

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



November 7, 2021

Contact Us:

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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 N/A
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

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

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

When Does Life Begin?

Legally in the USA since the Roe v. Wade ruling by the US Supreme Court in 1973, human life does not begin and is not lawfully protected until the time of a live birth. Abortions of unborn babies were legalized in the United States. Contrariwise, "under state law [Florida], destroying a **sea turtle** nest or **eggs** is a third-degree felony, punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine and/or five years in prison." "What is the penalty for destroying an **eagle egg**? Penalties include a maximum of five years and \$250,000 fine for felony convictions and a maximum \$10,000 fine for civil violations and \$250 for marking violations. Fines double for organizations. Rewards are provided for information leading to arrest and conviction." How odd it is that **turtles** and **eagles** are actually turtles and eagles and aggressively protected by law **before they're hatched** (comparable to a live birth), but **unborn babies** are neither recognized as humans nor protected by law **before they are born**! What could be more ludicrous and inequitable than that? Hardly any other conduct than aborting unborn babies more clearly demonstrates what the apostle Paul called "*without natural affection*" (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3); the single Greek word rendered "*without natural affection*" "means hard-hearted towards kindred."

September 1, 2021, the State of Texas banned abortions in its jurisdiction whenever a fetal heart-beat can be detected—generally at six weeks. This relates to the question, "When does life begin?" For Texas, until some judge or court overrules that state's law, life **legally** begins when an unborn baby's heart begins to beat.

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973 legalized abortions in the United States through 2018, there were an estimated 62,502,904 legal abortions in the USA. "California, Maryland, and New Hampshire have never provided data to this reporting process [to the CDC]... meaning that the real total of abortions is likely higher. Other states have also periodically chosen not to submit reports...." World-wide, January 1 through October 29, 2021, there have been an estimated 35,177,176 abortions.

Actually, neither the US Supreme Court nor the State of Texas determines when life begins. Instead, Almighty God, through the Bible, already determined when life begins, and He is not subject to censure by judges, courts or laws in the USA or elsewhere in the world. (Nevertheless, we commend Texans for defending unborn babies to the extent they can in a perverse political and social climate.)

When Is a Baby a Baby?

For centuries, the expression "you are with child" (Gen. 16:11) has meant "you are pregnant." No one ever suspected that an expectant mother was carrying within her a donkey, some other animal, a vegetable, a rock or merely some parasitic tissue. Historically, people were sufficiently informed and honest enough to admit that pregnancy involves a mother and her unborn **baby**. Permitted to continue to full term, pregnancy always results in the birth (live or not) of a **baby** human being. "...The only difference in a babe in the womb and one born is the way he eats and breathes...." "The difference between the unborn and the newly born is simply a matter of age and environment, not of essence."

Babies grow, whether in the womb or after birth. In fact, all of life from conception until one breathes his last is an ongoing life. Ecclesiastes 11:5 illustrates this with a reference to growth in the womb. "*As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.*"

The fact that God called for the death penalty for the death of an unborn child shows that He makes no distinction between the unborn or the newborn baby.

If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. (Exodus 21:22-25)

Isaiah 49:1, 5 prophetically picture the Messiah named and being called to His duties by God "*from the womb.*" Likewise, in Jeremiah 1:5, God said, "...**Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.**" By inspiration, David wrote of his existence while growing in his mother's womb, as well as God's acknowledgement by writing about it in His book of the living (Ps. 139:13-16). Job 3:16 describes unborn babies as "*infants,*" a word meaning "suckling," hence, making no distinction between babies before and after they are born. Job, in 10:18, wished that he had never been born – longing to have died in the womb. "*Why did you*

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bring me out from the womb? Would that I had **died** before any eye had seen me.” Obviously, then, life begins in the womb – before birth. The unborn baby is alive as much as the newborn baby is alive, too; they’re both baby humans.

Samson was declared to be a Nazarite from before his birth while he was in his mother’s womb (Judg. 13:5, 7). Similarly, John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit “from his mother’s womb” (Lk. 1:15), and he was referred to as a “babe” – meaning, “infant” – before he was born (Lk. 1:41).

