

# 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 24, 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

## Lessons from a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Worship Service

Worship was an important aspect of the church's life from the outset of the church's existence. We read of the new converts in Jerusalem continuing steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42). We read of singing also being something in which the early church engaged as a part of its worship together (Eph. 5:19). We are to follow the pattern set by the inspired apostles and prophets of the New Testament and acknowledge that the things they wrote to us are the commandments of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37). In Acts 20, Luke gave insight into a 1<sup>st</sup> century worship service. As Paul and his traveling companions came to Troas, we see a window into a worship service (Acts 20:4-6). There are lessons for those of us who live in the 21st century both to learn and to apply.

### Prioritizing the Assembly

The Christian's daily life is to be one of sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2). The Sunday assembly is not all that there is in living for Jesus, but it is an important part of life in Christ. We are encouraged in the assembly (Heb. 10:25). We teach and instruct each other (Col. 3:16). We pray for each other (1 Thess. 5:25). We know that Paul desired to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost so he could preach to a large number of Jews (Acts 20:16). Yet, Paul and his companions waited seven days in Troas in order to worship with the brethren there (Acts 20:6). In Paul's mind, the worship assembly on the first day of the week warranted attention and time. Paul did not want to miss this opportunity to worship God with his brethren in Troas. No one had to quote Hebrews 10:25 to Paul since he did not view the assembly as something to be avoided. Instead, Paul considered the worship assembly as something desirable. We must learn from this worship gathering how important it is to gather with the saints every Sunday. **Paul had other plans, but those plans were not more important than the need to worship.** Whether we are on vacation, on the road or away for work, we should make whatever adjustments are necessary to be with the brethren on the Lord's day. Part of seeking the kingdom of God first involves sacrificing time, comfort and convenience to be a dedicated disciple (Matt. 6:33). The early saints were together daily on some occasions but especially on the first day of the week (Acts 2:46; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

### Partaking of the Lord's Supper Is Important

Jesus told His disciples to partake of the unleavened bread and of the fruit of

*(Continued on page 2)*



"...they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the brethren, **exhorting them to continue in the faith**, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.' So when they had **appointed elders in every church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed." **Acts 14:21-23**

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

(Continued from page 1)

the vine in commemoration of His sacrificial death (Matt. 26:26-29). We often speak of the need to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week based on Acts 20:7, and this is correct. We also can note that the breaking of bread in Acts 2:42, which is a reference to the Lord's Supper, was done steadfastly. The frequency with which we take the Lord's Supper is important, but Acts 20:7 tells us more than that. Luke says the Christians came together to break bread. This was the primary purpose for their assembly. This does not mean that singing, praying, giving and preaching are not important, but the Lord's Supper is unique as an item of worship. The Lord's Supper is the only item of worship that is limited to the first day of the week. The other four items of worship can be engaged in on any other day of the week with God's approval. Only the Lord's Supper is to be taken on Sunday. When we gather on Sunday, the Lord's Supper is not something we simply check off a list or rush through. It is something we need to do in reverent fashion. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for failing to observe the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner (1 Cor. 11:23-30), meaning the Lord's Supper must be done in the same mindset the Lord gave it and for the reason Christ gave it (Col. 3:17). Our minds must go back to Calvary and to the suffering of our Savior as we partake of the bread and of the cup (1 Cor. 10:16). First century Christians gathered together with the breaking of bread on their minds. We, too, must gather on the Lord's Day, keeping in mind that without His sacrifice there would be no service.

### Preachers and the Clock

Luke did not reveal when Paul began his sermon, but he recorded when he ended. Paul preached to them with his departure on his mind, and yet, he continued until midnight (Acts 20:7). The word *parateinō*, translated as "continue" (KJV), "prolonged" (ESV, NASB) and "kept on talking" (NIV) means to prolong or to stretch out. It is interesting to note that Paul preached until he was done and was not rushed for the sake of time. This should not be taken to mean that preachers should be insensitive to those who listen to them and preach for two hours. There are many with health problems who

cannot sit for lengthy periods of time and others with small children who are struggling to keep them still. However, it is interesting that Paul preached the word until he had finished his message (2 Tim. 4:2). In a day when our attention span is eight seconds (a goldfish has an attention span of nine seconds), it is common for many to watch the clock. Preachers should not add fluff to their lessons to purposely preach long sermons, but Christians must develop enough spiritual stamina to endure and enjoy a forty-minute lesson.

