

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 12, 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

Overcoming Discouragement

There has never been a time more difficult than today. There has never been a society where men were more sinful and given to wickedness than our own. There has never been occasions where there was more reason for discouragement among God's people than there is today. This may be the attitude of some—but it is wholly without merit (cf. Gen. 6; Acts 8). Though we may be disposed to believe that discouragement is unique to our time and perhaps even to our lives, a quick glance through the Scriptures clearly demonstrate that even the most admired men and women of the Bible endured very discouraging times. Consider that Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers (Gen. 37); Moses endured the murmuring of God's people (Ex. 15, 16, 17, et al); Naomi lost both husband and sons (Ruth 1); Elijah was convinced he was the only one left faithfully serving God (1 Kings 19); Jeremiah became so discouraged that he decided to quit preaching (Jer. 20); Paul stood before the Roman Emperor defending the gospel—alone (2 Tim. 4:16).

From the youngest to the oldest—all experience discouragement. Discouragement can lead to anxiety and even depression. According to the ADA (Anxiety and Depression Association of America) in 2016, 18% of the population of the U.S. age 18 and older were affected by anxiety (40 million adults!). One-third of the monies spent to treat mental health was used to treat anxiety (\$42 billion). It is common for people struggling with anxiety also to suffer from depression. Depression, if left unchecked, can lead to alcohol/drug abuse, chronic aches, phobias, loss of production at school/work, family/relationship problems, social isolation, eating disorders, self-mutilation, and even suicide. There is no medical cure for anxiety only medicines for treatment, and in 2016, 10.7% of Americans were prescribed antidepressants—up from 1.8% in 1988! While there may be no prescriptive cure, there is a scriptural cure! Consider the following treatments for **Overcoming Discouragement**.

Look up rather than down. After settling the dispute between herdsmen and separating from his family, Abraham was told by God, "*Lift up now thine eyes*" (Gen. 13:14). Have you ever considered that when we lift up our eyes our focus changes from worldly to heavenly? Life is meaningless without a heavenly hope. Some place their hope in worldly possessions but earthly treasures are temporary. Jesus instructed,

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal (Matt. 6:19-20).

You will never see a U-Haul following a hearse and there are no pockets in a shroud! Search the ancient tombs and one will discover the treasures of the Pharaohs remain. When man's hope and focus is on this world disappointment and discouragement are a certain consequence, but our hope is in heaven and heaven should be our focus.

Paul wrote,

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

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If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Col. 3:1-2).

The Hebrews writer posited that Jesus is our “hope” and “anchor of the soul” (Heb. 6:18-20) and Paul admonished Titus that we should be “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13). To the Romans, Paul would write “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). When we lift up our eyes and focus on things above we will soon realize that any loss, disappointment, difficulty, or discouragement is easily overcome by a heavenly hope!

Count your blessings not your problems. Everyone has problems. Focusing on problems produces an attitude of self-pity. A short phrase in the most well known of all the psalms reads “my cup runneth over” (Psalm 23:5). Why do we always seem to focus on the problem cup rather than the blessing cup?! Here is a novel idea, when struggling with discouragement we should sit down and make two lists — one list is our problems the other our blessings. Which list is longer? Which list is more positive? Which list draws us closer to God? Which list inspires us to help others? Which list helps us appreciate God’s blessings?

Consider the abundant physical blessings we enjoy daily: life and good health; access to good medicines; access to food; liberty and prosperity; freedom to worship God without fear; love of family and friends. And these pale in comparison to the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ: redemption and forgiveness of sins; fellowship with God; assurance of acceptable worship; knowing that God hears and regards our prayers. We often sing,

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed;

When you are discouraged thinking all is lost;

Count your many blessings name them one by one;

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

By counting our blessings rather than our problems we can overcome discouragement.

Look outward rather than inward. Paul instructed the Galatians, “Bear ye one another’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2), and “As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all” (Gal. 6:10). It is impossible to adhere to these admonitions when we continually dwell on our own problems to the exclusion of the trials and difficulties of others. Hanging on the cross Jesus uttered two amazing statements: “Father forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34), and “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). While we often consider the spiritual significance of these statements we fail to consider that even in the most trying time of His life, Jesus was looking outward to the needs and state of others rather than His own difficulty. If we were truly to stop and think about it, on our worst day we could find someone engaged in a far greater battle than ourselves. When we look to others who are discouraged, and try to encourage them, we will ourselves be encouraged. Thus another treatment to help us overcome discouragement is to look outward rather than inward — be an encourager!

Read the end of the book—We Win! We’ve all had days that start out bad and seem to get worse as the day progresses. If we know nothing of what lies beyond this life we might easily give up. But the end of all things for the Christian is victory in Jesus Christ! We have a mansion prepared for us (John 14:1-3); this body in which our spirit dwells will one day give way to that “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1)! Paul encouraged the Corinthians saying,

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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 12 Revelation 12—13; Psalm 103
April 13 Rev. 14—15; Ps. 104 (video)
April 14 Revelation 16—17; Psalm 105
April 15 Rev. 18—19; Ps. 106 (video)
April 16 Revelation 20—22; Psalm 107
April 17 Genesis 1—2; Ps. 108 (video)
April 18 Genesis 3—4; Ps. 109 (video)
April 19 Genesis 5—6; Psalm 110

“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)



Let's all work together to make it through these difficult times. If you are in need, let us know. Let's keep the lines of communication flowing.

Please pray for those in the hospital and/or nursing homes. It is lonely and scary, not having family members able to be with them.

Remember our first responders, healthcare workers, etc., who have to be on the front lines, and our president.

