

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



April 5, 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

How Social Distancing Can Lead to Vibrant Spiritual Growth

The novel coronavirus has dramatically shut down so many fruitful face-to-face human interactions. The virulent pathogen calls for significant distancing measures to protect life, health, and wellbeing. We do this to love and protect our neighbors while not harming them (Matt. 7:12). But we also do this to honor our authorities (Rom. 13:1-7).

With the absence of in-person human interaction, we quickly realize that for the moment, something essentially human is missing. Indeed, this has given new meaning to *"a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing"* (Eccl. 3:5). We quickly long for human interaction and touch—a necessary fiber of face-to-face fellowship. While we might be okay with putting the firm (but potentially contagious) handshake on the shelf for a good long while, there is spiritual fuel to be found in the hugs, the smiles, the humor, the body language, and so many personal words that are now missing from our mandated minimized assemblies (1 Thess. 5:11).

Maybe for you, social distancing has left you hollow for the moment. Maybe cabin fever has set in. In fact, maybe all the initial exuberance for that Netflix binge-watching marathon has resulted in brain boredom or body numbness. If it is time for something more spiritually refreshing, join us as we contemplate spiritual growth from social distancing.

Social Distancing can Help Families Tighten the Spiritual Base

Pandemics help us to focus on what is essentially indispensable in this life. They help to distance our minds from the transient and focus on the eternal (Col. 1:18). Pestilence cannot destroy the spirit, the blood of Christ, the glory of Christ's church, or thwart His coming again. Pestilence reminds us of our heavenly citizenship where God and the souls of brethren, neighbors, and family are of immense worth (Phil. 3:20).

Our children are genuine treasures from heaven given to us by God (Ps. 127:3). As such, Christ is the best gift we could hope to give them. Moments of social distancing allows fathers to gather and drawdown with family, laying up treasures in earthen vessels by instilling Biblical truths in pliable hearts (Matt. 6:19-20; Deut. 6:1-9; 1 Tim. 2:8; Eph. 6:4). Likely, these occasions won't go undisturbed. The phone might ring. The basset hound might be hungry. The doorbell might ring. That's okay. Press on. Since your usual routine is likely altered, this is prime time to prioritize spiritual moments to the top for God's children.

Recently, the *American Economic Review* published a paper entitled, "The

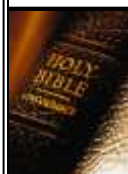
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"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost" Mt. 18:11

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" Lk. 9:56

"...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" Lk. 19:10

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



(Continued from page 1)

Welfare Effects of Social Media.” This study had 2,743 Facebook users stop using Facebook for one month and researchers studied the effects. Researchers reported several interesting results.¹ Upon deactivating:

- People freed up an average of 60 minutes per day (normally spent on social media), and they spent more time socializing with friends and family.
- People reported improvements in well-being, happiness, satisfaction, depression, and anxiety.
- People planned to use Facebook much less.
- People were less engaged in politics and news (news that might polarize people).

Certainly, Facebook can be used to drop an encouraging comment (Col. 4:8), to connect and aid in fellowship with a congregation (Acts 2:42), or to pray for loved ones who need God’s power permeating their lives (3 John 1:2; 1 Thess. 5:17). But it can also steal valuable time from our children. God help us to use social distancing moments to minimize digital chatter while planting and watering spiritual seeds in our children (1 Cor. 3:6). This is prime time to open a feast of praise, petition, and vibrant home worship to the one God (John 4:23-24; 1 Thess. 5:17).

Social Distancing can Widen Your Resource Base and Deepen Spiritual Insight

The church is blessed with immeasurable riches because of the abundance of excellent resources in writing, preaching, and teaching. Many are available free and online. Brethren can connect to abundant, rich Biblical counsel from across the globe (Prov. 11:14; 15:22; 24:6). From live internet workshops, to archived riches from Polishing the Pulpit (PTP), to archived gospel meetings or lectureships from schools of preaching or universities, there are so many venues for spiritual depth and study. Of course, nothing replaces deep reflective meditation in reading, contemplation, and application of the Word (2 Tim. 2:14-15; 3:14-17). Repetitively cy-

cling the Word through the heart and mind can lead one to live like the psalmist: “*Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day*” (Ps. 119:97).