The Greek *brephos* is translated as “babe” twice in Luke 1:41, 44 where it refers to an **unborn child** (John the Baptist). Elsewhere, *brephos* again is translated as “babe” where it refers to a *newborn child* (Jesus Christ; Lk. 2:12, 16). In Acts 7:19, *brephos* is translated as “babies.” The same Greek word appears as “infants” in Luke 18:15 and as “childhood” in 2 Timothy 3:15. *Brephos* refers alike to unborn babies, newborns or young children, making no distinction between them. The definition of *brephos* bears this out. “*Brephos*... an unborn child, embryo, fetus: Lk. 1:41, 44... b. a new-born child, an infant, a babe... Lk. 2:12, 16; 18:15; Acts 7:19; 1 Pet. 2:2... from infancy, 2 Tim 3:15.” Babies are babies whether unborn or newborn; *brephos* applies to both.

The Magnitude of Abortion

“... There are far more lives taken in one year by abortion than lives lost in all of America’s wars.” Abortions continue to outpace every other cause of death in the USA. In 2011, there were 1,058,000 recorded abortions in America, whereas in 2017 there were 862,000 recorded instances of abortion. The number one killer is neither war nor heart disease (659,041), cancer (599,601) or accidents (173,040), but abortions lead every other cause of death.

Not to diminish at all the atrocity of the millions of Jews, Poles and others who were murdered by Nazi Germany in WWII, an astronomically greater number of babies are murdered annually around the world. Neither downplaying the murder of infants around Bethlehem ordered by King Herod 2,000 years ago (Mt. 2:16), the number of babies murdered in the first dozen years after Roe v. Wade exceeded the population of New York City; would anyone have noticed or objected had the entire population of New York City been killed over a 12-year period?

“According to the June 5, 1978 issue of Newsweek, 106,000 abortions are performed in America every month. More lives are ended in seven months in this fashion than in the 200 years history of wars in America, which has claimed 667,286 lives.” “Each day in America [1977] 3,500 human lives are put to death” through abortions. “... Every day in our own nation in 1978, 3,500 human lives are taken in our own ‘Holocaust’... 24,500 a week, 98,000 a month, 1,176,000 a year.”

The #1 killer is not war. The #1 killer is abortion! In the nine wars and 198 years since 1775, there have been 667,286 American battle deaths. In 1972 alone, 600,000 American babies were killed by abortion. More than a

murder-a-minute for each of the 525,600 minutes in the year. In 1972 alone, more babies were killed by “legal” abortion in California than were American servicemen killed in the Vietnam, Korean, Spanish, Mexican, 1812 and Revolutionary wars put together. In war, the medical corps save lives. In abortion, the medical profession kills lives.

The Overreach of Abortion

Typically, parental permission must be obtained for minor children to have their ears pierced. However, a minor daughter can obtain an abortion not only without parental consent but even without parental knowledge. On July 1, 1976, the United States Supreme Court ruled that minor daughters may obtain abortions without their parents’ consent and that married women may obtain abortions without the consent of the unborn child’s father. Consider the following plausible interchange between a judge and a young girl. Girl: “Can I smoke?” Judge: “No!” Girl: “Can I drink?” Judge: “No!” Girl: “Can I drive?” Judge: “No!” Girl: “Can I vote?” Judge: “No!” Girl: “Can I have an abortion?” Judge: “Yes!”

The following interchange could occur at your daughter’s school. Nurse: “You want a what?” Girl: “An abortion.” Nurse: “Oh, thank goodness! For a minute I thought you said you wanted an aspirin. I would have to get your parents’ consent for that.”

Not only have judges and courts, in addition to legislation, *permitted* abortion on demand throughout the United States of America, but they can *order* abortions to take place. In 1999, “a judge has ordered state child welfare officials to take a 14-year-old girl who is 23 weeks pregnant out of the state for an abortion banned in Arizona.” Let all of this sink in for a moment and visualize to what extent lawmakers and judiciaries could interfere with your family.

The Impact of Abortion

“The present abortion controversy represents the collision of two opposing world views – one essentially pagan and the other Christian.” Abortion on demand corresponds to a godless society nourished for over a century on evolutionary theory, which dethrones God and devalues His Holy Word. Hence, gone is divinely defined morality, and in its place every sort of evil and crime has arisen – including abortions to address the fruits of immoralities. The minds and the hearts of the masses have been wrested from the tender and loving hand of God and freely gifted to Satan.

