

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



March 29, 2020

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

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

Athenian Religion

In their book, *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, Conybeare and Howson have this interesting note regarding the gods of ancient Greece:

It [the Greek religion] was a religion which ministered to art and amusement, and was entirely destitute of moral power. Taste was gratified by the bright spectacle to which the Athenian awoke every morning of his life. Excitement was agreeably kept up by festal seasons, gay processions, and varied ceremonies. But all this religious dissipation had no tendency to make him holy. It gave him no victory over himself: it brought him no nearer to God. A religion which addresses itself only to the taste, is as weak as one that appeals only to the intellect. The Greek religion was a mere deification of human attributes and the power of nature...It had no real power to raise him to a higher position than that which he occupied by nature (pages 280-81).

I found that statement to be of interest insofar as it relates to what seems to be taking place in our society. I read somewhere that more than 85% of our population professes some sort of religious faith. The same article pointed out, however, that less than 15% of those surveyed admitted that their religion had any direct bearing upon their lives. In short, their religion is no better than that of the Athenian citizen. There is no real power to transform them into something different, spiritually and morally speaking.

We have all seen the pitiful soul who plays the part of the hypocrite. He has a "form" of religion, but possesses no real substance. James pointed out that "*faith apart from works is dead*" (James 2:26). It seems that our society has moved ever closer to having the type religion characteristic of the ancient Greeks. Human wisdom is deified, and men today, like those in Athens, spend "*their time in nothing else but to either tell or to hear some new thing*" (Acts 17:21). When they have determined some "new thing," they glory in their knowledge, failing to realize that such knowledge just might be wrong. Witness if you will the constant change in our encyclopedias and libraries. Volumes hot off the press today are out-of-date history tomorrow. Knowledge without God is vain, at best. The Greeks placed the emphasis upon that which appealed to the flesh and the gratification of the same. It is really sad to see men today, while professing a sense of religion, failing to control the flesh. In fact, they go so far as to engage in the things of the flesh in the name of religion. The bottom line? Philosophy without application is a dead philosophy, and religion without power to change is useless.

Tom Wacaster

"...I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness**, which is from the law, **but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith...**" **Phil. 3:8-9**



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

What It Means to Trust God

We are living in unique times for sure. With the COVID-19 pandemic making its way across the United States, we are facing things most of us never have faced in our lifetime. The only thing that will get us through times of difficulty like this is our trust in God. The Bible highlights the need to trust God over and over again. In every dispensation of biblical history God's people are encouraged to trust in Him no matter what. Notice a few familiar passages that highlight our need to trust in our God:

- The individual who trusts God is blessed (Jer. 17:7-8)
- Trust God instead of leaning on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6)
- When we are afraid, we need to trust God (Ps. 56:3)
- We are to trust in the Lord and do good (Ps. 37:3)
- God knows those who take refuge in him (Nahum 1:7)
- It's better to trust in the Lord than to trust man (Ps. 118:8)
- God keeps those who trust in him in perfect peace (Isa. 26:3)

While we may already know passages like these, we are now being tested as to whether we really believe them or not. It is easy to say, "I trust God" when all is well, but in times of uncertainty or hardship, we will show what we truly believe (Prov. 24:10). Even when the world is panicking, Christians must be joyful and sensible because we trust the one who is invisible (Heb. 11:27). We cannot be as fearful and faithless as our contemporaries while at the same time claiming that we believe in the God who runs the universe. Christians must

be reminded that the world is watching us at this time. The world is always watching us but especially in times of hardship people want to see how our faith shapes us.

What Trusting God DOES NOT Mean

Before we discuss specific ways to trust God, we need to briefly discuss what trusting God doesn't mean. Unfortunately, many people mistakenly believe that if they are people of faith, they are somehow exempt from the commonsense precautions that the rest of the world is taking. Some even mistakenly think that if Christians take *any* precautions, they are showing their lack of faith and they do not trust God to bring them through. Christians should be reminded that there is a difference between being courageous and being foolish. God desires that we be the former and not the latter.

Trusting God does not mean we do not practice social distancing. God's people can contract this deadly virus just like anyone else and we should not think that God will miraculously keep us from getting sick just because we are His people. Though Peter was a disciple of the Lord, this did not keep his mother-in-law from getting sick (Matt. 8:14). Likewise, though Paul was an apostle, he was not able to keep his friends from getting sick (and he couldn't always use his miraculous ability to heal them (cf. Phil. 2:25-27; 2 Tim. 4:20).

Trusting God does not mean we do not alter our public services for the time being. Many congregations are now live streaming their services because of the imminent threat of contagion among large gatherings. These congregations are not unfaithful nor are they faithless—their shepherds are doing what they can to love their neighbors and keep the members safe. On one occasion Paul was let down in a basket to preserve his life (Acts 9:23-25). Paul knew if he died it was for his ultimate benefit, but he also wanted to live as long as he could to serve his God (Phil. 1:21).

Trusting God does not mean that we just accept

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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/

Mar. 29 James 1 –3; Psalm 89 (video)
Mar. 30 James 4—5; Psalm 90
Mar. 31 1 Peter 1—3; Psalm 91
April 1 1 Peter 4—5; Psalm 92
April 2 2 Peter; Psalm 93 (video)
April 3 1 John 1—3; Psalm 94 (video)
April 4 1 John 4—5; Psalm 95
April 5 2 John; 3 John; Ps. 96 (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 **45** contacts were made. **Cards will be available to sign on Sunday morning.**

Announcements

- ◆ Remember to sign the “Sunday night for the Master” cards.
- ◆ Thank you to those who donated goods for San Saba.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 5-8—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton w/ Kerry Clark
- ◆ April 12-15—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs w/ Ross Haffner
- ◆ April 18—Ladies Day @ Colleyville w/ Kathy Pollard & Jennifer Webster, “Broken but Mended”. Flyer on board.
- ◆ April 25—Ladies Day @ Comanche w/ Evelyn Bonner
- ◆ April 25-26—Lectureship @ Hico
- ◆ May 3-7—Focal Point @ University (San Marcos)
- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

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things as they are and fail to pray. Sometimes people say in times of hardship “Things are happening the way they are because God wants them to and there’s nothing we can do.” The truth is there is something we can do. The Bible teaches that if we pray, God may intervene and circumstances can change (Jas. 5:16-17).