Social distancing can allow time for sincere reflection and probing questions. Jesus, after praying alone, asked His disciples “*Who do the crowds say that I am*” (Luke 9:18)? Social distancing can afford us moments of honest, open, and frank spiritual inventory. Why not ask a close confidant to give you some honest constructive feedback on your spiritual weaknesses or vulnerabilities you might have in your Christian armor (Eph. 6:10-18)? In Christ, only the whole armor will suffice against evil (Eph. 6:13). Moments like these afford us a chance to compare our lives with Paul’s detailed description of love (1 Cor. 13:1-8, 13), on the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23), the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5-10), and the beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-11).

Social Distancing can Deepen Your Prayer Life

Few instances send people to their knees like intense trials. When flies were swarming Egypt during the fourth plague, Moses prayed that God would do something to make them go away (Ex. 8:30). When the military might of Assyria was advancing in an unspeakable array against Judah, Hezekiah prayed for God to help (2 Kgs. 19:5). When the Israelites were humiliated because their native land was plundered, Nehemiah wept, mourned, and prayed for God’s intervention (Neh. 1:4-5).

In each of these instances, the cries of the faithful moved heaven to act for some benefit in keeping with the will of God. In Moses’s day, the flies ceased (Ex. 8:31). In Nehemiah’s day, the wall was rebuilt in merely 52 days (Neh. 6:15). In Hezekiah’s day, the angel of the Lord struck down 185,000 Assyrians in one night. Man prayed. God heard. God answered. God acted.

At this moment, every urban area in the world needs our prayers. These areas stand to be impacted and per-

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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/

April 5 2 John; 3 John; Ps. 96 (video)

April 6 Jude; Psalm 97

April 7 Rev. 1—3; Psalm 98 (video)

April 8 Revelation 4—5; Psalm 99

April 9 Rev. 6—7; Psalm 100 (video)

April 10 Revelation 8—9; Psalm 101

April 11 Rev. 10—11; Ps. 102 (video)

April 12 Revelation 12—13; Psalm 103

“*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 **34** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ All services at the building have been cancelled for April. We will live stream to our “4th and Stewart Church of Christ” Facebook group Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.
- ◆ All upcoming area Gospel Meetings, Ladies’ Days, etc., to my knowledge, have been cancelled or postponed.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Endurance

Some preachers and teachers tell listeners that being a Christian is very easy. They make it sound like once a person is a Christian, that person will never have troubles. While being a Christian makes it easier to live with life’s problems, being a Christian will not make your life trouble free. God tells us we must have endurance. This means that problems will arise; troubles or situations will still be in our lives. What does God say we need to endure?

- ◆ Hardness – “Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3).
- ◆ Affliction – “Endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:5).
- ◆ Chastening – “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons” (Heb. 12:7).
- ◆ Grief – “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief” (1 Pet 2:19).
- ◆ Contradiction – “Consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself” (Heb. 12:3).
- ◆ Temptation – “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation” (Jas. 1:12).
- ◆ All Things – “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sake” (2 Tim 2:10).

I am glad we have a God who cares for us. If we lean on Him, He will help us get through the difficult times. This makes it easier to deal with them. We always know that no matter how bad things are on earth for us, things will be so much better for us in Heaven (Rom. 8:18). Study your Bible. Learn what is necessary to live for Christ. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

Mark McWhorter (Gospel Gazette Online, April 2020, p. 10)

GOD’S PLAN FOR MANS SALVATION

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)
 * For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
 * Not of works, lest any man should boast.

