

# 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



August 23, 2020

## Contact Us:

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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

## God's Divine Power (Part 1 of 3)

2 Peter 1:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

It is by God's divine power that His "all inspired Word" has been given, which in turn gives us the teaching and instruction we need to not only know the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5-11), but how to attain them and live by God's holy revealed will.

The word "**divine**" means "godlike...divinity, divine, godhead." Thayer says it was used by "the Greeks to denote the divine nature...without reference to any individual deity" (p.285). Arndt & Gingrich says: "of the godhead and everything that belongs to it, ...of that which exceeds the bounds of human or earthly possibility, *supernatural*" (p.354). According to Wuest, "Paul uses it in Acts 17:29 and Romans 1:20, and in both places he uses it to speak of the attributes of God, or of God seen from the standpoint of his attributes. In view of 2 Peter 1:3, Peter uses it to describe the power of God, *dunamis*, 'that which overcomes resistance, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature' (Vol. II, p.19).

The Greek word translated divine is used three times in the New Testament. In Acts 17:29 it is translated *godhead* where it is applied to God's deity (divinity) and is put in contrast to the false gods of man's imagination (which are no gods at all). There is nothing divine about them. The other two times is found in 2 Peter 1:3-4. It is translated *divine* where it is used in connection with God's divine power and God's divine nature. It emphasizes the God of all creation as the only living and true God (1 Thess. 1:9). It emphasizes His supernatural power and underscores His eternal attributes, His characteristics, His nature.

Companion Greek words are found in Romans 1:20 where the Holy Spirit speaks of God's "*eternal power and godhead*." Colossians 2:9 reveals that in Christ "*dwelleth all the fulness of the godhead bodily*."

God's divine "**power**" (2 Pet. 1:3) is the word *dunamis*. It is found 120 times in the Greek New Testament and is translated by several different words: power (77 times), mighty work, strength, miracle, might, virtue, mighty, wonderful work, ability, worker of miracles, meaning, mighty deed, mightily, violence, abundance. It is the word we often mention from Romans 1:16 where Paul said, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*." Power is the word from which we derive our English word "dynamite." God's word is dynamite, powerful, not in the sense of the destruction that results from an explosion, but in the sense of its energy, force, potency, strength, commanding, influential.

## False and True "Divine"

The English word *divine* is used often throughout the Old Testament in reference to witchcraft and sorcery which includes the false gods of the heathen and all that

(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)

oppose Jehovah. In speaking of false prophets and hirelings we read, “The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof **divine** for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us” (Micah 3:11). Ezekiel 3:6-9 speaks of false prophets whose words are “...**vanity and lying divination**, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: ... Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a **lying divination**, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I [God] have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD. And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that **divine lies**: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel...” (Ezek. 13:9, 23; 21:29).

The Lord God Jehovah is the true divine. All that oppose him will come to naught along with their deeds. God made plain to Israel when they entered the land of Canaan that all that used or claimed divine powers were to be destroyed. “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth **divination**, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do” (Deut. 18:9-14).

King Saul had attempted to obey God according to the instructions in Deuteronomy 18 for we read, “And Saul had put away those that had **familiar spirits**, and the **wizards**, out of the land” (1 Sam. 28:3). Yet, when facing a battle with the Philistines, it is recorded: “Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a **familiar spirit**, that I may go to her, and inquire of her. And his servants said to

him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a **familiar spirit** at En-dor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, **divine** unto me by the **familiar spirit**, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have **familiar spirits**, and the **wizards**, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die” (1 Sam. 28:7-9)?

Jehovah is the only true and living God —He and He alone is divine. God declared through Isaiah: “I am the LORD, and **there is none else, there is no God beside me...**” (45:5). The Psalmist said, “My soul thirsteth for God, for the **living God**... My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the **living God**” (Ps. 42:2; 84:2). “But the LORD is the **true God**, he is the **living God**, and an **everlasting king**: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation” (Jer. 10:10). “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (Deut. 32:4). “As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him” (Ps. 18:30).

The apostle John records a scene he witnessed which speaks of God’s divinity in Revelation 15:3-4: “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

It is the true God who made all living things. “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Ps. 100:3). “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good” (Num. 23:19; cf. 1 Sam. 15:29)?

