

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 14, 2021

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
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.

Faithfulness Brings Victory

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus is addressing the seven churches of Asia. In verse 10 of chapter 2, he's dealing specifically with the church at **Smyrna**. He said, "*Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*" (Rev. 2:10). The faithfulness under consideration here was required in light of severe persecution. As a matter of fact, keeping it in the proper context, what he was actually telling them was to be faithful up to and including, if need be, a death of martyrdom for what they believed. He would give them a crown — eternal life, the glory of which is beyond man's ability to describe.

Someone comes along and says, "I am so thankful we live in a day and time when there is no persecution for fidelity to Christ." However, do you remember what the apostle Paul told Timothy? "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*" (2 Tim. 3:12). Human need has not changed since the transgression of Adam. The attitude of the world remains exactly the same towards the inerrant, unbending, unchanging truth of Jesus Christ. The question that may need to be asked by some is this. Is it possible that I may have backed off just a bit to be more acceptable to the general populous, and maybe because of that, I don't suffer persecution?

Jesus made the following statement while delivering what is often referred to as the sermon on the mount, "*Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you*" (Matt. 5:11-12). He also said, "*Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets*" (Luke 6:26). As a matter of fact, when you advance three verses in Revelation 2, to the letter to the church in **Pergamum**, you will observe he commends their fidelity, even in the face of the death of Antipas "*my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth*" (Rev. 2:13).

Even in the midst of idolatry, immorality, and ungodliness, Antipas maintained his fidelity to the Lord and continued to be faithful. Are we like Antipas? Can the Lord commend our lives?

Faithfulness in all aspects of one's life is essential in order to reach heaven someday.

I want to mention three very important areas in which we must strive to be faithful.

Faithful to the Word of God

In the book of Proverbs, we read, "*Every word of God [is] pure: he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar*" (Prov. 30:5-6). Not only is every word of God tried, but every word of God is written. The sum total of divine revelation is inspired, totally authoritative, and is written down. Paul mentions this fact when writing to Timothy, "*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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

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We also read of what was said of the Bereans, “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*” (Acts 17:11).

We should have that same attitude towards examining the Scriptures as those Bereans did. The truth says to you exactly what it says to me. What God has said in one place is in perfect harmony with what he has said in another place. It is the sum of his commandments that comprise the truth. Jesus said, “*...If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:31-32). Paul wrote, “*Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ*” (Eph. 3:4).

Paul mentions the fact that we are to study God’s word when he wrote, “*Study (ASV, give diligence) to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (ASV, handling aright) the word of truth*” (2 Tim. 2:15).

The apostle Peter wrote, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Pet. 4:11). We are to speak as the oracles of God. We need to continually examine, in light of God’s word, what others say. That is the only true measure or guide we have.

The Word of God is certainly powerful. The writer of Hebrews mentions that fact when he wrote, “*For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart*” (Heb. 4:12). It is indeed a living word. And, according to Luke 8:11, it is the seed of the kingdom.

Do you remember Paul’s instructions to Timothy? “*I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the*

truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:1-8).

At all times, and in every situation, the word of God must be preached in its simplicity, in its completeness, and in its purity, without any addition, subtraction, alteration, or substitution (cf. Rev. 22:18-19).

Faithful In Our Service to the Lord

Jesus said, “*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing*” (Matt. 24:45-46).

Paul wrote, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*” (Rom. 12:1-2).

It’s also interesting what the Lord says regarding the matter of service. “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*” (Matt. 6:24).

God commands total commitment. That’s a requirement. Now if we are not careful, we can get involved in too many things. There’s certainly nothing wrong with being involved. God’s people are involved and productive and that’s great. But remember in the book of Ecclesiastes where Solomon mentions things which mankind (then and now) considers to be of highest value: power, wealth, worldly wisdom, and pleasure. He basically described those things as one hugging the wind when he

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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. 14 **Jeremiah 40-42; Psalm 134**

Nov. 15 **Jeremiah 43-45; Psalm 135**

Nov. 16 **Jeremiah 46-48; Psalm 136**

Nov. 17 **Jer. 49-52; Psalm 137 (video)**

Nov. 18 **Lamentations 1-3; Psalm 138**

Nov. 19 **Lamentations 4-5; Psalm 139**

Nov. 20 **Ezekiel 1-3; Psalm 140 (video)**

Nov. 21 **Ezekiel 4-6; Psalm 141 (video)**

“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 **41** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ Our website (4thstreetcoc.org) has been update to within the last couple of weeks, including the gospel meeting lessons.

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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said, “*Vanity of vanities, ...all [is] vanity*” (Eccl. 12:8). Listen to him as he concludes near the end of that chapter, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Eccl. 12:13).

What is our purpose in this life? Well, when you stop to think about it in a practical way, none of us brought anything with us into this world, nor will we be able to take anything when we leave here (1 Tim. 6:7). It was here when we arrived and it belongs to the Lord.

