

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



December 5, 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

A Whole, New Way of Life

Christianity is supposed to be a whole, new way of life from what one was prior to becoming a Christian! Obviously, the overt public sinful ways – immoralities, filthy language, drunkenness, lying, addictions, dishonesty – must be replaced with godliness – a whole, new way of life. “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*” (Rom. 6:1-2).

Even good, moral people must exchange their way of living for a whole, new way of life. Yes, though children may be raised by Christian mothers and fathers, they, too, must recognize that Christianity demands of them a whole, new way of life. “There were certain characteristics of the former life that remain no more in the new life in Christ. We, at one time, lived only to fulfill our lustful pleasures. We were led by the spirit of disobedience rather than a spirit of submission. We, indeed, were led about by the course of the world, just like everybody else” (Robison).

Christianity cannot be inherited; sons and daughters must embrace Christianity fully on their own. The conviction and conversion of parents cannot be bestowed upon their offspring. Each child becoming accountable must act out his or her own conviction and conversion. The thrust of the hymn, *True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted*, must resonate within each child of God.

Christian Transformation

How the Christian transformation occurs is clearly manifest in Romans 6:3-6, which reads as follows.

*...as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

The apostle Paul referred to the same activity in 2 Corinthians 5:17 where he penned, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*” These passages refer to the process of the new birth about which Jesus preached. “*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God*” (John 3:5).

The distinction between the old man of sin **before** immersion in water for the remission of sins and the new man **after** Christian baptism is a central theme to the Gospel of Christ. “*...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the **old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the **new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness*” (Eph. 4:22-24). “*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the **old man** with his deeds, and have put on the **new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*” (Col. 3:9-10).

“...Just as Christ died for our sins, we die to sin; as Christ was buried in the grave, we are buried in the waters of baptism; as He was resurrected from the tomb, we are resurrected from the watery grave of baptism to live a new life” (Choate). “We are raised to a new life when, and only when, we are baptized in a proper way. The proper way is by immersion, into Christ, for the remission of sins” (Petty). Besides the Greek definition of the word translated as baptism (which means immersion), the words “*buried with Him in baptism*” (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4) indicate immersion in water.

A number of actions precede Christian baptism. A soul must resort to or hear God’s Word from which one draws Christian faith (Rom. 10:17), repent of past sins (Luke 13:5) and acknowledge or confess Jesus of Nazareth to be the Christ – the Messiah, the Son of God, the Anointed One – (Rom. 10:9-10). Then, Christian baptism is the point at which one’s past sins are forgiven (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21) and he or she is added by our Lord to the body of the saved – the church (Acts 2:47).

Complete Conformity

There is no aspect of one’s life that becoming a Christian does not reorganize according to God’s rule-book, the Bible (specifically for our time – the New Testament). Christianity is supposed to be a **whole, new way of life!** “When a person is baptized into Christ, he dies and is resurrected again to a new life. He comes up out of that water, a new person. He’s supposed to change. The new Christian is supposed to think differently. ...When you were baptized, did you come out and begin living a new life? Or, did you go back to the old one?” (Cozort). “Part of being a Christian is abandoning the things that characterize our old lives and behaving in a manner that is appropriate for a new life” (Price).

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

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Halfhearted Christianity in the lives of many Christians is also completely unacceptable to God (Rev. 3:16). A Christian **harms himself spiritually** (and sometimes physically) by not practicing Christianity wholeheartedly. Further, a Christian **discourages other Christians** by his or her lackadaisical or haphazard practice of Christianity (i.e., it is harder to be a faithful Christian when surrounded by deficient Christians). Unfortunately, halfhearted Christianity in the lives of Christians also **discourages non-Christians** from becoming Christians.

We need to sing more songs more often like *True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted*, and **really mean them** with all of our being. Phrases like “faithful and loyal, King of our lives” need to be **exemplified** by the lives Christians live daily. Phrases like “loving obedience, Freely and joyously” need to be the disposition of Christian minds that **determine** to follow Jesus in everything. Phrases like “Take Thy great power and reign there alone, Over our wills and affections victorious, Freely surrendered and wholly Thine own” need to represent the Christian’s **submissiveness** to the Sovereign of the universe.

