

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 12, 2021

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study.....9:45 AM
Worship.....10:40 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

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

Blurring the Difference Between Right and Wrong

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines “blur” as “to make indistinct and hazy in outline or appearance; obscure.” The devil is never happier than when people believe and argue that one cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. Wrong is **never** right, and to become convinced that it is, will jeopardize one’s soul.

There are two things that will guarantee a recipe for disaster. First, to believe that one cannot discern the difference between right and wrong will lead to eternal ruin. Second, to believe that right is whatever one believes it to be will damn one’s soul.

The only one capable of defining what is right for all people is God. The Holy Scriptures affirm that God’s people have always been told to “...*hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God*” (Deut. 13:18). One will observe that people are to do that which is right **in the eyes of God**. Man may believe an act or action to be right when the act or action is actually wrong. Solomon warned, “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Prov. 14:12). Man’s thoughts and ways cannot be compared to God’s thoughts and ways (Isa. 55:8-9). The Holy Scriptures remind us: “*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).

Faithful spokesmen of God have always instructed people to do the **right** thing. Samuel told the people of his day, “*Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way*” (1 Sam. 12:23). Today, the faithful of God must continue to pray for those who refuse to obey the Gospel and for those who have erred from the truth while continuing to instruct each group “*in the good and the right way.*”

First, let us observe that the world seeks to blur the difference between right and wrong. Never in the history of this country has this been more true than today. A lesson that most young people sorely need to learn is that the **majority** have never been right! In Genesis 6:5 God observed that “*the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Gen. 6:5). Only eight souls were saved **in** the ark (Gen. 7:13) when the universal flood destroyed all other flesh that moved upon the earth (Gen. 7:21). Lot only escaped the wicked city of Sodom with his two daughters (Gen. 19:15). His wife chose to do the **wrong** thing and look back and she became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). All other people were killed in Sodom, Gomorrah, and the surrounding cities of the “Plain” (Gen. 19:24-25). The majority of people have never been loyal to the Creator, and they always seek to justify the evil they engage in by attempting to blur the difference between right and wrong.

Those who want to go to Heaven will come out from among people in the world (2 Cor. 6:17). The words of the Lord have never been more true than when He said, “*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you*” (John 15:18-19). One will either be a follower of the world or a follower of Christ. A person cannot “*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*

(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)

mammon” (Matt. 6:24). It is impossible to follow God and the world at the same time. Thus, this warning is given: *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15).

Second, Satan will try to blur the difference between right and wrong. There are those who loudly declare one cannot know right from wrong. They also advocate that either society, the situation, or the circumstances will determine the right thing to do. Solomon knew there was good and evil and wanted to accurately judge the people as he discerned between good and evil (1 Kings 3:9). Isaiah admonished, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter”* (5:20)! The Bible warns of false teachers in saying, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works”* (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Third, Satan will attempt to get one to believe that he is entitled to interpret the Scriptures the way he sees them. People have a choice when they are confronted with the Word of God; they can believe and accept it or deny it and refuse it. The Bible reminds all who will hear, *“that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Peter 1:20-21). The origin of Scripture is Peter’s point—it came from God, not man! Man must understand the **will** of God and do it (Matt. 7:21). God has made it abundantly clear that He intended for man to comprehend His will in stating, *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5:17).

The **right** thing to do is to *“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”* (Col. 3:16) so that it might be *“a lamp unto [our] feet and a light unto [our] path”* (Ps. 119:105)! Will you choose to do what is **right** and never try to blur the difference between good and evil and right and wrong?

Marvin L. Weir (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2021)

What Does God Expect of Me as a Christian?

God’s word is clear in regard to His expectation of Christians. *“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”* (2 Pet. 1:3). Often, however, we are quick to adopt the excuse-making attitude exhibited by Moses when he was confronted by the angel of Jehovah at the burning bush (Ex. 3). We say, “I can’t do that because....” God, however, has given each of us something which is a constant reminder of His expectations of us, that being a physical body.

God Has Given Us **EARS** With Which To Listen. God’s first expectation of us as Christians is that we listen to His Word. God’s Word says that *“faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). As Christians, we must have the attitude of God’s people in the day of Nehemiah (Neh. 8) whose purpose was to hear (v.1), who made preparation to hear (v.3), who expended effort to understand what they heard (vs.3,8), and who showed respect for what they heard (vs.5,9).

