

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



May 3, 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

The Signs of the Times

There's nothing like a catastrophic event to capture the imagination of people and fuel prognostications of fiery pulpiteers regarding the end of the world. The signs of the times are thought by many to signify the imminent return of Jesus Christ and end-times. These assumptions are based on a misunderstanding of or, in the case of religious leaders, sometimes the outright abuse of Scripture, namely Matthew 24:6-7. *"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."*

Though the apostles did not realize it yet, they essentially asked Jesus Christ two different questions in Matthew 24. *"...Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* (v. 3). They could not perceive of the massive Temple in Jerusalem being so utterly demolished that not one stone remained upon another except that the entire world would be destroyed also (vv. 1-2). Nevertheless, our Lord answered the two questions posed by the apostles, first regarding the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and secondly about the end of time when Jesus' Second Coming would occur.

It is important to observe that Jesus repeatedly cautioned His disciples not to be fooled by pretenders—false christs (vv. 4-5), *"false prophets"* (v. 11) and *"false christs and false prophets"* (v. 24). It is as important in the 21st century for us not to be fooled by *"false christs and false prophets."* *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world"* (1 John 4:1).

While Jesus answered the first of the two questions posed by His disciples, He referred to what people commonly call the signs of the times. However, notice that all of what Jesus said—including the signs of the times—was relative to the generation that was then living during the ministry of our Lord. *"Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these **things take place**"* (v. 34). Therefore, the signs of the times about which our Lord spoke pertained **only** to the first century and were **only** relative to the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The *Merriam-Webster* dictionary defines the word "generation" as "the average span of time between the birth of parents and that of their offspring" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/generation>). Hence, a generation is approximately 30 years (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

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"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me, but in Him who sent Me, And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day"
Jn. 12:44-48

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

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Generation). Everything Jesus said about the signs of the times was to take place within about 30 years. Therefore, Jesus' response to His apostles about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem was contained within the timeframe of about 30 years, and the signs of the times could have neither relevance nor application to happenings in the 21st century.

Every generation experiences "wars and rumors of wars," sees "nation...rise against nation" and observes "famines, pestilences, and earthquakes." Therefore, what Jesus said about the signs of the times could only refer to the generation living in the first century. Furthermore, our Lord's elaboration about fleeing to the mountains (v. 16), a woman being pregnant or having infants (v. 19) and the Sabbath (v. 20) does not correspond to the Second Coming and the end of the world. Fleeing to the mountains at the Second Coming of Christ doesn't make any sense; no one will be able to flee from our Lord to anywhere at His Second Coming. Being pregnant or having small children would not hinder anyone regarding the Second Coming. Further, what difference would it make were the Second Coming to occur on the Sabbath?

On the other hand, these matters do make sense when read within the context of Jesus answering the first question of His disciples, regarding the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. At the appearance of the approaching Roman army, Christians were to flee Jerusalem to avoid being caught up in the city's impending overthrow. The haste with which Jesus said those fleeing should flee to the mountains could have reference only to escaping Jerusalem before it was besieged (vv. 17-18). Pregnant women and families with small children would face difficulty in hastily fleeing an approaching horde of soldiers. If the Roman legions arrived on the Sabbath, the closure of the city gates by the Jews in the observance of the Law would greatly hinder anyone fleeing to the mountains.

"Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history" (Hedges). Wars and rumors of wars, etc. in

Matthew 24 can only be relative to a particular generation—the first century—since every generation experiences them. Likewise, earthquakes and disease occur in every generation; a glance into history confirms this.

Even plagues of worldwide proportion have occurred from time to time:

- ◆ A prehistoric epidemic in China about 3000 B.C.
- ◆ The Plague of Athens in 430 B.C. killed about 100,000 in Greece.
- ◆ Antonine Plague from A.D. 165-180 killed over 5 million people in the Roman Empire.
- ◆ The Plague of Cyprian from A.D. 250-271 killed 5,000 people daily in Rome alone (a bishop in Carthage attributed the plague as the sign of the end of the world).
- ◆ The Plague of Justinian from A.D. 541-542 killed about 10% of the world's population.
- ◆ The Black Death from 1346-1353 originated in Asia and killed half the population of Europe after it migrated there.
- ◆ The Cocoliztli Epidemic from 1545-1548 killed 15 million in Mexico and Central America.
- ◆ American Plagues in the 16th century brought from Europe by explorers killed 90% of the indigenous population of North and South America.
- ◆ The Great Plague of London from 1665-1666 killed 100,000 or 15% of London's population.
- ◆ The Great Plague of Marseille from 1720-1723 killed about 100,000 people or approximately 30% of the city.
- ◆ The Russian Plague from 1770-1772 killed about 100,000 in Moscow.
- ◆ The Philadelphia Yellow Fever Epidemic in 1793 led to 5,000 deaths in the city.
- ◆ The Flu Pandemic from 1889-1890 originated in

