at all cost.

**Not accepting the Scriptures as the divine Word of God is a barrier to unity.** The Bible is the all-inspired word of God. It has no equal. It is without flaw or error. It is consistent with itself. No other book or document can lead mankind to eternal life. *"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"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). *"...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue"* (2 Peter 1:3).

**Not knowing the Scriptures is a barrier to unity.** Since the Bible is the only acceptable standard on which unity is based, we cannot have unity without knowing what the Scriptures require. Even as a young boy of twelve, Jesus knew the Scriptures. *"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers"* (Luke 2:46-47). We are told to *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2:15). Not knowing the Scriptures brings God's wrath upon us. *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"* (Hosea 4:6).

**Not respecting the Scriptures is a barrier to unity.** God demands respect to his word. We are forbidden to alter it in any way, either by adding to it or deleting from it. *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book"* (Rev. 22:18-19). To respect the Scriptures is to recognize their authority. *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"* (Col. 3:17). To do something in "the name of the Lord" means to do as the Lord has authorized. We must have Bible authority for all we say and do. To act without authority is to act apart from the Scriptures which ignores the Lord's commands.

(Continued on page 2)

**"I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"**  
**John 5:43-44**

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



(Continued from page 1)

**Not obeying the Scriptures is a barrier to unity.** God will only save those who obey Him. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). Jesus is *“...the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* (Heb. 5:8-9). He said, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”* (Luke 6:46)? *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:31-32).

**Not demanding that others follow the Scriptures is a barrier to unity.** It’s not enough for some to obey the Scriptures while others do not. Everyone must obey the Lord’s Word. The Bible *“...is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (Rom. 1:16). Those who “believe” are those who obey. Jesus said, *“If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments”* (John 14:15). *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you”* (John 15:14-15).

**Accepting standards God did not authorize is a barrier to unity.** Many accept what men say and count it equal or even above what God says. Laws and doctrines are accepted by councils, synods, conferences, catechisms, creeds, and manuals. The Book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, Doctrine and Covenants and Science and Key to the Scriptures are but a few standards accepted by many. All will perish with the using for they are not the Word of God. There is but one holy divine Word — the Bible. Jesus said *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matt. 15:8-9).

**Making laws God did not make and binding them upon others is a barrier to unity.** This is taking upon

one’s self the liberty to speak in place of God. This is binding where God has loosed. Jesus revealed to the apostles that God alone had the right to “bind” and “loose.” *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”* (Matt. 16:19). The point of this verse is the fact that the apostles would only bind and loose what God had bound and loosed in heaven. They did not have power to make laws for God. That would be going beyond the inspired Word and brings condemnation. *“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book”* (Rev. 22:18). *“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”* (Prov. 30:6).

**Ignoring the laws of God is a barrier to unity.** When one ignores or refuses to obey the Scriptures, he is not respecting what God said. He takes liberties with the Scriptures and says God does not mean what He says. This is “loosing” what God has “bound.” We must not go beyond that which is written. *“And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another”* (1 Cor. 4:6). Man has no right to ignore God’s word.

Conclusion: Unity does not come about by accident. It is a deliberate action upon the part of every member of the Lord’s church. It requires a lot of work. The words of Ephesians 4:1-6 tell us what to do and gives us the standard upon which to stand. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul wrote: *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2019)

**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/)

**Feb. 23** Romans 10—12; Psalm 54  
**Feb. 24** Rom. 13—16; Ps. 55 (video)  
**Feb. 25** 1 Cor. 1—3; Psalm 56 (video)  
**Feb. 26** 1 Cor. 4—6; Psalm 57  
**Feb. 27** 1 Cor. 7—9; Psalm 58 (video)  
**Feb. 28** 1 Cor. 10-12; Psalm 59  
**Feb. 29** 1 Cor. 13—16; Psalm 60  
**March 1** 2 Cor. 1—3; Psalm 61

*“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)



