

# 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 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

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



## Sin Distancing

The emergence of the COVID-19 Coronavirus has changed our world in a number of ways. Though hard to believe, wearing masks, standing in line to enter the grocery store, and toilet paper at a premium have all become part of daily American life.

Part of this great change is the practice of social distancing. Health officials tell us that we can prevent contracting and spreading the virus by maintaining a distance of 6 feet from each other, refraining from hugging and shaking hands, and limiting large gatherings. This practice is good for our physical health but it also bears a striking parallel to our spiritual health.

First Thessalonians 5:22 says, "*Abstain from every form of evil.*" The word "*abstain*" means "to avoid" and "keep your distance." This passage is found in a context dealing with teaching. "*Do not quench the Spirit*" and "*Do not despise prophecies*" (1 Thess. 5:19-20) refers to the miraculous spiritual gifts available in the first century, particularly the ability to speak forth God's Word. The inspired instruction was not to reject a "forth teller" of God's word but rather to test him – "*Test all things; hold fast what is good*" (1 Thess. 5:21). One who passed the test was to be embraced, but one who failed and was proven to be false was to be rejected. The church was to "*Abstain from every form of evil*" (1 Thess. 5:22).

Spiritual gifts are no longer available but the principle of 1 Thessalonians 5:22 is just as applicable. Whether false doctrine, temptation, immorality, or whatever it may be, Christians ought to avoid and keep their distance. Too often, it seems, we try to get as close to sin as possible without touching it. Brethren, "*Can a man take fire into his bosom and his clothes not be burned*" (Prov. 6:27)? Drawing nearer to God should be our greatest desire. That, by default, will push us further away from wickedness. Social distancing will stop eventually. But sin distancing must be a permanent fixture.

Southwest church of Christ, Austin



*"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Mt. 20:25-28

# Cursed or Blessed

When God blesses someone, it suggests His *approval* of that one. When He curses one, it suggests His *disapproval*. He is the only One who can make final judgment of what will ultimately be the destiny of anyone. *Curse* when applied to man, is to “bring down a prayer” upon one and to “judge” him, while only God can be the final judge (Jas. 4:11-12). Our ability to make final judgment is lacking in not having all the evidence or authority to make final judgment. When God curses, He does not have to use strong, corrupt, or ugly language as men often do when they pronounce judgment on another. God just announces that one or something is wrong in His sight and doomed for destruction. He does not have to *bring down* a prayer which is suggested when man curses. Man’s cursing is mostly the vain asking of God to condemn someone on man’s limited knowledge, and usually without any intent of asking God to send another to hell but is a habitual use of strong condemnatory words to another, oftentimes in a time of anger or bitterness. This ought not to be done (3:9-10; Eph. 4:29).

*Curse* and *bless* (in their varied forms) are often found in the same verse or context of Scripture in the Bible. Some examples are: Genesis 12:3, 9:25-26, Matthew 5:44, and Romans 12:14. A very interesting contrast is found in Jeremiah 17:5-10, as the prophet speaks for God. Jeremiah states, “*Cursed is the man*” and “*Blessed is the man.*” These statements do not describe the same man, but different men, when we compare what is said about both men.

**The *cursed* man is one who trusts in man.** He is like a warrior or soldier who depends on his own wisdom and strength, or the efforts of other men to win the battle or to accomplish any endeavor. He “*makes flesh his strength*” (17:5). This is because his “*heart departs from the Lord*” (17:5). Then Jeremiah says he is “*like a shrub in the desert*” (17:6). He will not have “*good*” results (17:6). He will be like a wanderer or vagabond as he “*inhabits*” desolate places (17:6). We sing the song “Stand up for Jesus,” which has the words “The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own.”

**The *blessed* man is one who trusts in the Lord.** This is true for various reasons. It begins because he knows the Lord and has “*hope*” in Him (17:7). He has a good foundation and purpose, as he is like a tree (rather than a shrub), planted in a good location, “*by the waters*” which can sustain him (17:8). The “*tree*” spreads out its roots to the river, and he is ready for the “*heat*” or “*drought*” that may come (17:8). The continued results will be good, as the tree’s “*leaf will be*

*green,*” full of life and energy. He will never cease from bearing “*fruit*” (17:8). This is a good time to look at the same kind of comparison David makes of the *blessed* man and the *ungodly* man of Psalm 1:1-6.

The cursed man’s “*heart*” had departed from the Lord. The blessed man trusted in the Lord, because his heart was right. Jeremiah goes on to write about the heart of man. He says it is “*deceitful above all things,*” and is “*desperately wicked*” (Jer. 17:9), and no one can really “*know it*” (17:9). However, God searches the heart and tests the mind, and blesses man according to His ways and the “*fruit of his [man’s] doings*” (17:10). If God’s “*ways*” are followed by man’s “*doings,*” one will be blessed. The “*doings*” of man will not bring God’s approval.

