



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

The Old And New Covenants (Some Distinct Differences)

The melody and grace God seeks from Christians does not come from mundane instruments of music, but rather from hearts longing to offer acceptable spiritual praise.

The Physical Nature of the Law of Moses

By God's design the Old Testament law of Moses was principally *physical* and *material* in nature. Though it had moral qualities and provided a way for man to worship God, the function of the old covenant related largely to *temporal* matters.

Why was the law of Moses given? It was a covenant between God and the nation of Israel for the purpose of guiding the people *civilly* as well as *religiously*. One distinct feature of that law was that it contained multiple restrictive statutes meant to regulate the lives of the people, a people who for several hundred years had been under the influence of a sinful world and needed a moral directive. Hence, Paul wrote, "...it was added because of transgression..." (Gal. 3:19).

The Mosaic covenant amplified the sinfulness of sin and served to illustrate the fact that man could not save himself by keeping such a covenant. This is one reason the law of Moses was called a "bondage" (Gal. 5:1).

The Mosaic covenant was characterized by many things that were tangible in nature. Here are several notable examples:

1. It had a law that incorporated both civil and religious matters. The lives of the people, including many of their everyday, domestic affairs, were strictly governed.
2. It had a physical priesthood including a high priest and multiple ordinary priests all of whom wore specially designated garments.
3. It had a physical tabernacle and, later, a temple. The law of the old covenant mandated that a material structure be used for the religious functions of the priestly tribe.
4. It had continual offerings of animals. Multiple laborious daily, weekly and yearly sacrifices were required under the Mosaic law.
5. It had the burning of incense. The law required that there be a perpetual smoke of incense within the tabernacle.
6. It had physical acts of purifications. Uncleaness involving the flesh was purified by isolations and ceremonious washings.
7. It had physical circumcision. To be identified with the Israelite nation, a requirement of the law of Moses was that all males be fleshly circumcised.

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

- It had the keeping of days, months, times and years. It had its sabbaths, its new moons, its feasts and its sabbatical and jubilee years.
- It had tithing. Submitting 10% of one's prosperity to one's tribe was required. The tribe of Levi received a tenth of all other tribes and a tenth of that received by the tribe of Levi was for the priests.

Distinctions Between the Old and New Covenants

The time came when the old law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14). It was "taken away" so that another covenant, more spiritual in nature, could be established (Heb. 10:9). In many ways it served merely as a "shadow" of the "better" covenant to come (Heb. 8:6; 10:1).

To students of the Bible it is obvious there are distinct contrasts between the temporal aspects of the religion of the Old Testament and the spiritual nature of the religion of the New Testament. The Christian system is void of those material things found in the Jewish religion. Note the following contrasting features found within the new covenant of Christ.

- It has no law incorporating both civil and religious matters, for the function of the Christian system is purely spiritual in nature. However, Christians are to respect the civil authority under which they live (Rom. 13:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).
- It has no physical priesthood composed of men wearing special garments. Christ is its only high priest who reigns in heaven (Heb. 8:1). All Christians are a part of God's spiritual "royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6).
- It has no physical tabernacle or temple. Christians themselves are the "temple of God" (1 Cor. 3:16) and together make up "the house of God" (1 Tim. 3:15).
- It has no continual animal offerings. Christ him-

self is the only sacrificial offering and that offering was made only once (Heb. 9:12).

- It has no literal burning of incense. Rather, the prayers of Christians ascend before God as a sweet smelling "odor" (Rev. 5:8).
- It has no acts of purifications for the flesh. The only purification relating to the new covenant is the washing away of sins that takes place in water baptism (Acts 22:16). This is not for the cleansing of the flesh, but of the spirit (1 Peter 3:21).
- It has no physical circumcision. The only circumcision pertaining to the new covenant is the cutting away of sin when people become Christians (Gal. 6:15; Col. 2:11-12).
- It has no keeping of days, months, times and years. The literal keeping of such periods is something that contradicts the very nature of Christianity (Gal. 4:9-10).
- It has no tithing. Christianity has no strict system of giving 10%. Rather, it has a uniquely simple way for God's people to show their generosity. This involves giving as one has been prospered, giving purposefully and giving cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

These contrasts between the two covenants clearly illustrate the superior spiritual quality of the Christian system. In order to appreciate the exalted nature of Christianity it is important to recognize these distinctions.