**Vonda Smith's phone number** was incorrect in last week's bulletin. It should be 850-590-6469.

**The Known Sick:**

- ◆ **Randy Huckaby** continues to recover at home from his knee replacement.
- ◆ **Dru Wilson** fell from a chair that broke Wednesday. She is okay, but sore.
- ◆ **John Ochoa** is suffering from another bad case of Pancreatitis.
- ◆ **Bille Moore**, Ann's sister/Laura's aunt, is suffering heart failure and is in need of our prayers.
- ◆ **Ann Huebner** and **Elsa Rappmund**—hospice care.
- ◆ Pray for those affected by the coronavirus and for the officials trying to keep it contained.
- ◆ Continue to remember in your prayers: Gene & Barbara Bannister, Billy & Peggy Chism, Gracen Hardy, Reese Bishop, Katherine Brown, Harmon Foster, John Ross, Mark Bannister, Jack Hill, Royce Ford, Jimmie Claborn, Loutrell Dobbins, Ginger King, etc.

**Sympathy:**

- ◆ Ryan Smithey's grandmother, **Bettye Jean Smithey**, 88, passed away last Sunday. Her funeral service was held Friday at Saturn Road Church of Christ in Garland. Please keep Ryan and all the family in your prayers.

**Visitation Meeting**

- ◆ Last week **51** contacts were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ **Dr. Charles Hall** will be speaking this evening, so Johnny can rest his voice.
- ◆ **Our Gospel Meeting is only three weeks away!** Flyers are available on the podiums by each door.
- ◆ There will be a **baby shower for Calvin Settles March 8<sup>th</sup>**, 4:00-5:30. Asking for diapers and wipes.

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

- ◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey: "The Kingdom of Christ"

**Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow**

- ◆ March 29-April 1—Gospel Meeting @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco) w/ Jeff Jenkins, "Glorify Him!"

# Why Believe in God?

To believe in something or someone is to put full confidence in that object or person. It is to develop a sense of trust that prompts such confidence.

This confidence is a regular part of life. We cannot function without it. The farmer plants seed with faith that the seed will produce a crop worthy of his efforts. Rocket scientists concentrate on mathematical formulae, expecting such computations to succeed into translating a theory into the action of rocket "flight." Those who ride the rockets trust the scientists, engineers, mathematicians, builders and inventors who put it all together to get them safely into space and back to earth again. The new mother trusts the baby formula she buys, the customer his bank, a patient his doctor, the citizen his government and so on.

This trust is necessary precisely because we cannot see the processes involved to accomplish what we need. So, we hear the testimony, examine the evidence in relation to past success and draw conclusions on whether the benefit of such trust is warranted. We do this knowing that accidents happen, nobody's perfect, information is limited, and results cannot be totally guaranteed.

All of this makes it rather ridiculous, then, to fail to believe in the Lord. With the Bible as His testimony and nature as His demonstration, faith in God is the only rational conclusion to draw. To call such faith a "leap in the dark," which we would rather not make, reveals a prejudice against the Lord that is without reason or excuse (Rom. 1:20).

We should believe in God because all around us and within us demands we trust the Ultimate Reason for all that is here. Design, purpose, conscience and caring all point to One Who orchestrated it all, to our benefit (for it to be otherwise is an immeasurable waste, contradicting existence itself).

God being invisible to us is not a real problem, for the whole point of faith is to understand in real terms what we cannot see (Heb. 11:1). The answer to doubt is to be open to the evidence, honestly consider its implications and then to embrace the conclusions that reason demands.

*Terry Wheeler* (Gospel Gazette Online, Feb. 2020, p. 5)

## Celebrate

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

**February Birthdays:** Cindy McCaghren (2), Johnny McCaghren (2), Peggy Chism (3), Carol Wilcox (5), Sue McAnear (6), Tammie Ross (7), Lunday Maninger (8), **Patti Bannister** (14), Aaron Smith (21).