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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/

May 3	Genesis 33—34; Psalm 122
May 4	Genesis 35—36; Psalm 123
May 5	Genesis 37—38; Psalm 124
May 6	Genesis 39—40; Psalm 125
May 7	Genesis 41—42; Psalm 126
May 8	Genesis 43—44; Psalm 127
May 9	Genesis 45—46; Psalm 128
May 10	Genesis 47—48; Psalm 129

"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 **46** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ It was decided to wait a couple more weeks before beginning services again at the building. Hopefully, May 17 (or maybe sooner?!). Will continue to live-stream Sunday morning at 10:40.
- ◆ We will begin a new live-stream Bible class Wednesday evening at 7:00pm on “The Holy Spirit.”

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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Russia and reached its peak globally within five weeks—killing one million.

- ◆ The American Polio Epidemic in 1916 started in New York City and led to 6,000 deaths in the USA.
- ◆ The Spanish Flu resulted in 50 million deaths worldwide and 675,000 in the USA (“1918 Pandemic”).
- ◆ The 1957 Pandemic—Asian flu—caused 1.1 million deaths worldwide and 116,000 deaths in the USA (“1957-1958 Pandemic”).
- ◆ The 1968 Pandemic—flu—led to one million deaths globally and 100,000 dead in the USA (“1968 Pandemic”).
- ◆ The AIDS Pandemic and Epidemic from 1981 through the present has claimed 35 million lives.
- ◆ The 2009-2010 Swine Flu Pandemic infected 1.4 billion and killed between 152,700 and 575,400 worldwide and caused 12,469 deaths in the USA (“2009 H1N1 Pandemic”).
- ◆ The West African Ebola Epidemic from 2014-2016 led to 11,325 deaths.
- ◆ The Zika Virus Epidemic from 2015 through the present is still being tabulated.

Plainly, the current strain of coronavirus or COVID-19 is only the latest plague battering humanity among many diseases that historically have ravaged the human population regionally or globally. Therefore, COVID-19 is no more a sign of the Second Coming of Christ and of the end of the world than any previous pandemic, epidemic or plague. While answering the second question of the disciples regarding the end of the world and the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus said, “*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only*” (v. 36). To illustrate that statement, our Lord related that people would be “*...eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage...*” (v. 38), working “*in the field*” (v. 40) and “*grinding at the mill*” (v. 41), as they were in Noah’s day, when our Lord returns (vv. 37-41). Jesus plainly said regarding the end of the world and His Second Coming, “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming*” (v. 42) and “*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect*” (v. 44).

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, May 2020, p. 2)

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: 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. 19, 2020	Apr. 26, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	[57]	[51]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[47]	[36]
Contribution	\$2,090	\$2,200

	This Week: 5/3/20	Next Week: 5/10/20		
Sunday AM:	Online Only	Online Only		
Greeters				
Opening Prayer				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Attendance Cards				
Sunday PM:	Cancelled	Cancelled		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 6 Cancelled	May 13 Cancelled	May 20 Rafe Smith	May 27 Don Smith

May 2020
Make Announcements:
 James Fuller
Prepare Communion:
 Johnny & Cindy McCaghren
Clean Building:
 Johnny & Cindy McCaghren

June 2020
Make Announcements:
 Don Smith
Prepare Communion:
 Tom & Carol Wilcox
Clean Building:
 Dennis Family

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 May 3, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **The Holy Spirit: Lesson 1**