Another Distinction

There is yet another marked distinction between the two covenants, one that has been largely ignored by the religious world.

In the religion of the Old Covenant, praise to God included playing on mechanical instruments. There were

(Continued on page 3)

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 31	Leviticus 13—14; Psalm 150
June 1	Lev. 15—16; Prov. 1 (video)
June 2	Lev. 17—18; Prov. 2 (video)
June 3	Leviticus 19—20; Proverbs 3
June 4	Leviticus 21—22; Proverbs 4
June 5	Leviticus 23—24; Proverbs 5
June 6	Leviticus 25—27; Proverbs 6
June 7	Numbers 1—2; Proverbs 7

"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

- ◆ **Remember our safety measures that are in place.**
 - ⇒ Wearing a mask is encouraged, but not required.
 - ⇒ The Lord's Supper is being prepared wearing mask and gloves, and distributed using masks and gloves.
 - ⇒ Practice social distancing and common sense.
 - ⇒ Hand sanitizer is available on the back table.
- ◆ The leadership will be meeting this morning before services concerning our future plans. Announcements will be forthcoming.
- ◆ There are **masks** that have been donated **available on the table at the back**. If you need one, or know someone who does, feel free to take one or more. There are various sizes available. Thank you to the donors.
- ◆ The **Summer Youth Series** will start a couple of weeks later than usual, and with an abbreviated schedule. First one is June 16th at Bangs.
- ◆ **Junior Camp** has been cancelled for this summer. They are still hoping to have **Senior Camp**.

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

(Continued from page 2)

all manner of instruments, including: percussion instruments (cymbal, timbrel); stringed instruments (psaltery, harp); wind instruments (flute, trumpet, coronet). Using such devices was not just for accompaniment, for they were used as a part of the worship itself. And, their use was not simply an optional matter of expediency on the part of the Jews, for God commanded them (2 Chron. 29:25).

However, in the spiritually oriented Christian system there is no praise offered to God on mechanical instruments. To the contrary, in the New Testament the use of instruments of music is noticeably absent. Christians offer to God praise of the "fruit of their lips." Inspiration describes this as "melody" and "grace" coming from the Christian's heart (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). The melody and grace God seeks from Christians does not come from mundane instruments of music, but rather from hearts longing to offer acceptable spiritual praise. Being conscious of this distinction is extremely important.

Though musical instruments were a part of the Mosaic covenant, like many other things found in that covenant, they have no place in God's spiritual kingdom, the church.

Many people are not aware that for almost 600 years after the establishment of the church instrumental music was unknown to any form of Christian worship and that when it began to be introduced it was strongly resisted. It was not until the late 1700s that musical instruments came into greater use among Protestant churches, but even then they were denounced by many preachers. It was not until the 1800s that mechanical instruments came to be generally accepted in the worship of denominational groups.

Today, the worship of many churches has degenerated to the point that instrumental music is employed as a means of entertainment, entertainment that sometimes involves rock groups, bands and even orchestras. Quite often worship is made up solely of instrumental presentations void of any accompanying singing.

Brethren, we cannot allow ourselves to lose sight of the grand spiritual nature of the Christian system, especially regarding the praise we offer to God. To assure that the church of the future remains conscious of this principle, it is imperative that we keep it before oncoming generations.

Jon Gary Williams (Seek The Old Paths, May 2020, pp. 33, 39)

Celebrate

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

June Birthdays: Mike Bannister (4), Loutrell Dobbins (8), John Ross (15), Donna Sublett (19), David Greer (26), Ashley Kahlich (29).