BE BAPTIZED
 Acts 2:38
 1 Peter 3:21
 Acts 22:16
 Mark 16:16
 Galatians 3:27
 Romans 6:3-6

CONFESS Jesus Christ
 Matthew 10:32-33
 Romans 10:9-10
 Acts 8:37

REPENT Of You’re Sins
 Luke 13:3,5
 Acts 2:38
 Acts 17:30-31
 2 Peter 3:9

BELIEVE The Gospel
 Hebrews 11:6
 Mark 16:16
 Acts 8:37

HEAR The Gospel
 Romans 10:17
 John 8:32

Acts 22:16 (KJV)
 * And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: 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. 22, 2020	Mar. 29, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	24 + [20]	19 + [29]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[30]	[30]
Contribution	\$1,541	\$1,808

	This Week: 4/5/20	Next Week: 4/12/20		
Sunday AM:	Online Only	Online Only	<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				
Opening Prayer				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Attendance Cards				
Sunday PM:	Cancelled	Cancelled		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	April 8 Cancelled	April 15 Cancelled	April 22 Cancelled	April 29 Cancelled

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 April 5, 2020

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

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? "The Son of Man Has Come to Save That Which Was Lost" <i>"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost" (Mt. 18:11; cf. Lk. 9:56; 19:10).</i></p> <p>I. "Lost!" – there are hardly any more frightening words! A. When one is lost, there is no sweeter sound than the sweet, familiar sound of their father's voice. B. Being lost often involves danger.</p> <p>II. Jesus spoke of His coming as a rescue mission (Mt. 18:11; Lk. 9:56; 19:10). A. Each verse begins with the word "for", indicating some connection to His statement(s) and the surrounding events and circumstances. 1. Matthew 18:11 is sandwiched between some interesting material. a. The chapter begins with Jesus' disciples asking, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (1), which prompted a discussion of humility. 1) He warned against offending or causing to stumble "one of these little ones who believe in Me" (v. 6). 2) There was a discussion about purity and sacrifice. b. In the material following v. 11, we find something similar to Luke 15 (one lost sheep), followed by our Lord's instruction about what to do "if your brother sins against you" (v. 15). 2. Luke 9 involves a village of the Samaritans who did not receive Jesus. James and John asked, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" (v. 54). 3. After Jesus' conversation with Zacchaeus in Luke 19, Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (9-10). B. People from all walks of life and in various circumstances in life need a Savior and, without Jesus as their Savior, they are lost!</p> <p>III. A search and rescue mission: "...to seek and to save that which was lost". A. We (the church) must be on a search and rescue mission! B. "...if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector" (Mt. 18:17). How did Jesus treat heathen and tax collectors? C. "And they went to another village" (Lk. 9:56).</p> <p>Aren't you thankful that someone thought enough of you to find you and teach you the gospel when your soul was lost?</p>	<p>(Continued from page 2)</p> <p>haps even ravaged by this novel disease. It is time for intense supplication! Why not stop, pause, and go into your room, fall to your knees and fervently plead with God for Italy, China, Spain, Iran, and the United States (Matt. 6:6)? The Bible says of Jesus that "in the days of His flesh, [Jesus] offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears" (Heb 5:7). God help us to use social distancing to pour out our souls in earnest pleading on behalf of our fellowman with all faith and boldness (Heb. 4:16).</p> <p>In conclusion, social distancing for the moment is lawful and advantageous (1 Cor. 10:23). We don't have to let isolation turn to harmful isolationism where judgment is skewed (Prov. 18:1), spiritual neglect sets in (Heb. 10:25), people limit their love (Luke 6:30-32), or people are overwhelmed by despair (Ps. 37:7-8, Rom. 11:3). Let's use these moments for edification and vibrant spiritual growth. The hysteria concerning COVID-19 may seem like it's overcoming the world. But remember that role belongs exclusively to Christ (John 16:33). And it always will!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Daniel Stearsman</i> (plainsimplefaith.com)</p> <p>¹ https://www.calnewport.com/blog/2020/02/29/top-economists-study-what-happens-when-you-stop-using-facebook/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=etcetera, accessed 3 March 2020.</p>
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