With this comparison in mind, let us look at the *cursed* and the *blessed* of our day. The blessed man is one who does not trust in men, but in God. Man does not have within himself the ability to direct his steps in a way to please God (10:23). Man cannot please God in his own wisdom, but glories in the fact that he understands and knows God, which brings “*delight*” to the Lord (9:23-24). Solomon wrote, “*Be not wise in your own eyes, Fear the Lord and depart from evil*” (Prov. 3:7). Also, “*He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed*” (13:20).

Man’s wisdom today will not bring one into the favor of God to enjoy salvation. It is the wisdom of man that advocates salvation by “*faith only,*” apart from and without repentance and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Faith itself is the “*work of God*” because it is commanded of God (John 6:28-30). Baptism is also the “*working of God*” for He commands it (Col. 2:12). Neither does the “*sinner’s prayer,*” as advocated by so many in our time, bring salvation.

God’s wisdom and power is in Christ and the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:17-21; Mark 16:15-16). Paul said it is “**Not** *by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*” (Tit. 3:5 — KJV). Notice that Paul says we are **not** saved by our works of righteousness (cf. Rom. 10:3), “*but*” by “*the washing,*” which is in baptism (Acts 22:16), when sins are washed away in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5; 22:14—ASV).

Are you “*cursed*” or “*blessed*”? Christ became a curse for us that He might bless us with salvation (Gal. 3:13). He depends on those who are still under the curse of condemnation to “*trust in the Lord,*” and put their “*hope*” in Him (Jer. 17:7).

Don Tarbet (Defender, Feb. 2020, pp. 6-7)

## 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/)

**April 26** Genesis 19—20; Psalm 117  
**April 27** Genesis 21—22; Psalm 118  
**April 28** Genesis 23—24; Ps. 119:1-60  
**April 29** Gen. 25—26; Ps. 119:61-120  
**April 30** Gen. 27—28; Ps. 119:121-176  
**May 1** Genesis 29—30; Psalm 120  
**May 2** Genesis 31—32; Psalm 121  
**May 3** Genesis 33—34; Psalm 122

“*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 **48** contacts were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ Barring something unforeseen, we plan to begin meeting at the building again next Sunday. We will continue to practice the social distancing practices we put in place the end of March. It will be great to be together again!

**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

Moses wrote of God’s plan for the seed of woman to crush the head of Satan, but he did not realize the seed would be the Christ (Gen. 3:15). Isaiah told of the suffering servant and the glory that would follow, but he did not understand it would take place on the cross (Isa. 53). David wrote a song anticipating the glorious resurrection that would follow the suffering, but he did not fully appreciate the powerful events (Ps. 16:8-11).

The singer of Israel recorded the words that would be spoken on the cross, but he did not realize who would speak them (Ps. 22). The Messianic prophet spoke of a kingdom into which people from all nations would flow (Isa. 2:1-5). He also described the painful beating God’s sin-bearer would receive, leaving him unrecognizable (52:13-15). Hosea told of those who had not been God’s people seeing a day in which they would be called sons of the living God (Hosea 1:10; 2:23).

Christians are greatly blessed. We come to know the unmerited favor God bestowed through the offering of His Son (Heb. 11:39-40). Members of the church receive the very understanding for which the prophets longed. Praise God for the blessings we have in Christ.

*Gary C. Hampton* (Gospel Gazette Online, April 2020, p. 3)

**Remember!**

Sometimes, we create problems for ourselves by not learning from history or recalling truths that we have learned. There are some definite advantages to remembering those events or those truths. Solomon offered three admonitions to “remember.”

First, in Ecclesiastes 11:8, he exhorted us to remember “*days of darkness*”—those times in our lives when things are not going well. We need to remember those days of sickness or struggle because they will help us appreciate more fully the good days.

Second, he exhorted us to remember “*your creator*” (12:1). It is important, especially in light of 11:9, that we do not forget our God. He is going to bring us to account for all that we have done in the body, whether good or evil (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 5:28-29; Rev. 20:11-14).

Third, he exhorted us to remember Him “*before the silver cord is broken*” (12:6). While some of these words have to be supplied, they are certainly implied in the Hebrew. Death isn’t going to keep us from thinking (cf. Lk. 16:23-31), but it will be too late to think about following God. If one didn’t make such a choice during his life, it will be too late after death. Therefore, Solomon urged all to remember God now—before death ends all opportunity.

Have you been remembering your God? Have you learned anything from the dark moments in your life? The wise man Solomon said you are a fool if you fail to keep these in mind.

*Denny Petrillo* (Gospel Gazette Online, April 2020, p. 4)

**The Prophets’ Desire Is Ours**

God’s prophets endured hardship, persecution and death to tell forth the inspired Word of God. Yet, they did not have the plan of salvation revealed to them. They delivered the key elements without understanding how and to whom they would be applied. Angels also wanted to know how God would save man, but that plan was reserved for Christ’s followers (1 Pet. 1:10-12).