June Anniversaries: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren (8), Wayne & Mileen Kahlich (19), David & Lisa Greer (28).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 17, 2020	May 24, 2020
Bible Class	—	—
AM Worship	44 + [17]	41 + [18]
PM Worship	—	—
Wednesday PM	[23]	[29]
Contribution	\$3,655	\$1,825

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 5/31/20	Next Week: 6/7/20		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: James Fuller	<p>May 2020 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren</p> <p>June 2020 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: James & Cindy Fuller Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller</p>	
Greeters	—	—		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	James Fuller*, Randy Huckaby Ryan Rudloff, Vernon Zier	Don Smith*, Rafe Smith Chase Churchwell, Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Mike Bannister		
Attendance Cards	—	—		
Sunday PM:	Cancelled	Cancelled		
Opening Prayer				
Scripture Reading				
Communion				
Closing Prayer				
Wednesday Devotionals:	June 3 TBD	June 10 TBD	June 17 TBD	June 24 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 31, 2020

Sunday Class **Cancelled**
 Wed. Class **Be At Peace Among Yourselves**

The Descriptions of Elders

This week, we will be looking specifically at the Bible descriptions of elders. The Bible uses three words to describe elders: **Elders**, **Bishops** (Overseers), and **Shepherds** (Pastors). The words are used interchangeably of the same position (Acts 20:17, 20; Tit. 1:5, 7; 1 Pet. 5:1-2). **Elders** held the office/position of **bishops** and were commanded to **shepherd**.

- I. Elders are older.
 - A. The word "elder" (prēsbūtērōs) means one who is older.
 - B. What makes one "older"?
 - C. Why should the leaders of the congregation be "older"?
 1. With age comes wisdom (Prov. 16:31).
 2. With age comes honor (Lev. 19:32).
 3. With age comes experience on how to deal with issues.
- II. Elders are to Shepherd the flock of God (1 Pet. 5:2).
 - A. The Greek word is *pōimainō* – a verb meaning to shepherd, to tend or to feed a flock.
 - B. What kind of **feeding** are we talking about? Elders have the responsibility to make sure the local congregation is fed a good diet of Scriptural teaching.
 - C. Elders also have the responsibility to **protect** the flock.
 - D. Elders are to **guide** the sheep in the way they should go.
- III. Elders are Overseers (Acts 20:28)
 - A. The word here is *ēpiskōpōs* – to oversee or superintend.
 - B. Uses of the word *ēpiskōpōs*.
 - C. Elders are to **look intently** upon the congregation.
 - D. Elders are to **manage** the congregation.
 - E. Because of the importance of this work and the time and effort it entails, **God gave authority for elders to be financially supported by the church** (1 Tim. 5:17).

The role of an elder, if done correctly and fully, is a difficult, often strenuous, one. Those who desire the office of a bishop desire a good "work" (1 Tim. 3:1). The role of an elder can be summed up as follows: **To protect and feed the congregation, doing his best to make sure they all live in a way that they will get to heaven.** Elders deserve far more respect than they are often given.

Be At Peace Among Yourselves

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1). Truly, when brethren are united, there will be peace. Accordingly, let us consider the exhortation, "Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:13).

- I. How Important is Peace and Harmony in the Church?
 - A. Jesus prayed and died for peace and harmony.
 - B. Peace in the church is imperative for our salvation and spiritual growth.
 - C. Peace in the church is essential to evangelism and church growth.
- II. Where Should Peace and Harmony Exist in the Church?
 - A. Between brethren.
 - B. In the local congregation.
 - C. Between sister congregations (without compromising the truth).
 - D. In the brotherhood.
- III. What Are Some Dangers That Will Destroy the Peace and Harmony in the Church?
 - A. The elevation of human traditions over divine revelation.
 - B. The promotion of a selfish agenda.
 - C. The elevation of human opinions over divine revelation.
 - D. Sinning against our brethren.
- IV. How Can the Church Enjoy Peace and Harmony?
 - A. The church will enjoy peace and harmony when she focuses on Calvary.
 - B. The church will enjoy peace and harmony when she truly desires it and works for it.
 - C. The church will enjoy peace and harmony when she embraces and applies heaven's guidelines (Rom. 14:19).
 - D. The church can not enjoy peace and harmony at the expense of truth.
 - E. The church can not enjoy peace and harmony on the basis of "unity in diversity."

The importance of peace and harmony in the church cannot be overly emphasized. We are commanded to, "Be of one mind [and] live in peace" (2 Cor. 13:11). Therefore, let us tirelessly dedicate our energies to this goal.