The apostle Paul emphasized that Christians must live differently than how the same persons lived prior to becoming Christians. Christians are those who may have been guilty of the most heinous sins, but who through the blood of Jesus Christ have been cleansed from their past sins. For instance, Christians at Corinth had previously been guilty of a wide spectrum of awful sins (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Sinner or saint, whoever commits sins, though commonly practiced by humanity, **will not** enter the eternal kingdom of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21).

Christians simply cannot allow sinfulness to continue as a way of life, expecting that God’s grace and mercy will erase it (Romans 6:1-2). Yes, God’s grace and mercy erases sins from one’s life that cannot be removed in any other way (i.e., with God’s grace and mercy, Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5). However, God’s grace and mercy are only available to obedient souls, imperfect yes, but nevertheless obedient (Hebrews 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 Peter 4:17). Christians must not provide opportunities for temptations in their lives, setting themselves up to fail miserably in sin (Romans 13:14).

Instead, Christians must live sacrificial lives, imitating the greatest sacrifice of all made by Jesus Christ for humanity. Christian lives are to be living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2). We betray our profession to be Christians when we continue to or again live like the ungodly world (1 Pet. 1:14). Not the fleshly lust of men, but the will of God must dominate our minds and direct our actions (1 Pet. 4:2). Christians simply cannot run to the same excess of sinful conduct characteristic of their former lives that is still demonstrated by lost souls everywhere (1 Pet. 4:3-4).

True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted Christians allow Christianity to **consume** their lives. Faithful Christians do not exhibit a guise of Christianity while excusing themselves from thoroughly implementing Christianity in their lives (1 Pet. 2:16). Furthermore, Christianity must be continually practiced, rather than essentially adopting the attitude of once saved always saved.

Jesus Christ Himself condemned pious religious persons who made a mere pretense of being holy and righteous (Matt. 23:14); faithful Christians must be much more than publicly religious. “Many will be rejected because they now fail to take seriously the new life they have been called into. They will not give the more earnest heed to the Word of God. ... We

take our new life seriously by taking the Word of God seriously. The Lord does not regard mere lip-service about respect for His Word” (McDaniel).

Instead, our lives as Christians are to be “*hid with Christ in God*” (Col. 3:3). In consequence of the cross of Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us, as Christians, we are **obligated** to live as though we are dead to sins and living to personify righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:14-17).

There must be an obvious difference between the way faithful Christians live their lives and the ways in which non-Christians live their lives (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15). The ungodly world knows those who are its fellows, and Christians ought not to kid themselves that they are Christ’s if their affections and actions betray them as friends of the ungodly world (John 15:19; 17:14). Faithful Christians no longer pursue ungodliness (Eph. 2:1-3; Jas. 4:4).

Christianity in Action

True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted Christianity demands of Christians that they fully throw themselves into the practice and spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted* Christians actively promote the spread of pure Christianity in any and every way that they possibly can. There is nothing – I repeat, nothing and no one! – on planet earth that ought to mean more to the practicing Christian than glorying in the cross of Christ and all for which it stands (Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:7-11). First, we must not be ashamed to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ or tell it to others (Rom. 1:16).

True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted Christianity is not something that ought to wane with the passing of time or from which we can retire when the years roll in. Though our bodies may slow as we age, inwardly lively Christians grow stronger day by day (2 Cor. 4:16). We do all we can for the cause of Christ until we die or otherwise are completely incapacitated. Even then, as long as one can still think, one can at least pray. Some of God’s most useful servants were senior citizens (e.g., Noah, 500 years old at the flood; Moses, 80 at the Exodus).

Practical Application of Christianity

Christianity hasn’t become important enough to any Christian who has not made the practice of Christianity **a way of life**. Christianity is not some social club with which a person can innocently amuse himself from time to time when he feels like it. For instance, if one’s Christianity is only vibrant on those occasions he congregates for worship and assemblies for Bible classes with other Christians, then his Christianity has no practical application in his life, and his version of Christianity will not transport him from this habitation to an eternal Heaven with God. For one’s Christianity to be of much use in this life and in preparation for eternity, it must be the **driving force**, the **overriding principle** and the **single-mindedness** that governs one’s **every waking moment**.