God Has Given Us **EYES** With Which To See. We are expected to use our eyes to look at the examples we are given. By so doing the Christian gains strength to live the pattern for life he finds disclosed in God’s word. The ultimate example for all Christians is Jesus the Christ. We are directed in 1 Peter 2:21-23 to “follow his steps.” The Bible assures us in Hebrews 4:15 that Christ has been faced with it all, yet He did not sin. Paul, the apostle, encourages us to imitate his own life even as he imitated the life of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). Therefore, we are not only expected to see the example of Christ, but also the example of the apostles and beyond that, the examples of other faithful Christians (Phil. 3:17; Heb. 13:7).

Further, we are expected to use our eyes to see false teachers for what they are. The warning from 2 John 9-11 is clear: *“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”* Brethren, there are false teachers among us (Acts 20:29-31; 2 Pet. 2:1-2; Phil. 3:18-19). Do you defend false teachers? Do you give them words of encouragement? Do you support them financially? If so, you are in sin and are not meeting God’s expectation of you.

God Has Given Us A **HEAD** With Which To Think. Christians are expected to think on good things. Philippians 4:8 stands as proof that the Bible teaches mind control, not mind control that is placed upon us by others, but rather control of our own thoughts

(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/

Dec. 12 Hosea 7-9; Proverbs 12
Dec. 13 Hosea 10-12; Proverbs 13
Dec. 14 Hosea 13-14; Proverbs 14
Dec. 15 Joel; Proverbs 15
Dec. 16 Amos 1-3; Proverbs 16
Dec. 17 Amos 4-6; Proverbs 17
Dec. 18 Amos 7-9; Proverbs 18
Dec. 19 Obadiah; Proverbs 19

“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 **47** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The elders of the church in Lovelady, TX, are encouraging all church members in Texas to set aside this Wednesday (12/15) as a day of prayer for the abortion situation, especially upcoming Supreme Court decisions. We encourage all to participate.
- ◆ **Holiday Party / Game Night, 6:00pm, Saturday.** 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.

(Continued from page 2)

and will. Clearly, since the word of God is “*quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart*” (Heb. 4:12), we are expected to maintain control over these thoughts and intents.

God Has Given Us A **HEART** With Which To Feel. The Christian is expected to feel compassion for the wayward brother (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20) and share in God’s desire for the alien sinner’s repentance (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). Do we love the lost? Do we hurt because we understand the eternal consequences for those who will not repent, or worse yet, for those who have never heard the Gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9)? Christians must feel the weight of responsibility and the urgency for the action placed upon us.

God Has Given Us **FEET** With Which To Go. We as Christians are expected to use our feet to go and teach. The words of the great commission as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 demonstrate that each Christian has a personal responsibility to go and teach. Do as much as you can, whenever and wherever you can to tell others about Christ. Tell your friends, your family, your co-workers, and if the opportunity is yours, those in foreign lands about the eternal nature of man, the eternal blessing of Heaven, the eternal punishment of Hell and the Gospel plan of salvation.

God Has Given Us A **MOUTH** With Which To Speak. Christians are expected to use their mouths to speak in confession of their belief in Christ as the only begotten Son of God (Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32), and in proclamation of the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 3:15). We are also expected to speak in defense of or to “*contend earnestly for the faith*” (Jude 3) and to do so unashamedly (Rom. 1:16). Never let anyone walk over the truth, be he an intentional false teacher or a brother in error. Remember what James wrote: “*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable...*” (Jas. 3:17).

God Has Given Us **HANDS** With Which To Do. Looking to the example we find in the great book of Nehemiah (4:17), God expects the Christian to use one of his hands to work by providing for the work of the church (1 Cor. 16:1-2), by providing for our families (1 Tim. 5:8), and by providing for the needy (Eph. 4:28). The other hand is to be filled with the greatest weapon of all, “*the sword of the Spirit*” (Eph. 6:17) and with it God expects us to “*Fight the good fight of the faith...*” (1 Tim. 6:12).