### Pillows in the Pews

Not everyone was excited by the length of Paul's sermon. We are introduced to a young man named Eutychus who fell asleep as Paul was preaching, fell three stories and was believed to be dead (Acts 20:8-9). The name Eutychus means fortunate. He was definitely fortunate that Paul was present as he took a nap and fell. Paul was able to go down to where he fell and take him up on his feet, restoring his life (Acts 20:10). Falling asleep in worship is not anything new. People have fallen asleep in worship since the first century. Sometimes it is blamed on the ability of the preacher, but people even slept on Paul (1 Cor. 3:6). We should get adequate rest so we can worship the Lord in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We also should give grace to those that we may find snoozing in worship. Sometimes it is a side effect of the medication someone is taking, or they have been up all night with a sick child. We should assume the best of our brethren until shown otherwise (1 Cor. 13:5). As Paul literally lifted sleepy Eutychus to his feet, we should bear one another's burdens and help each other remain spiritually alert (Gal. 6:1-2). Worship is not nap time. It is time to engage with brethren as we go to the throne of God, gather the necessary strength for the week to come and glorify our Heavenly Father.

Thankfully, the first century church teaches us many things about worship. It teaches us how to worship, activities that are authorized in our assembly and that not much has changed in almost 2,000 years.

Hiram Kemp (Gospel Gazette Online, May 2020, p. 8)

#### **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/)

**May 24** Exodus 37—40; Psalm 143  
**May 25** Lev. 1—2; Psalm 144 (video)  
**May 26** Leviticus 3—4; Psalm 145  
**May 27** Leviticus 5—6; Psalm 146  
**May 28** Leviticus 7—8; Psalm 147  
**May 29** Leviticus 9—10; Psalm 148  
**May 30** Leviticus 11—12; Psalm 149  
**May 31** Leviticus 13—14; Psalm 150

*"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 **31** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Today we will begin a **new sermon series on the eldership.**
- ◆ **Remember our safety measures that are in place.**
  - ⇒ Wearing a mask is encouraged, but not required.
  - ⇒ Changes to the dispensing of the Lord's Supper.
    - ◇ Prepared wearing gloves and mask.
    - ◇ Bread (in individual bags) and fruit of the vine will be distributed using gloves and masks. Trash will be collected following fruit of the vine.
  - ⇒ Practice social distancing and common sense.
- ◆ We will continue to live-stream our Sunday morning worship and Wednesday Bible.
- ◆ Sunday Night for the Master cards are still being sent.
- ◆ The Bangs elders will be making a decision soon on status of the summer camps. We will let you know.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

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

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ June 3-7—Men's Development Conference @ College Station
- ◆ June 21-25—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

## A Wise Son Versus a Foolish Son

Every righteous father looks for opportunities to direct his children down the path of righteousness. He sees them growing up and imagines that one day they will walk a path of faithful obedience to the Lord. His heart rejoices each time that a child makes a choice displaying an inward man of thoughtfulness, godliness, love and righteousness. These things and many more point to the growth of a child who will be wise.

In Proverbs, there is one thing intended by the word "wise." It is being "obedient to God." Proverbs 9:10 reads, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* If wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, one will never reach true wisdom while being in opposition to the Lord.

James further illustrates this.

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (Jas. 3:13-18)*

The proof of wisdom is the implementation of righteous behavior. One might parade himself as a wise person, but inwardly he is only "wise" in unrighteousness. Note that even James describes this wicked behavior as a sort of wisdom, but one that does not originate with God and brings no good. In all reality, this "wisdom" is the true foolishness that Solomon wanted his son to know would lead to the grief of his mother.

When a godly mother realizes that her son is full of envy, self-seeking, sensuality and only those things that are concerns of this physical world, the weight on her heart is indescribable. Throughout her days, her mind seeks out the words to say to turn her son's direction around, and day after day, she knows that ultimately that is a choice only he will be able to make for himself.

Solomon again admonished, *"The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall. He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known."* Are you a son or a daughter of righteous parents? Which path have you chosen? If you are bringing grief to your mother, will you decide to turn to wisdom today and begin to bear the fruit of righteousness? *"A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother"* (Prov. 10:1).