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, July 2020, p. 50-51)

### 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/)

**Aug. 23** 1 Kings 21—22; Psalm 53

**Aug. 24** 2 Kings 1—4; Psalm 54

**Aug. 25** 2 Kings 5—8; Psalm 55

**Aug. 26** 2 Kings 9—12; Psalm 56

**Aug. 27** 2 Kings 13—16; Psalm 57

**Aug. 28** 2 Kings 17—19; Psalm 58

**Aug. 29** 2 Kings 20—22; Psalm 59

**Aug. 30** 2 Kings 23—25; Psalm 60

“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 **30** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ Ladies! The elders said the church will cover the registration fee for any members who wish to attend the **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**, October 1-3. You can register online at [www.texasladiesinchrist.org/register](http://www.texasladiesinchrist.org/register). Register soon, as it fills up fast!
- ◆ 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

- ◆ October 11-14—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Denny Wilson
- ◆ **Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow**
- ◆ Sept. 6-7—Personal Evangelism Seminar @ Hico. See flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Oct. 1-3—Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat. More information on bulletin board.

## The Sin of Division!

The sweet psalmist of Israel wrote: *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”* (Ps. 133:1). On the other hand, there is absolutely nothing and I mean nothing, more heart wrenching than division in the body of Christ! The very thought of dividing the precious body of Christ tightens the stomach muscles, a lump forms in the throat, knees almost buckle and a big “Oh no!” quickly races through our thoughts! As Nathan told David, *“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme”* (2 Sam. 12:14). Of course, the “deed” is not the same, but the principle has great application to the consequences of dividing the body of Christ!

The one behind all division is Satan! *“Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet. 5:8). One of the devices of Satan is dividing the body of Christ. We must always remember, Satan is never asleep nor takes a day off. He is constantly at work through his arsenal of *“the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”* (1 Jn. 2:16).

The servant of old wrote, *“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren”* (Prov. 6:16-19).

Concerning division and its consequences, Jesus said, *“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand”* (Mt. 12:25).

Brethren need to greatly heed the inspired warning from Paul, *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”* (Gal. 4:30-32). *“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then. Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* (Gal. 5:15-16).

Division in the body (church) of Christ hampers our efforts to evangelize the world. Division creates doubt and promotes allegiances to men and not Christ. Division promotes the “lust of the flesh.” Division is the exaltation of pride. Division sets aside love. Division unleashes the deadly tongue.

Friends, there can be no more serious matter than that of dividing the body of Christ. It is “an abomination” —detestable, disgusting and loathing—in the sight of God! Whenever a split occurs the consequences continue to live well beyond the life-span of the disputants! Think about that!

*Ivie Powell* (Seek the Old Paths, July 2020, p. 51)

## Celebrate

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

**August Birthdays:** Rafe Smith (11), Don Smith (14), Royce Ford (16), Deacon Dennard (17), Ryan Rudloff (20), **Roy Dodson (29)**, Coyce Reed (30).

**August Anniversaries:** Matthew & Kaci Churchwell (15), Terry & Pam Teague (16), **Don & Darlene Smith (29)**.

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

## Records

	Aug. 9, 2020	Aug. 16, 2020
Bible Class	39	39
AM Worship	44 + [6]	42 + [2]
PM Worship	33 + [2]	37 + [3]
Wednesday PM	36	29
Contribution	\$1,484	\$2,701



	This Week: 8/23/20	Next Week: 8/30/20			
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><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> <p><b>September 2020</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      James Fuller  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      John Barnum Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John Barnum Family</p>		
<b>Greeters</b>	—	—			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Gene Bannister			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller*, Chase Churchwell Don Smith, Rafe Smith	Ken Maninger*, James Fuller Dex Dennard, Randy Huckaby			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dex Dennard	Don Smith			
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	—	—			
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox			
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Chase Churchwell			
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	—	—			
<b>Communion</b>	James Fuller	Ken Maninger			
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Ryan Rudloff			
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	August 26 Don Smith	September 2 Prayer Night	September 9 John Barnum	September 16 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 August 23, 2020

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 11:30*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Exodus 20:13*