Trusting God does not mean that we are not concerned. On one extreme, we cannot be paralyzed by fear (Isa. 41:10). On the other extreme, we should not be totally oblivious to the things taking place in our times. People who read articles, watch the news, and remain informed are not failing to trust in the Lord. When a famine was going to sweep through the Roman Empire in the first century, the prophets informed the church so that they could respond accordingly (Acts 11:27-30). Being informed does not mean one has surrendered faith.

How to Trust God

Let me now give a few ways we can affirm our trust in God during these times of pandemic and be sure we do not surrender our faith when we need it the most.

Continue to Give Financially to the Lord’s Work. If we really believe that God gives all good gifts, and that everything we have is from Him, we will continue to give even in these economically uncertain times. Many people are losing their jobs, the stock market is plummeting, and many are fearful of how the economy will suffer as a result of this pandemic. Kingdom work still must go on and this will only happen as faithful Christians continue to contribute (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Like the widow who gave what she had and trusted that God would take care of her, we evidence our trust when we continue to give to God in times of scarcity and times of surplus (Mark 12:41-44).

Serve Those Who Have Needs. Many people start to look inward and focus on their family and their needs when things get rough. God’s people must continue to look for ways to serve our neighbors and help those who are in need. One way we do this is by considering those who may be elderly in our community and afraid to go out at this time (Gal. 6:10). We show our trust in God when we continue to serve others as He said we should and not allowing ourselves to be hardened due to the current crisis.

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Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: **Dru Wilson (3/29), Vickie Tallent (4)**, Lasha Dennis (6), Ginger King (8), Jimmie Claborn (9), Kristi Maninger (9), Becky Smith (9), Darlene Smith (10), Caroline Dennis (30).

April Anniversaries: John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 15, 2020	Mar. 22, 2020
Bible Class	46	—
AM Worship	52	24 + [20]
PM Worship	39	—
Wednesday PM	—	[30]
Contribution	\$2,021	\$1,541

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 3/29/20	Next Week: 4/5/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p>March 2020 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Barnum Family Clean Building: Barnum Family</p> <p>April 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren</p>	
Greeters	John & Tina Barnum	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Tom Wilcox*, Ryan Rudloff Rafe Smith, Vernon Zier	John Barnum*, Vernon Zier Tom Wilcox, Ryan Rudloff		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith		
Sunday PM:	Cancelled	Cancelled		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 1 Cancelled	April 8 Cancelled	April 15 Rafe Smith	April 22 Don 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 March 29, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Cancelled**

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"I Did Not Come to Call the Righteous, but Sinners, to Repentance"</p> <p><i>"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mt. 9:13).</i></p> <p>I. "I desire mercy and not sacrifice".</p> <p>A. Hosea 6:6. B. Matthew 12:7.</p> <p>II. Righteousness.</p> <p>A. There is a sense in which people living before the time of Christ could be considered righteous (Mt. 23:35; 13:17; Lk. 1:6). B. Romans 1:17. C. Habakkuk 2:4.</p> <p>III. Jesus' Denunciation of the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23.</p> <p>A. Pride. B. "You pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (v. 23). 1. They had the "form" right; but the "function" was not right. 2. One of their omissions was "mercy".</p> <p>IV. Romans 10:1-3.</p> <p>A. "Some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous..." (Lk. 18:9). B. "...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Lk. 18:14).</p> <p>V. Who Are the "Righteous" whom Jesus did not Come to Call?</p> <p>A. Those who had no awareness of their need for His message. 1. Awareness of a need to change. 2. Repentance. a. All of us are sinners – all of us are in need of repentance. b. "Those who have "a noble and good heart" (Lk. 8:15), "accept [the word] and bear fruit" (Mk. 4:20). B. "Let them alone". 1. The arrogant, self-righteous, callous, and indifferent would not benefit at all from time spent with Jesus and/or His followers. 2. "...since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life ... we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). 3. "...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing" (2 Cor. 4:3).</p>	<p>(Continued from page 3)</p> <p>Speak Confidently About the Future. While we do not know exactly how things will turn out, we know that eventually they will improve. When Paul was in prison and his future was unknown, he spoke in positive terms of his release and was optimistic about his future (Phil. 1:19; 2:24). We should preface all of our plans with "if the Lord wills," but we must reject the pessimism which behaves as if we will live under a perpetual grey cloud (Jas. 4:15).</p> <p>Look at Past Deliverances. One of the problems with the present is that it fools us into thinking we have it worse than anyone ever has. It also can cloud our vision about what God has done in the past. We can trust God if we look backward at all that God has done in the past and trust Him for the future (2 Cor. 1:9-11). In both the Old and New Testaments, we find God delivering His people from terrible things. Also, in our own lives we know of valleys from which God has rescued us, and we can lean on those memories for hope. All things work together for God's ultimate good for His people (Rom. 8:28)—and we need to remember that.</p> <p>Jesus told His disciples that they would have trouble in the world, but because He overcame, so could they (John 16:33). I know it is cliché, but remember to trust in God. "Trust in God at all times" (Ps. 62:8).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Hiram Kemp</i> (plainsimplefaith.com)</p>
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