Prophets wrote Scripture as the Holy Spirit directed them (2 Pet. 1:20-21). Peter indicated they did not comprehend some of the things they wrote but searched their own writings to gain understanding of God’s plan. Jesus told His followers that astonishing truth (Mt. 13:16-17).

**Celebrate**

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

**May Birthdays:** **Caroline Dennis (4/30)**, Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), David Milam (7), Billy Chism (15), Caitlin Settles (15), Gracen Hardy (30).

**May Anniversaries:** Joe and Lasha Dennis (6), Ryan and Tammy Rudloff (7).

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



**Records**

	Apr. 12, 2020	Apr. 19, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	[58]	[57]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[50]	[47]
Contribution	\$2,022	\$2,090



# Privileged To Serve

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

	<b>This Week: 4/26/20</b>	<b>Next Week: 5/3/20</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Online Only	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	<b>April 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> <hr/> <b>Prepare Communion:</b> <hr/> <b>Clean Building:</b> <hr/> <b>May 2020</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> James Fuller <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren <b>Clean Building:</b> Johnny & Cindy McCaghren	
<b>Greeters</b>		James & Cindy Fuller		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Gene Bannister		
<b>Communion</b>		John Barnum*, Vernon Zier Tom Wilcox, Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		James Fuller		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>		Aaron Smith		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Cancelled	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Allen Bland		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>		Chase Churchwell		
<b>Communion</b>		John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>		Ken Maninger		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	April 29 Cancelled	May 6 Prayer Night	May 13 Joe Dennis	May 20 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 April 26, 2020

Sunday Class ..... **Cancelled**  
 Wed. Class ... **Attitudes of an "Assured" Child of God (2 Pet. 1:5-11)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?  <b>"The Son of Man Did Not Come to be Served, But to Serve, and to Give His Life a Ransom for Many"</b>  <i>"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28).</i></p> <p>The mother of James and John has come to Jesus with a special request: "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom" (vv. 20-21). The events that follow are interesting. Obviously, James and John, as well as their mother, had some misunderstandings about the nature of the kingdom and what a prominent position in it meant. As we consider this text, let's draw some very practical applications.</p> <p><b>I. The Danger of Jealousy and Envy.</b></p> <p>A. "And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers" (v. 24).</p> <p>B. Jealousy and envy do not get much "good press" in God's Word.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel (Gen. 30:1).</li> <li>Joseph's brothers (Gen. 37).</li> <li>The Jew's in Jesus' crucifixion (Mt. 27:18).</li> </ol> <p>C. Jealousy and envy are not automatically eliminated when we become a Christian (1 Cor. 3:1-3).</p> <p><b>II. The Importance of a Proper Example.</b></p> <p>A. "...just as..." - Jesus was not asking His followers to do something He, Himself, was not willing to do; rather, He led by example.</p> <p>B. We need good leaders to lead, not push, us: elders, fathers, etc.</p> <p><b>III. The Lord Does Not View Things Like We Do (Isa. 55:8-9).</b></p> <p>A. The world's view of greatness and our Lord's view of greatness could hardly be any more different.</p> <p>B. Jesus brushed aside all that the world considers great (vv. 25-28).</p> <p><b>IV. Service is Christ-like.</b></p> <p>A. Jesus "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant" (Phil. 2:7) - He did not come with pomp and ceremony; but as <b>a servant</b>.</p> <p>B. We can imitate His service, but He did one thing we can never do; He "[gave] His life a ransom for many".</p> <p>C. One other important consideration: <b> motive</b>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attitudes of an "Assured" Child of God (2 Peter 1:5-11)</b></p> <p><b>I. Faith.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "faith" mean?</li> <li>The importance of a "saving" faith.</li> <li>The importance of a faith "in Jesus."</li> <li>The importance of faith "in the Bible."</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Virtue.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "virtue" mean?</li> <li>The character of a virtuous person.</li> <li>Suggestions on how we can incorporate the grace of virtue in our lives.</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Knowledge.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "knowledge" mean?</li> <li>The tragedy of ignorance.</li> <li>The importance of knowledge.</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. Self-Control.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the expression "self-control" mean?</li> <li>The importance of "self-control" in the life of God's children.</li> <li>Biblical suggestions that will help us develop the grace of self-control.</li> </ol> <p><b>V. Perseverance.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "perseverance" mean?</li> <li>Biblical examples of perseverance.</li> <li>Areas where the Christians can manifest the attitude of perseverance.</li> </ol> <p><b>VI. Godliness.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "godliness" mean?</li> <li>The Bible's encouragement to be godly.</li> </ol> <p><b>VII. Brotherly Kindness.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the expression "brotherly kindness" mean?</li> <li>How can we manifest the grace of brotherly kindness?</li> </ol> <p><b>VIII. Love.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the word "love" mean?</li> <li>The importance of love is identified in 1 Corinthians 13, "The great love chapter of the Bible."</li> <li>In what areas are we to practice this beautiful attitude of love?</li> </ol>
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