Truly, one fully converted is no longer the person he or she once was, but the Christian is one whose life has been transformed into something that it was not formerly (Rom. 12:2). To be “*conformed*” is to be fashioned **like something else**, but to be “*transformed*” is to **become something else**. The Greek word for “*transformed*” in Romans 12:2 is *metamorphoo*, from which we have the English word metamorphose, which describes the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

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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/

Dec. 5 Ezekiel 46-48; Proverbs 5
Dec. 6 Daniel 1-3; Proverbs 6 (video)
Dec. 7 Daniel 4-6; Proverbs 7
Dec. 8 Daniel 7-9; Proverbs 8
Dec. 9 Daniel 10-12; Proverbs 9
Dec. 10 Hosea 1-3; Prov. 10 (video)
Dec. 11 Hosea 4-6; Proverbs 11
Dec. 12 Hosea 7-9; Proverbs 12

“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 **44** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **Holiday Party / Game Night, 6:00pm, December 18th**. Bring snack foods and games.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Feb. 24-27—**Arise** (and evangelize) @ Southwest in Austin.
- ◆ 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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When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will not argue with the Lord Who bought him with His life's blood (Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 6:20) but will do what He says without quibbling (Luke 6:46). When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will attend gladly every assembly of the saints that he possibly can (Ps. 122:1; Heb. 10:25). When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will praise God unreservedly in public and private worship (Heb. 2:12; 13:15), knowing that all those who enter the throne room of God do so without end (Rev. 5:11-14; 19:5-6). **When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will evaluate his actions regularly by the Holy Word of God and make any course corrections accordingly required to keep himself trained wholly on the eternal destination** (2 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 11:10, 15-16).

When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will concern himself foremost with the mission of the Lord's church, having a sense of **urgency** with which through all lawful means the Gospel must evangelize the world (Acts 8:4; 1 Thess. 1:8). When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he or she will prepare to teach others the fundamentals of the Christian faith (Heb. 5:11-14; 1 Pet. 2:2). When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will evaluate the use of his time (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5) and that on which he spends money of which he is merely a steward for God (Ps. 24:1; 50:10, 12; Luke 16:1-2; 19:12-26).

When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, truly he will follow Jesus Christ, the Captain of his salvation (Heb. 2:10). **For the wholly converted, "Christian" is not a name to be worn, but it is every bit of everything he is – every waking moment of every day all the days of his life.** When Christianity becomes a way of life with a person, he will be the best possible person he can be – as a man or a woman, as a mother or as a father, as a husband or as a wife, as an employee or as a boss, as a citizen, as a debtor or as a creditor, etc. **Has Christianity become a way of life with you?**

After a person has left the world of darkness and entered into the kingdom of God's dear Son with all its glorious light, he is to act in a completely different manner. The former acts are to be left behind; a whole new way of life should begin and continue until death or the second coming of Christ. What does this new life entail? ...A New Ruler... A New Mindset... New Goals... New Conduct... (Eckstein)

Christianity doesn't mean enough to you if it does not mean everything to you! Christianity doesn't mean enough to you if it does not materially and fundamentally affect every aspect of your life. There is no better quotation and forming words into a brief summary of the proper application of Christianity than what sister Cindy Colley penned:

Children who grow up thinking that Christianity is only a part of life will find it increasingly easy to separate Christianity from academics, friends, career, and other pursuits. Parents must show children from infancy that God is the foundation of all of the family's decisions. He is central in all our activities.

Call to Action

Is Christianity your everything, evidenced before all the world to see? Christianity is not your everything if you have never become a Christian (Mark 16:16; Acts 11:26). Christianity is not your everything if you are an unfaithful or a lax Christian (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9). If you haven't done so yet, make Christianity your whole, new way of life.

Louis Rushmore

(Gospel Gazette Online, Dec. 2021; full quotation references in original)

Celebrate

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



Records

	Nov. 21, 2021	Nov. 28, 2021
Bible Class	32	39
AM Worship	34 + [10]	46 + [7]
PM Worship	27 + [7]	23 + [9]
Wednesday PM	29 + [10]	32 + [10]
Contribution	\$1,393	\$1,720

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 12/5/21	Next Week: 12/12/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	December 2021 Make Announcements: Dex Dennard Prepare Communion: Fuller Clean Building: McCaghren January 2022 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Huckaby Clean Building: Dennard / Settles	
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Don Smith, Chase Churchwell, Kyle Duaine, Daniel Edwards	James Fuller*, Coyce Reed Ryan Settles, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Dex Dennard		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Don Smith	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Chase Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 8 John Barnum	December 15 Dex Dennard	December 22 Don Smith	December 29 5 th 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 December 5, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 1:23
 Wed. Class How to Read the Book: Sentences