Faithful in Our Stewardship

Paul wrote, “*Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful*” (1 Cor. 4:2). The faithful steward continually seeks to implement, to improve, to increase his talents. In Matthew chapter 25, he deals with the unexpected nature of his return and also stewardship when he delivers the parable of the ten virgins and the parable of the talents. Regarding the latter, he discusses the 5 talent, 2 talent, and 1 talent man. Both the 5 talent man and 2 talent man went out and doubled their talents. But the 1 talent man did not gain other talents but simply kept what he had in safekeeping. When their master returned, they all had to give an account of the talents they had been given. The joyous response to both the 5 talent and 2 talent man was the same “*well done thou good and faithful servant*” (Matt. 25:21, 23). However, the 1 talent man was given a different response entirely because he had done nothing with his talent. The scripture says he was afraid and hid his 1 talent. The Lord’s response to him was, “*thou wicked and slothful servant ... Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*” (Matt. 25:26,30).

We need to remember the mission of the church was not given simply to evangelists, but was given to Christians, all of whom, are evangelists or heralds of truth. And, by our lives, we need to demonstrate its value and gain an audience with our neighbor. May we always be ready, willing, and able to do the work that’s needed in the Lord’s kingdom. May we always strive to look for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel, the good news, with those around us.

Only those who are faithful unto death will indeed receive that crown of life, that eternal home in heaven. Faithfulness to the end brings victory.

Alan Gauger (Seek The Old Paths, Oct. 2021)

Celebrate

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

Records

	Oct. 31, 2021	Nov. 7, 2021
Bible Class	42	35
AM Worship	46 + [6]	43 + [6]
PM Worship	40 + [10]	29 + [9]
Wednesday PM	31 + [9]	26 + [8]
Contribution	\$1,899	\$2,007



Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 11/14/21	Next Week: 11/21/21		
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	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Communion	Dex Dennard, Ryan Settles James Fuller, Coyce Reed	Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Chase Churchwell	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 17 Dex Dennard	November 24 Don Smith	December 1 Prayer Night	December 8 John Barnum

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 14, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 1:9
 Wed. Class **Biblical Interpretation: Translations**

<p>The Case for the Inspiration of the Bible:</p> <p>Evidence to Substantiate the Bible's Claims of Its Own Inspiration</p> <p>Evidence to substantiate the Bible claims of its own inspiration can be drawn from two general sources: <i>External evidences</i> (historical documentation of biblical people, places, and events, or archaeological artifacts that corroborate biblical statements or circumstance), and <i>Internal evidences</i> (self-authenticating facts from within the Bible that bear testimony that the very existence of the Holy Scriptures cannot be explained apart from an overriding, superintending, guiding Mind).</p> <p>I. The Unity of the Bible.</p> <p>A. The Bible exhibits a unity that – on purely human terms – is quite simply inexplicable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Written by more than 40 different men from practically every walk of life. They wrote from almost every conceivable human condition. They wrote in three languages, from at least two continents, over a period of time that spanned approximately 16 centuries. They covered topics as diverse as eschatology, soteriology, theology, psychology, biology, geography, history, medicine, and many others. <p>B. The Bible exhibits such astounding harmony, such consistent flow, and such unparalleled unity that it defies any purely naturalistic explanation.</p> <p>C. So many writers, over so many years, covering so many themes, simply could not have been so harmonious by mere coincidence.</p> <p>D. Each book of the Bible complements the others in a single unified theme.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> From Genesis to Revelation there is a marvelous unfolding of the general theme of man's fall from his holy estate, God's plan for his redemption, the sinless life and atoning death of Jesus Christ, and the ultimate victory of the Christian system. The Bible is the story of one problem (sin), with one solution (Christ). <p>E. Each book of the Bible complements the others in a single, unified plan.</p> <p>II. The Factual Accuracy of the Bible.</p> <p>A. The Bible, if it is indeed the inspired Word of God, should be accurate in whatever subject(s) it discusses. Time and again it has withstood the test.</p> <p>B. Often the writers were separated from one another by centuries, yet their stories dovetail with astounding accuracy.</p>	<p>The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21)</p> <p>I. Allegory of the Good Shepherd and the Thief (10:1-18).</p> <p>A. "I am the door" (7, 9).</p> <p>B. "I am the good shepherd" (11, 14).</p> <p>C. Being in the fold brings certain privileges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Salvation ("he will be saved" [9]). Provision ("will go in and out and find pasture" [9]). Life ("I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" [10]). Redemption ("gives His life for the sheep" [11]). Protection (12-13; by contrast). <p>D. Jesus says the robbers and thieves were "all who ever came before Me" (8).</p> <p>E. As the allegory winds down, Jesus again emphasizes three familiar themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "I am the good shepherd" (11, 14), "I know My sheep and am known by My own (i.e., they know me)" (3, 14), "I lay down My life for the sheep" (11, 15). <p>F. But some new information is added.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus says that His knowledge of the sheep is connected to the Father. We learn that the flock is bigger than the present audience. We read that Jesus' death for the flock was voluntary and temporary. <p>II. Division over Jesus (10:19-21).</p> <p>A. Once more the crowds are divided over Jesus.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some said, "He's crazy" ("He has a demon and is mad"). But others say, "He can't be crazy." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "These are not the words of one who has a demon." "Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" <p>B. Every individual has to make his/her own decision about Jesus.</p>
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