

# 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



July 5, 2020

## Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service ..... N/A  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class ..... N/A  
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

## Independence Day and the Christian

As we [celebrate] America's independence, I hope that we all take the time to really appreciate this great nation. I hope we meditate and say a prayer of thanksgiving to a benevolent God that has allowed us to experience America.

Our country has not always done what is right. As the issue of race is on everyone's mind right now, people point to the past and the racism that has existed in this country. It can cause us to think that this land is evil. But slavery and racism existed in spite of America, not because of her.

The reason slavery would eventually go away is because the second sentence of this country's Declaration of Independence was, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." People in the 1700's may not have got the application completely right, but they sure did get the principal right. They didn't know that it extended to slaves when they wrote it, but they still knew it was truth. And that same truth would ultimately set those slaves free.

America has been a friend of the church of Christ. We can't even imagine living in a place like China where the government will charge into a home and beat people just for worshipping. We can't understand living in a place where extremists will literally saw your head off for preaching the gospel. We live in America. The country that said, "first off, you can go to church, and our laws will protect that". Not only did they want to protect our worship, but they wanted to protect our ability to share the Gospel! Then people I never met, thought that me being able to worship freely was worth dying for. Thank God!

It was in this country and with this freedom that men were able to study the scripture truthfully and openly, and come to the conclusion that they were not doing what the Bible said. Without fear of persecution, these people were able to preach the Old Jerusalem Gospel. They were able to renounce all creeds and denominational affiliations and just be Christians. They could speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible was silent. They were able to restore the church that Jesus built.

What would the church of Christ look like without the blessing of America? Thank God.

For about 250 years this country has been blessed with prosperity. Because of that prosperity, the church of Christ has been able to aid people all around the world. We have built hospitals and orphan homes in other countries. More importantly, we have been able to send people all throughout the world to share the gospel. We have preaching schools throughout the world that are sending young men into the bush and jungles and right now are preaching the gospel. They can do this because an American missionary was able to collect funds from American Christians to go do a work in another part of the world. Thank God!

Is America perfect? Absolutely not. But how in the world can I be a Christian, and not appreciate the friend that America has been to the cause of Christ.

*Ben Shafer* (lafollettechurchofchrist.com)

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

# Paul's Placement in the Ministry

One of the greatest aspects about which Paul marveled in his own life was the fact that he, “chief” of all sinners, received forgiveness and ministry through Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 1:15-16). In the paragraph that contains these verses, Paul briefly departed from his warning about false teachers (1 Tim. 1:10-11) and exclaimed thankfulness to God for what He had done for him.

*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. (1 Tim. 1:12-16)*

## Jesus Transforms

The words “has enabled...counted...putting” (1 Tim. 1:12) point to a specific time when this reality for Paul occurred. The specific time goes back to the appearance of Jesus to Paul while on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:15-16; 22:14; 26:16-18) and his subsequent conversion in Damascus (Acts 9:6; 22:10, 16; 26:19). Paul mentioned three specific truths for which he was thankful. First, Jesus Christ gave him strength (1 Tim. 1:12a). The word translated “enabled [“strengthened” NAS] means to strengthen or make strong. The word describes Abraham, who was “strengthened in faith” (Rom. 4:20) and the Christian who is to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Eph. 6:10). Paul acknowledged, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). This enabling of the Lord sustained Paul, even toward the end of his life when he wrote from his final imprisonment, “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me...But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear” (2 Tim. 4:16-17). Do we draw strength from the Lord?

Second, Paul was thankful that Jesus Christ “counted...[him] faithful.” The term “faithful” can mean believing but also carries the idea of being trustworthy and reliable. Faithfulness can describe God, as in the case of Sarah, who “received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised” (Heb. 11:11). Even Jesus, who was God in human flesh (John 1:1-3,

14), was said to be “faithful to Him [the Father] who appointed Him [the Son]” (Heb. 3:2).

Faithfulness can also describe people. Paul described Timothy as “my beloved and faithful son in the Lord” (1 Cor. 4:17). In 1 Tim. 1:12, Paul was extremely thankful that Jesus was the One who counted him faithful! This echoes Paul’s statement earlier about “the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust” (1 Tim. 1:11). Jesus knew Paul to be trustworthy and reliable with the Gospel. Can the Lord say that about us? Are we reliable to Him?

Third, Paul was thankful that “Jesus Christ” put him “into the ministry” (1 Tim. 1:12c). The word translated “putting” generally means to place or put but can also carry the sense of making someone something, appointing or assigning one a place (Luke 12:46). Paul used an exact form of this word when he wrote that God “has committed [entrusting ESV] to us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:19). God’s placing Paul into “the ministry” takes us back to Paul’s experience on the Damascus Road and his subsequent conversion in Damascus (Acts 9:1-18). Paul was blinded by a manifestation of the Lord. During that encounter, Paul asked two great questions, “Who are You, Lord?” (Acts 9:5) and “Lord, what do You want me to do?” (Acts 9:6a). Paul, of course, was told, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do” (Acts 9:6b).