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? "I Have Come as a Light Into the World"</p> <p><i>"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness" (Jn. 12:46).</i></p> <p>John 12 records events happen very shortly before the crucifixion on our Lord. Sadly, in v. 37 we read: <i>"But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him."</i> The confrontations with some of the Jewish leaders continued. What may be even more disappointing and tragic are the words that inform us that there were those who did believe, but whose belief stopped at that point: <i>"Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in [on, KJV] Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God"</i> (vv. 42-43).</p> <p>Many denominations teach that salvation comes by faith [belief] only. These same religious groups will say there is a world of difference between believing <u>on</u> Jesus and believing <u>in</u> Jesus. However, other that the tense of the verb "believe," there is no difference in the Greek between "believeth in him" (Jn. 3:16, KJV) and "believed on him" (Jn. 12:42, KJV). The NKJV translates "in Him" in both verses. It would appear, then, that belief alone is not sufficient to please the Lord. There is another matter discussed in this text that is often overlooked – the problem of religious intimidation.</p> <p>Our schools are hotbeds of religious intimidation. Our young people are bombarded with lifestyles and philosophies that are completely opposed to living a Christian life. They are told that only the "losers" and the "ignorant" would accept the Bible and its instructions about anything.</p> <p>However, religious intimidation is also alive and well in the religious world, even among some (many?) who identify themselves collectively as a church of Christ. You have probably heard people complain about having a "Diotrephes" in a local congregation; one <i>"who loves to have the preeminence among them"</i> (3 Jn. 9). In Galatians 2, Paul writes of two occasions when he "stood up to" people. In both instances, he could have easily succumbed to religious intimidation. First, Paul had to deal with <i>"false brethren secretly brought in"</i> (v. 4), then, he had to stand against the apostle Peter, <i>"because He was to be blamed"</i> (v. 11).</p> <p>What is the "tie in" to Jesus coming <i>"as a light into the world"</i>? Galatians 2:5, 14, Paul's concern was for <i>"the truth of the gospel."</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Who is the Holy Spirit?</u></p> <p>I. The Holy Spirit is "a Person."</p> <p>A. Personal, masculine pronouns are applied to the Holy Spirit; thus, indicating that He is "a person" (Jn. 16:13).</p> <p>B. The works of the Holy Spirit proclaim that He is "a person."</p> <p>C. The characteristics of the Holy Spirit verify the fact that He is "a person."</p> <p>D. The fact that He can suffer slights and injuries proves that the Holy Spirit is "a person."</p> <p>II. The Holy Spirit is a "Divine" Person.</p> <p>A. The attributes of the Holy Spirit show that He is a "divine" person.</p> <p>B. The works of the Holy Spirit indicate that He is a "divine" person.</p> <p>III. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person "in the Godhead."</p> <p>A. There is a Godhead (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9).</p> <p>B. The Godhead is composed of three persons [the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit] (Mt. 28:19; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 4:3-6).</p> <p>C. The three persons of the Godhead are separate and distinct (Jn. 14:26, 16:13-15; Mt. 3:13-17).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>What Are the Names of the Holy Spirit?</u></p> <p>I. His Names in Relationship to the Father.</p> <p>A. He is called the Spirit "of God" (Gen. 1:2; Mt. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:11).</p> <p>B. He is called the Spirit "of the living God" (2 Cor. 3:3).</p> <p>C. He is called the Spirit "of the Lord" (Acts 8:39).</p> <p>D. He is called the Spirit "of your Father" (Mt. 10:20).</p> <p>E. He is called the Spirit "of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11).</p> <p>II. His Names in Relationship to the Son.</p> <p>A. He is called the Spirit "of Christ" (Rom. 8:9).</p> <p>B. He is called the Spirit "of His Son" (Gal. 4:6).</p> <p>C. He is called the Spirit "of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:19).</p> <p>III. His Names in Relationship to Man.</p> <p>A. He is called the Spirit "of adoption" (Rom. 8:15; Jn. 3:3-5).</p> <p>B. He is called the Holy Spirit "of promise" (Eph. 1:13).</p> <p>IV. His Names in Relationship to His Nature.</p> <p>A. He is called "the Spirit" (Mt. 4:1; Mk. 1:10, 12; Lk. 4:1, 14).</p> <p>B. He is called the Spirit "of life" (Rom. 8:2, 10).</p> <p>C. He is called the Spirit "of grace" (Heb. 10:29).</p> <p>D. He is called the "eternal" Spirit (Heb. 9:14).</p> <p>E. He is called the Spirit "of glory" (1 Pet. 4:14).</p> <p>V. His Names in Relationship to His Character.</p> <p>A. He is called the "Holy" Spirit (Lk. 11:13; 1 Thess. 4:8).</p> <p>B. He is called the Spirit "of truth" (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn. 5:6).</p>
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