**February Anniversaries:** **Billy & Peggy Chism (26).**

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



## Records

	Feb. 9, 2020	Feb. 16, 2020
Bible Class	35	50
AM Worship	46	52
PM Worship	29	42
Wednesday PM	29	36
Contribution	\$1,890	\$1,754

	This Week: 2/23/20	Next Week: 3/1/20			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>February 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Maninger Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Randy & Laura Huckaby  <b>March 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Barnum Family		
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom & Carol Wilcox	Allen & Linda Griffith			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Rafe Smith	Ken Maninger			
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross*, Vernon Zier Coyce Reed, Caleb Dennis	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis James Fuller, Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Kevin Ross			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	Don Smith			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	Chase Churchwell			
<b>Communion</b>	Kevin Ross	Joe Dennis			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Allen Griffith			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	February 26 Don Smith	March 4 Prayer Night	March 11 Joe Dennis	March 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 February 23, 2020

Sunday Class ..... *I Corinthians 9:25*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Exodus 11:4*

#### Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? "I Have Come in My Father's Name"

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive" (Jn. 5:43).

Jesus has just healed the man at the pool of Bethesda. The Jewish leaders were concerned that He had healed a man on the Sabbath, but they were even more concerned about His claimed relationship with the Father. What proof did He have? What were His credentials?

- I. **Jesus claimed equality with the Father:** "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" (Jn. 5:17-18). **Did He have any proof?**
  - A. "I bear witness of Myself" (5:31).
  - B. John the Baptist (5:33-35).
  - C. "The very works that I do – bear witness of Me" (5:36).
  - D. "The Father Himself ... has testified of Me" (5:37).
  - E. "You search the Scriptures ... these are they which testify of Me" (5:39).
- II. **"I have come in My Father's name".** What did that mean? How serious was it that they did not receive Him?
  - A. **1 Samuel 17:44-47.**
    1. Goliath – "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" (44).
    2. David – "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts ..." (45).
    3. "In the name of" represents POWER.
  - B. **Esther 3.**
    1. King Ahasuerus allowed Hamon to use his signet ring (10).
    2. "In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written" (12).
    3. "In the name of" represents AUTHORITY.
  - C. **Deuteronomy 18.**
    1. "The prophet who presumes to speak in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak ... that prophet shall die" (20).
    2. In this case, "in My name" represents FAILURE. (The power and authority are "presumed".)
- III. **"If another comes in his own name".**
  - A. "From heaven or from men" (Lk. 20:4).
  - B. "Test the spirits, whether they are of God..." (1 Jn. 4:1).

### Light Is Pleasant

I've always liked the daytime better than the nighttime. Light provides some security, comfort and stability. Darkness creates doubt and insecurity. Walking in the light is easy; walking at night is difficult. In Ecclesiastes 11:7, Solomon noted that light is "pleasant." He was talking about the joy of life. The dead do not see the light of day. They cannot use their "eyes to see the sun." Therefore, all should have the **glad to be alive attitude**. This attitude teaches us that we should live life as follows.

**First, we should live life optimistically.** Are we glad to be alive? Do we wake up each morning and thank the Lord for another day that we can "see the sun"? When one starts each day with pessimism, he will only see the bad. He will fail to see and enjoy God's wonderful gifts. The pessimist doesn't "see the sun" and fails to find any pleasantness in the light.

**Second, we should live life opportunistically.** Earlier, Solomon had noted that death ends all opportunity (Ecclesiastes 9:4-7, 10). Each day, we should "seize the moment" and do good (Gal. 6:10). When your eyes see the sun, it means another day has been given to you. This means another day to work, "for the night is coming when no man can work" (John 9:4).

**Third, we should live life obediently.** Each new day is also a new day to serve God. Solomon recognized that those who fail to fear God will face God's judgment (Eccl. 8:11; 11:9; 12:13-14). God gives us the gift of life so that we might serve Him (Eph. 2:10). He gives us time so that we might repent of sin and follow Him (2 Pet. 3:9-15).

Yes, light is pleasant, and it is good to see the sun. May each of us take each new day and live it optimistically, opportunistically and obediently.