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **33** 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.
- ◆ A new private Facebook for 4th & Stewart members only has been created ("4th & Stewart church of Christ Members Only"). If you did not receive an invitation to join, let Johnny know.
- ◆ 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

Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

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Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

The earth and all contained within it, including the trials and difficulties of life, will one day pass away! In that dwelling place which is to come there will be no sadness, sorrow, tears, death, parting, separation, fears, worldly labors, or temptations — **ONLY VICTORY!** Read the end of the book (Rev. 1-21). **We Win!**

A final treatment suggestion to help us overcome discouragement is: **look at the difficulties of this world as a way to make you stronger and lift you up.** We often read the instruction of James when considering this thought:

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4).

But consider also the significance of Paul's words,

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you (Phil. 1:23-24).

In essence Paul could say: "I may not know the plan but I know God, and I will trust Him to see me through." Paul allowed the difficulties of this world to draw him closer to his Savior to such a degree that he would say,

for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (2 Tim. 1:12).

The trials and tribulations of this life, if we will let them, can lift us up closer to God than we have ever been.

God told Abraham "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art" — then God showed Abraham what He was going to give him. Similarly God has told us to lift up our eyes and look to Him and His Word and He will help us to overcome! Are you discouraged? Focus your eyes on heaven and count your blessings. Look around—if you find one in a worse condition than you—help them. Remember, as Christians faithful to God—We Win! Let the difficulties of this world lift you up, in doing this we can overcome discouragement!

Ronnie Scherffius (Christian Worker, March, 2020, pp. 1, 3-4, 7)

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. 29, 2020	Apr. 5, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	19 + [29]	[52]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[30]	[33]
Contribution	\$1,808	\$1,365

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 4/12/20	Next Week: 4/19/20		
Sunday AM:	Online Only	Online Only	<p align="center">April 2020 Make Announcements: _____ Prepare Communion: _____ Clean Building: _____</p> <p align="center">May 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 15 Cancelled	April 22 Cancelled	April 29 Cancelled	May 6 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 April 12, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Attitudes of a "Mature" Child of God (Rom. 12)**

<p align="center">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? "For Judgment I Have Come Into This World"</p> <p><i>"And Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind'"</i> (John 9:39).</p> <p>What do you see when you look at Jesus? What do you like to consider when you think about His mission? Paul told all who read the letter to the Romans to "consider the goodness and severity of God" (Rom. 11:22).</p> <p>The background and context of John 9:39 is the account of the healing of the man who was born blind. Jesus' Jewish detractors were there to scrutinize and criticize, and they "cast [the man healed of blindness] out" (v. 35). At this point Jesus had a short conversation with the man, and "he said, 'Lord, I believe!' And he worshiped Him" (v. 38). Then Jesus made the statement about coming into the world for judgment.</p> <p>The word translated "judgment" is also translated in the NT with two other words: "condemnation" and "damnation". The context indicates that Jesus' coming into the world the first time was a time of judgment. How can it be true that Jesus was sent to save the world and to judge the world at the same time? The answer may lie in His statements about who could see and who could not see in John 9:39.</p> <p>Two things happened in John 9 concerning a man who was physically blind. <i>First</i>, he was no longer hindered by that terrible physical malady. <i>Second</i>, more significantly, he was no longer blinded spiritually by the prejudices of those Jewish "authorities" who were critical of him and of Jesus. He had listened to Jesus' claims and had decided for himself, he really could "see." What about the critics? Jesus said that "those who see may be made blind".</p> <p>Was He saying that His coming to earth would make their condition worse? That is exactly what He was saying! Isaiah was told that his preaching would make people less receptive, not more receptive (Isa. 6:9-10).</p> <p>During His ministry, Jesus encountered two classes of people: people blinded by their own prejudices, self-righteousness, and arrogance; and those to whom He said "blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear" (Mt. 13:16). Those who had a "noble and good heart" (Lk. 8:15). The difference between these two classes of people, between salvation and judgment, is the difference in how receptive an individual is to Jesus' teaching.</p>	<p align="center">Attitudes of a "Mature" Child of God (Romans 12)</p> <p>The highest honor we can achieve is to be identified as "God's child" (1 Jn. 3:1). One way we demonstrate our sonship is through our Christ-like attitudes (cf. Phil. 2:5). Paul, in Romans 12, identifies several attitudes that will identify us as "mature" children of God.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Child of God's Attitude Towards His Body (v. 1). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Caring for our physical bodies is a matter of stewardship. B. The challenge of caring for our physical bodies. C. Biblical help to be good stewards of our physical bodies. II. The Child of God's Attitude Towards the World (v. 2). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The proper attitude towards the world. B. How can we keep from being conformed to the world? C. How can we transform our minds? III. The Child of God's Attitude Towards Himself (v. 3). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The proper attitudes we should manifest toward ourselves. B. What responsibilities do we have to ourselves? C. How can we fulfill the responsibilities to ourselves? IV. The Child of God's Attitude Towards His Brethren (vv. 4-5, 9-21). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. We must love our Christian brethren (vv. 9-10). B. We must be hospitable toward our Christian brethren (v. 13). C. We must be compassionate toward our brethren (v. 15). D. We must strive to "be of the same mind" with our brethren (v. 16). E. We must promote peace among our brethren (v. 18). V. The Child of God's Attitude Toward His Talents (vv. 6-8). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Every child of God has a talent or gift. B. Our responsibility toward our talents or gifts. C. The purpose of our talents and gifts. VI. The Child of God's Attitude Towards Sin (v. 9). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Bible's definition of sin. B. The proper attitudes toward sin. C. The nature and consequences of sin. <p>What really matters to God is what is on the inside; the "hidden man of the heart" (1 Pet. 3:4; 1 Sam. 16:7). Accordingly, when we embrace the attitudes of Romans 12, we will truly be, God's "mature" children.</p>
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