<u>Why God Chose Mary</u>	<u>The Beginning of the Ministry of John the Baptist</u> (Mt. 3:1-12; Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:1-18)
<p>Mothers are special. It is said of "the worthy woman" that, "Her children rise up and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28a).</p> <p>All mothers are blessed; but Mary was especially blessed. Elizabeth said, "Blessed are you among women" (Lk. 1:42). Mary replied, "For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk. 1:48). Of all the Jewish women living at that time, God chose Mary to be the mother of His Son. Why? What was special about her?</p> <p><b>I. She Was Not Afraid to Use Her Mind.</b></p> <p>A. Mary was "troubled" by the angel's statement, but, rather than panicking, she "considered [pondered] what manner of greeting this was" (Lk. 1:29).</p> <p>B. Later, she "pondered" over the events surrounding Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:19).</p> <p><b>II. She Was a Godly Woman:</b> "...you have found favor with God" (Lk. 1:30).</p> <p><b>III. She Believed in God – And in His Power.</b></p> <p>A. Mary never questions whether the things the angel spoke of would be; she only asks "How ... since I do not know a man?" (Lk. 1:34).</p> <p>B. She did not ask for a sign, though the angel gave her one.</p> <p><b>IV. She Had a Humble Spirit:</b> "Behold the maidservant of the Lord!" (Lk. 1:38a).</p> <p><b>V. She Was Submissive to the Will of God:</b> "Let it be to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38b).</p> <p><b>VI. She Knew the Scriptures:</b> Twelve Old Testament passages are reflected in her words of praise (Lk. 1:46-55).</p> <p><b>VII. She Was Brave and Courageous.</b></p> <p>A. Mary faced many hardships in life, including the awesome responsibility of raising God's own Son, and the knowledge that "a sword will pierce through your own soul also" (Lk. 2:35).</p> <p>B. Only a brave woman could have faced – and met – those challenges.</p> <p><b>VIII. She Was Willing to Accept Responsibility.</b></p> <p><b>IX. She Expressed Confidence in Her Son:</b> "Whatever He says to you, do it" (Jn. 2:5).</p> <p><b>X. She Was Concerned About the Welfare of Others.</b></p> <p><b>XI. She Was Faithful to Her Task to the End.</b> To the cross (Jn. 19:25-27), and beyond (Acts 1:14).</p> <p>These characteristics will help anyone to be used by God in His service. Have you said to the Lord, "Let it be to me according to your word?"</p>	<p><b>I. Setting the Stage</b> (Mk. 1:1; Lk. 3:1-2).</p> <p>A. Mark has no formal introduction; he burst on the scene with a series of essays which set the stage for Jesus' ministry: An Old Testament quotation, the preaching of John, and the baptism and temptation of Jesus.</p> <p>B. Luke nails this narrative into history with specific leaders.</p> <p><b>II. John's Ministry</b> (Mt. 3:1-6; Mk. 1:2-6; Lk. 3:3-6).</p> <p>A. With the coming of John, Messianic prophecies begin to fall into place.</p> <p>B. The prophets had foretold that one would come before the Messiah to prepare the way for Him (Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6).</p> <p>C. Mark called John's ministry "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mk. 1:1).</p> <p><b>III. John's Message</b> (Mt. 3:7-12; Mk. 1:7-8; Lk. 3:7-18).</p> <p>A. Regarding the need for change, John dealt not in generalities, but in specifics in his preaching.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He told people to "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Mt. 3:8).</li> <li>2. He gave explicit examples,</li> <li>3. In spite of his audacity – or perhaps because of it – John attracted a sizeable following.</li> </ol> <p>B. Baptism was an indispensable part of John's ministry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John's baptism was unique.</li> <li>2. John baptized people in the Jordan River.</li> <li>3. John's baptism was an immersion.</li> <li>4. John's baptism was called "a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" (Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3).</li> </ol> <p>C. John's basic purpose was to prepare people's hearts and lives for the Messiah (see Jn. 3:28).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He told the crowds, "He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry" (Mt. 3:11; see Jn. 1:27, 30).</li> <li>2. He made a contrast between his work and that of the Christ: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance.... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Mt. 3:11).</li> </ol>