Aaron Cozort (Gospel Gazette Online, May 2020, p. 11)

## 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

	May 10, 2020	May 17, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	[39]	44 + [17]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[29]	[23]
Contribution	\$1,398	\$3,655

# Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/24/20	Next Week: 5/31/20			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<p><b>May 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Johnny &amp; Cindy McCaghren  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Johnny &amp; Cindy McCaghren</p> <p><b>June 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Tom &amp; Carol Wilcox  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      James &amp; Cindy Fuller</p>		
<b>Greeters</b>	_____	_____			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	John Barnum			
<b>Communion</b>	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Rafe Smith, Chase Churchwell	James Fuller, Coyce Reed Ryan Rudloff, Vernon Zier			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Maninger			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Aaron Smith			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Cancelled	Cancelled			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>					
<b>Scripture Reading</b>					
<b>Communion</b>					
<b>Closing Prayer</b>					
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 27 Cancelled	June 3 TBD	June 10 TBD	June 17 TBD	

## 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 24, 2020

Sunday Class ..... **Cancelled**  
 Wed. Class ..... **The Holy Spirit: Lesson 4**

#### Organization of the Church

There are many misconceptions about the organization of the church (clergy/laity setup, "pastoral" system, pyramid, etc.). How is the church set up in the NT?

- I. **All Christians are members of the one body: the church** (1 Cor. 12:12-27).
  - A. A human body has many individual parts.
  - B. The church is the body of Christ, but has many individual members.
  - C. The various parts of the human body each have different roles to fulfill.
  - D. The various members of the church each have different roles to fulfill.
  - E. Each part of the body provides a necessary function for the entire body.
  - F. Each member of the church provides a necessary function to the entire body.
  - G. When a part of the body is missing or not functioning properly, the body as a whole suffers.
  - H. When an individual Christian stops fulfilling their responsibility, the whole church suffers.
  - I. Everyone who is "in Christ" is a member of the body of Christ.
- II. **From the members, some are chosen for leadership roles.**
  - A. When the church first began, the apostles were the leaders of the church.
  - B. It was not much later, however, that elders were put in place in many congregations.
    1. As the church grew, the elders were the leaders of the church.
    2. Elders are not to be chosen based upon social status.
    3. Elders are chosen from among the members as men who take on the responsibility of leading the rest of the flock to heaven!
- III. **From the members, some are chosen to be special servants** (deacons).
  - A. The word "deacon" is the English spelling of the Greek word *διακονος*, which means "servant."
  - B. A specific role existed for some to "hold the office" of a deacon.
  - C. Some notes about the office of a deacon.
    1. A deacon is not a "Jr. Elder."
    2. Deacons are not the leaders of the flock, but rather servants.
    3. Deacons are to be men of moral uprightness who have proven their dedication to the word of God (1 Tim. 3:9-10).
    4. Deacon is a God-appointed office within the church (1 Tim. 3:13).

#### What Is Involved in the Intercession of the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8 beautifully describes how wonderful life is for the Christian. There are 13 affirmations sustaining this fact, including the fact that "the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us" (v. 26-27).

Following the "precept upon precept, line upon line" principle (Isa. 28:10), we will study the eight key words or phrases of our text.

- I. "Likewise."
- II. "The Spirit."
- III. "Helps."
- IV. "Our," "Us," and "We."
- V. "Weakness."
- VI. "Pray."
- VII. "Intercession."
- VIII. "Groanings."

#### What Is the Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit?

The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is discussed in three different passages: Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-30, and Luke 12:10. It is a most tragic and terrible sin, for which one can never have forgiveness (Mk. 3:28-29).

- I. **What the Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit Is Not.**
- II. **What Is the Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit?**
  - A. The sin is the sinful state that results from a repetitious rejection of God's last offer of mercy to mankind [the Holy Spirit inspired gospel of Christ and plan of salvation], resulting in the rejecter's heart becoming hardened, his conscience seared, and his soul calloused.
  - B. This rejection can be so persistently repetitious as to render the heart hardened, rendering one incapable of turning to God.
  - C. What are the steps taken toward this sin?
  - D. Some examples of those who committed the sin.