Along the way, the Lord told Ananias in a vision to seek Saul of Tarsus and teach him (Acts 9:10-12). In response to Ananias’ concerns about Saul’s reputation, the Lord said, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:15-16). God had a plan! God’s placing Paul into “the ministry” also emphasized that Paul was not a “self-appointed” apostle who was in a position to arrogantly brag. It is also interesting to note that Paul spoke of his appointment to “ministry” [“service” ASV] rather than to “apostleship.” Yes, Paul was an apostle, just as legitimate as the rest (Gal. 1:10–2:14), but here he emphasized the service aspect of his work. Are you a servant of the Most High God?

All Christians have been transformed by the will of God and the blood of Jesus Christ. Although our conversion and ministry are obviously not like Paul’s in every way, we should still be thankful for the transformation of life God effected through our obedience to the Gospel. This new status for Paul was all the more remarkable when considering who he was before conversion.

## Jesus Targets

(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/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

<b>July 5</b>	<b>Deut. 21—22; Psalm 4</b>
<b>July 6</b>	<b>Deut. 23—24; Psalm 5</b>
<b>July 7</b>	<b>Deut. 25—26; Psalm 6</b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b>Deut. 27—28; Psalm 7</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Deut. 29—30; Psalm 8</b>
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Deut. 31—32; Psalm 9</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>Deut. 33—34; Psalm 10</b>
<b>July 12</b>	<b>Joshua 1—3; Psalm 11 (video)</b>

*“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 **40** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ The **new state mandate** as of Friday **requires the wearing of face coverings** over the nose and mouth while in a business or other building open to the public. That includes us. We have been getting more lax with handshakes and other contact. Let's be smart and do our part.
- ◆ It is uncertain at this time how the new mandates will affect the Summer Youth Series and/or Senior Camp.
- ◆ **Summer Youth Series** this week is at Dublin (Tuesday, 7:00pm). The lesson will be "King Ahab."
- ◆ If you are visiting with us, welcome! Please fill out the "visitor" side of an attendance card on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the collection plate.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ July 28—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ July 12-17—Senior Camp

(Continued from page 2)

Jesus is able to reach even the vilest of sinners (1 Tim. 1:13). Paul was a "blasphemer" not only by speaking against Christ and His church, but also by forcing others to do the same (Acts 26:11). Paul as a persecutor is well documented in Acts (8:3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-11; cf. Gal. 1:13) and serves as the reason why many in the early church were hesitant in receiving him as a brother in Christ (Acts 9:13-14, 26). "An insolent man" ["injurious" KJV; "a violent aggressor" NAS] refers to one who is violent with the idea of being boldly disrespectful and impudent (Bauer 832). Paul not only opposed Christianity, but he did so violently! However, Paul's former life was targeted with the "super-abundant" grace that was poured upon him that resulted in his present standing before God! Paul "obtained mercy"! This is not teaching some form of unconditional election, but as Paul elsewhere confirmed, "obtaining mercy" from God only comes as a result of being faithful in Him (Rom. 11:30-31; 1 Cor. 7:25; 2 Cor. 4:1).

Additionally, Paul received mercy because he "did it ignorantly in unbelief" (1 Tim. 1:13). This clause is often taken out of context to teach false theories about amenability. This verse does not support the "unaccountable for sin" theory of a sincere sinner outside of Christ! The statement alludes to Numbers 15:23-31, where Moses compared "unintentionally committed" ["committed by ignorance" KJV] sin and "presumptuously" committed sin.

In Judaism, as well as in the New Covenant, there was no atonement for "presumptuous sin" (Num. 15:23-31; cf. Heb. 10:26). Paul mentioned the fact to explain how his life prior to conversion became the object of God's mercy rather than His wrath. Paul acted in "good conscience" while he sinned against Christ (Acts 23:1; 2 Tim. 1:3). Although he was lost, Paul at least thought he was serving God. His main problem was that he did not believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Paul changed his view about Christ on the Damascus Road, and this change of mind ultimately resulted in his obedience to the Gospel. Had Paul been in "presumptuous" sin while persecuting the church of Christ, he never would have come to repentance. No one can have "godly sorrow" while at the same time willfully resisting God (2 Cor. 7:8-11).

### Conclusion

One reason Christ saved Paul was to set him as a "template" for others to follow (1 Tim. 1:16). The word translated "pattern" refers to a prototype, standard or example. God's "longsuffering" is His willingness to forebear the sins of people (Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:8). This willingness has been clearly manifest through the sending of His Son to save even the worst of sinners. If God can save a sinner like Paul and place him in the ministry, then He can save and place into His service any sinner who, like Paul, gives himself or herself over to the Lord! Have we allowed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to target and transform our lives?

Brian Kenyon (Gospel Gazette Online, July 2020, p. 4)

## Celebrate

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

**July Birthdays:** Laura Huckaby (6), Jason Warman (6), Chase Churchwell (11), Cindy Fuller (12), John Barnum (26), Jack Hill (26), Jaye Dennard (27).