The following hypothetical conversation also illustrates a material consequence of abortion. Man: “God! Why haven’t you sent us people with cures for Aids, cancer, world hunger, and all our social problems?” God: “I did.” Man: “But, where are they?” God: “You aborted them!”

Made in the Image of God

God made you and me, beginning with our earliest moments in the respective wombs of our mothers. “*Did You not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese, Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews?*” (Job 10:10-11).

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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/

Nov. 7 Jer. 19-21; Psalm 127 (video)

Nov. 8 Jeremiah 22-24; Psalm 128

Nov. 9 Jeremiah 25-27; Psalm 129

Nov. 10 Jeremiah 28-30; Psalm 130

Nov. 11 Jeremiah 31-33; Psalm 131

Nov. 12 Jeremiah 34-36; Psalm 132

Nov. 13 Jeremiah 37-39; Psalm 133

Nov. 14 Jeremiah 40-42; Psalm 124

“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 **28** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ We will be beginning a **new study Wednesday evening** on **“Biblical Interpretation.”** It should be a very informative and challenging class.
- ◆ **Dru Wilson** has a **new phone number**—(325) 430-0019.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 13-16—**Spring Gospel Meeting** w/ Jon McCormack.

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Mar. 3-6—PTP Spark @ Round Rock. Info on bulletin board. If you would like to go, it is recommended that you sign up soon.

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Humans are made in the (spiritual) image of God (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6), and therefore, God forbids murder (Ex. 20:13; Rom. 13:9; Rev. 21:8). God finds abominable anyone who sheds *“innocent blood”* (Pr. 6:17), and for sure, all those involved in abortions – medical professionals, women and family members, and religious people who are supportive of killing innocent unborn children – will encounter an angry God once this life is over. “Every human life is innately sacred....”

When Does Life Begin?

In 1966, Herbert Ratner, M.D. wrote, “It is now of unquestionable certainty that a human being comes into existence precisely at the moment when the sperm combines with the egg. How do we know this? From everything we know about genetics.”

This review of the current medical status of the unborn serves us several purposes. Firstly, it shows conclusively the humanity of the fetus by showing that human life is a continuum which commences in the womb. There is no magic in birth. The child is as much a child in those several days before birth as he is those several days after birth. The maturation process, commenced in the womb, continues through the post-natal period, infancy, adolescence, maturity and old age.

“...Life begins at conception...spiritually, biologically, genetically, and physiologically.” “When does life actually begin? The answer, quite simply, is that it begins at conception. When the male and female gametes join to form the zygote that eventually will grow into the fetus, it is at that very moment that the formation of a new body begins.”

1. The baby’s heart starts beating 18-25 days after conception.
2. By the age of two months, the heart beats so strongly that a doctor actually can listen to it with a Doppler stethoscope.
3. At about this same time, brain activity can be recorded by use of an electroencephalogram. Brain waves are readily apparent.
4. By the age of two months, everything is “in place” – feet, hands, head, organs, etc. Upon close examination, fingerprints are evident. Although less than an inch long, the embryo has a head with eyes and ears, a simple digestive system, kidneys, liver, a heart that beats, a bloodstream of its own, and the beginning of a brain.
5. The unborn child hiccups, sucks his or her thumb, wakes, and sleeps.
6. The unborn child responds to touch, pain, cold, sound, and light.

Abortion may be legally right, but it most certainly is morally wrong—sinful! Though the word “abortion” doesn’t appear in the Bible, the child of God is not without divine direction in this matter. “The Bible is clear: Recognizable human life begins in the womb!” Human life commences at the point of conception. No one – even so-called pro-choice advocates – can escape the reality that abortion involves the taking of an innocent human life. To claim otherwise in this advanced age of medical science pretends ignorance and evidences dishonesty. Practicing Christians will do the right thing. Advocate for justice for the unborn with educational information (especially in our families and in church families) and through our right to vote for pro-life candidates.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Nov. 2021 [references available in original])