Prejudice

- I. What is Prejudice?
 - A. **Webster:** "Preconceived judgment or opinion, an opinion or leaning adverse to anything without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge."
 - B. **Close-mindedness.**
 - C. **Condemnation without investigation.**
- II. Prejudice Toward the Truth.
 - A. **The Pharisees were prejudice against the truth** (Mt. 13:15; see also 2 Cor. 4:3-4).
 - B. **One of the sins which crucified Jesus** (Mt. 27:21-26).
 - C. **The Jews in Antioch of Pisidia were prejudiced against the truth** (Acts 13:44-46).
 - D. **The Bereans were not prejudiced toward the truth** (Acts 17:11-12).
 - E. **To overcome prejudices toward the truth, consider what the truth will do for you:** makes men free (Jn. 8:32); brings men forth as a kind of firstfruits of His creatures (Jas. 1:18); purifies (1 Pet. 1:22-23); produces faith (Eph. 1:13); sanctifies (Jn. 17:17, 19); by it we will be judged (Rom. 2:2).
 - F. **Instead of being prejudiced toward the truth we should:** hear the truth (Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5); believe the truth (2 Thess. 2:12-13); obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22); love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10); teach the truth (Eph. 4:15); live the truth (3 Jn. 3-4; Gal. 2:14); rightly handle the truth (2 Tim. 2:15).
- III. Prejudice Toward Other People.
 - A. **Nathanael was prejudiced against anyone coming out of Nazareth** (Jn. 1:46).
 - B. **The Pharisee was prejudiced against the tax collector** (Lk. 18:9-14).
 - C. **We need to avoid prejudging people.**
 - D. **Areas where prejudiced toward other people is often exercised:** race, intellectual level, financial status, occupation, age, etc.
 - E. **Things to remember to help us overcome prejudice toward other people:** Christ died for all (1 Tim. 2:6); Christianity is world wide in scope (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16); in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek (Gal. 3:28); God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35); in Christ, men are reconciled not only to God but also unto each other (Eph. 2:12-18); God looks on the hearts of men, not their external circumstances (1 Sam. 16:7).
- IV. Prejudice Toward the Church.
- V. Prejudice Toward New Methods and Ideas.

Teaching on Prayer (Lk. 11:1-13); Jesus and a Pharisee (Lk. 11:37-54)

- I. **Jesus and His Disciples: Teaching on Prayer** (Lk. 11:1-13).
 - A. "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (1).
 - B. **A Model Prayer** (11:1-4; cf. Mt. 6:9-13).
 - C. **Exhortation to Pray** (11:5-13).
 1. Parable of the Persistent Friend (5-8). A parable of contrast, from lesser to greater – if even a reluctant neighbor will give in to your bold request, how much more will God delight in giving good gifts to His children.
 2. Luke 11:9-13 = Mt. 7:7-11, with the following differences.
 - a. Matthew uses the fish/serpent illustration (7:10); Luke uses the egg/scorpion illustration (11:12).
 - b. Luke uses the singular noun "heaven" (11:13); Matthew uses the plural noun "heavens" (7:11).
 - c. Most notable difference – Matthew says the Father gives "good things" (7:11); Luke says the Father gives "the Holy Spirit" (11:13).
- II. **Jesus and a Pharisee** (Lk. 11:37-54) [11:14-36 were covered in an earlier lesson].
 - A. Jesus is invited to dinner: "And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him" (37a).
 - B. Jesus accepts the invitation, and "went in and sat down to eat" (37b).
 - C. "When the Pharisee saw" that Jesus "had not first washed before dinner," "he marveled" (38).
 1. The word "washed" here is the word for baptism (immersion). The Pharisee was surprised that Jesus had not bathed His entire body before the meal.
 2. Jesus explained that the cleanliness that matters is on the inside. He then proceeds to pronounce three "woes" against the Pharisees.
 - a. Woe #1: Majoring in the Minors; Minorning in the Majors (42).
 - b. Woe #2: Self-Aggrandizement (43).
 - c. Woe #3: Unmarked Tombs (44).
 3. A lawyer interrupts, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also" (45). This brings an additional three woes against the lawyers.
 - a. Woe #4: Loading Burdens Difficult to Bear (46).
 - b. Woe #5: Killing the Prophets (47-48).
 - c. Woe #6: Hidden Key (52).