**July Anniversaries:** John & Tammie Ross (1).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



## Records

	June 21, 2020	June 28, 2020
Bible Class	42	43
AM Worship	54 + [5]	51 + [9]
PM Worship	35	39 + [6]
Wednesday PM	30 + [10]	35
Contribution	\$2,252	\$1,575

	<b>This Week: 7/5/20</b>	<b>Next Week: 7/12/20</b>		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p align="center"><b>July 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Mike &amp; Patti Bannister</p> <p align="center"><b>August 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      John Barnum  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Maninger Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	—	—		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum, Chase Churchwell Vernon Zier, Rafe Smith	James Fuller*, Dex Dennard Don Smith, Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	—	—		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	James Fuller		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Chase Churchwell		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	July 8 James Fuller	July 15 Rafe Smith	July 22 Don Smith	July 29 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Video

## 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 July 5, 2020

Sunday Class ..... 1 Corinthians 10:31  
 Wed. Class ..... Exodus 16:22

<p align="center"><u>Qualifications of Elders – "Having Faithful Children"</u></p> <p>I. How many children must an elder have?</p> <p>A. The noun used is unmistakably plural.</p> <p>B. How the plural noun "children" is used today – offspring (one or many).</p> <p>C. How the plural noun "children" was used in the Bible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider Genesis 21:7; 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 9-10.</li> <li>2. "Children" can be used in the Bible to refer to an only child or to multiple children.</li> </ol> <p>II. Do they ever cease to be your "children"?</p> <p>A. Some people cling to the notion that "once they leave your house, they are no longer under your control."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If they cease being faithful, they don't count against you anymore.</li> <li>2. If this is true, if they remain faithful, they don't count for you either.</li> <li>3. Thus, no man whose children have left home is qualified to be an elder.</li> </ol> <p>B. Look again at 1 Timothy 5: They are still considered her children, though they have grown and left home to start their own families.</p> <p>III. An elder must "have his children in subjection" (1 Tim. 3:4).</p> <p>A. The man who would be an elder must take seriously his responsibility towards raising his children ("with all reverence" [dignity]).</p> <p>B. His children must be "in subjection" to him.</p> <p>IV. An elder must have "faithful children" ["children that believe"] (Tit. 1:6). There are three main arguments regarding this qualification.</p> <p>A. The elder must have children who have become Christians.</p> <p>B. The elder must have children who are faithful Christians. (The proper interpretation.)</p> <p>C. The elder's children must be faithful to him (submissive to his authority).</p> <p>V. Must every one of his children be faithful Christians?</p> <p>A. If all of a man's children cease being faithful as adults, there is no doubt, that man is not qualified to be an elder.</p> <p>B. If most of a man's children remain faithful Christians, it reflects positively on his leadership and emphasis of spiritual things.</p> <p>The character trait from "children in submission" is one of leadership.                      The character trait from "having faithful children" is how much emphasis he places on God's word in his life and how he teaches it to others.</p>	<p align="center"><u>The Life of Christ – Introduction: The World into Which Christ Came (Part 2)</u></p> <p>I. The Land of Palestine.</p> <p>A. "Canaan" was now known as "Palestine" (though not used in the NT).</p> <p>B. Three provinces were prominent in the life of Christ, all west of the Jordan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Judea:</b> Frequently visited by Jesus – especially during feast days.</li> <li>2. <b>Samaria:</b> Home of the "Samaritans"; Jesus sometimes passed through Samaria on His way north or south.</li> <li>3. <b>Galilee:</b> Where Jesus spent most of His life.</li> </ol> <p>C. Other areas are also significant in the life of Christ.</p> <p>II. Other Changes.</p> <p>A. <b>Change of Name:</b> Israelites now predominately called "Jews."</p> <p>B. <b>Changes in Language.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aramaic gradually replaced Hebrew as the common language of the Jews.</li> <li>2. The universal language was Greek; the official language was Latin.</li> </ol> <p>C. <b>Changes in Occupation.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Before the Captivity, the Jews had been primarily farmers and herdsmen.</li> <li>2. By the time of Jesus, many were businessmen and skilled tradesmen.</li> </ol> <p>D. <b>Changes in Worship.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The temple in Jerusalem was still important to the Jews.</li> <li>2. However, the synagogue was the heart of religious life among the Jews.</li> </ol> <p>E. <b>Changes in Religious Leadership.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the OT, the priests were the recognized religious leaders.</li> <li>2. Other leadership had emerged by NT times: Rabbis, scribes, Sanhedrin.                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All of these desired to maintain the status quo / their authority.</li> <li>b. These became Jesus' greatest foes.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>III. The Rise of Sectarianism.</p> <p>A. <b>The Pharisees.</b></p> <p>B. <b>The Sadducees.</b></p> <p>C. <b>Other Sects:</b> Herodians, Zealots, Essenes.</p> <p>IV. Messianic Expectations.</p> <p>A. The Jews were eagerly looking for God's Messiah.</p> <p>B. Yet, "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him" (Jn. 1:11).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He did not fit the Jews' preconceived concept of the Messiah.</li> <li>2. The Messiah would grow up "as a root out of dry ground" (Isa. 53:2).</li> </ol>
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