Celebrate

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

Records

	Oct. 24, 2021	Oct. 31, 2021
Bible Class	46	42
AM Worship	56 + [10]	46 + [6]
PM Worship	39 + [6]	40 + [10]
Wednesday PM	32 + [7]	31 + [9]
Contribution	\$1,961	\$1,899



	This Week: 10/31/21	Next Week: 11/7/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2021 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Barnum Clean Building: Reed December 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Fuller Clean Building: McCaghren	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Dex Dennard	John Barnum		
Communion	Randy Huckaby, Daniel Edwards Chase Churchwell, Kyle Duaine	Dex Dennard, Don Smith James Fuller, Coyce Reed		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Mike Bannister	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Randy Huckaby	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Chase Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 10 James Fuller	November 17 Dex Dennard	November 24 Don Smith	December 1 Prayer Night

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 November 7, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 1:5
 Wed. Class Biblical Interpretation: Introduction

<p>The Case for the Inspiration of the Bible (Part 2): The Bible's Claims for Its Own Inspiration</p> <p>The first question that should be asked of any book for which inspiration is claimed is: Does the book itself claim to be inspired? When it comes to the Bible, that question can be answered in the affirmative.</p> <p><i>"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).</i></p> <p><i>"...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:20-21).</i></p> <p><i>"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor. 2:12-13).</i></p> <p>There are over 2,700 statements in the Old Testament alone which make direct claim that the Bible is the Word of God.</p> <p>What do we mean by the word "inspired"? The Latin root means "to breathe upon or into" something. The word implies an influence from without that has the ability to produce effects that are beyond natural powers. Theologically, "inspiration" is used for the condition of <i>being directly under divine influence</i>. The process of Biblical inspiration is what we call Verbal, Plenary Inspiration. "Verbal" – every word in the Bible is there because God permitted it by the direction of the Holy Spirit. "Plenary" – each and every part of the Bible is inspired, with nothing having been omitted. (Not dictation. Allows personality.) Several other points should be clarified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an important difference between <i>revelation</i> and <i>inspiration</i>. • Uninspired people frequently received revelation in Bible times. • The fact that a person wrote by inspiration does not mean that he was free from personal sin in his life. • Inspiration was not a 24-hour-a-day process. • Inspiration extended to a variety of different subjects. • Not only did the Bible writers view each others' works as inspired, but no Bible writer ever criticized another. 	<p>Teaching on Physical and Spiritual Blindness (John 9:1-41)</p> <p>I. The Blind Man Healed by Jesus (9:1-7).</p> <p>A. <i>Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth</i> (1).</p> <p>B. <i>"Rabbi, who sinned ... that he was born blind?"</i> (2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>"This man,"</i> causing his own blindness as punishment from God? 2. <i>"His parents,"</i> and God was visiting their sin on the next generation? 3. <i>"Neither ... but that the works of God should be revealed in him"</i> (3). <p>C. <i>He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man.... "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." So he went and washed, and came back seeing</i> (6-7).</p> <p>II. The Blind Man Examined by His Neighbors (9:8-12).</p> <p>A. <i>"How were your eyes opened?"</i> (8).</p> <p>B. <i>"Where is He?"</i> (12).</p> <p>III. The Blind Man Examined by the Pharisees (9:13-34).</p> <p>A. <i>Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes</i> (14).</p> <p>B. <i>"What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" ... "He is a prophet"</i> (17).</p> <p>C. <i>"Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner"</i> (24).</p> <p>D. <i>"Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see"</i> (25).</p> <p>E. <i>"What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"</i> (26).</p> <p>F. <i>"I told you already.... Do you also want to become His disciples?"</i> (27).</p> <p>G. <i>And they cast him out</i> (34b).</p> <p>IV. Jesus Calls the Blind Man to Belief (9:35-38).</p> <p>A. <i>"Do you believe in the Son of God [Man]?"</i> (35).</p> <p>B. <i>"Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"</i> (36).</p> <p>C. <i>"You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you"</i> (37).</p> <p>D. <i>"Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him</i> (38).</p> <p>V. Jesus Condemns the Pharisees' Blindness (9:39-41).</p> <p>A. <i>"For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind"</i> (39).</p> <p>B. <i>"Are we blind also?"</i> (40).</p> <p>C. <i>"If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains"</i> (41).</p>
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