Goebel Music quoted Leroy Brownlow as saying: “The medical marvel of the ages is how that so many men have lived so long without a backbone.” Truly, Christians are expected to use the blessings each has been given, our ears, our eyes, our head, our heart, our feet, our mouth, and our hands with courage and steadfastness.

First Corinthians 15:58 says: “*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.*”

Larry W. Growns (Seek The Old Paths, Dec. 2021)

Celebrate

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

Records

	Nov. 28, 2021	Dec. 5, 2021
Bible Class	39	42
AM Worship	46 + [7]	47 + [8]
PM Worship	23 + [9]	40 + [6]
Wednesday PM	32 + [10]	28 + [3]
Contribution	\$1,720	\$1,945



Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 12/12/21	Next Week: 12/19/21		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: James Fuller	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	Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger		
Communion	James Fuller*, Coyce Reed Ryan Settles, John Barnum	Dex Dennard*; Kyle Duaine Daniel Edwards, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	Randy Huckaby		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	James Fuller	Dex Dennard		
Closing Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Don Smith		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 15 Dex Dennard	December 22 Don Smith	December 29 5 th Wednesday Video	January 5 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 December 12, 2021

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 2:3
 Wed. Class How to Read the Book: Sentences

Giving is a Spiritual Barometer

- I. **Our giving is a barometer of How Interested We Are In Going to Heaven.**
 - A. We have an interest in that which we have an investment.
 - B. In liberal giving, we are laying up treasures in heaven.
- II. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Estimation of the Greatness of the Lord's Cause.** The greatness of the Lord's cause cannot be overestimated.
- III. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Attitude Toward Money.**
 - A. Liberal giving indicates an understanding of divine ownership of all things.
 - B.an understanding of the impossibility of money buying happiness.
 - C.an understanding of the fact that we cannot take our wealth with us.
- IV. **Our giving is a barometer of The Efficacy of our Prayer Life.**
 - A. The Old Testament so teaches (Prov. 21:13).
 - B. The New Testament so teaches (1 Jn. 3:22; 3:17; Phil. 4:19; 4:18).
- V. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Interest in the Local Congregation.**
 - A. The New Testament lays considerable emphasis on the local congregation.
 - B. The local congregation provides us with precious blessings.
- VI. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Priorities.**
 - A. God was to be first under the Old Testament.
 - B. God is to be first under the New Testament.
 - C. God will never be satisfied with the second best or with our left overs.
 - D. The faithful steward will always his living to his giving; not visa versa.
- VII. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Gratitude for the Gift of Christ.**
 - A. Paul lovingly provoked the Corinthians to be liberal in their giving by reminding them of God's "inestimable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).
 - B. Liberal giving has always been the fruit of sincere gratitude.
- VIII. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Understanding of Biblical Stewardship.**
 - A. Divine ownership.
 - B. Human endowment.
 - C. Faithful administration.
 - D. Inevitable accounting.
- IX. **Our giving is a barometer of Our Revulsion to Robbing God.**
 - A. "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings" (Mal. 3:8).
 - B. How can we rob God?

Jesus and the Multitude:

- Teaching on Hypocrisy** (Lk. 12:1-12); **Teaching on Materialism** (Lk. 12:13-34)
 Chapter 12 begins in the NASB, "Under these circumstances ..." (i.e., the clashes between Jesus and the Pharisees). These conflicts resulted in growing public curiosity. Thus, v. 1 continues, "...when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together...." This may be the largest crowd found in the Gospels. So large, in fact, "that they trampled one another."
- I. **Teaching on Hypocrisy** (Lk. 12:1-12).
 - A. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (1c).
 - B. Luke 12:2-9 = Matthew 10:26-33.
 - C. "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more they can do" (4).
 - D. Luke 12:10 = Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30.
 - E. Luke 12:11-12 = Matthew 10:18-20.
 - II. **Teaching on Materialism** (Lk. 12:13-34).
 - A. As Jesus was teaching, He was interrupted: "Then one from the crowd said to Him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me'" (13).
 - B. Jesus rebuked the man (14) and then warned the crowd, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (15).
 - C. The Parable of the Rich Fool (16-21): A parable about a rich farmer who thought that his life did consist "in the abundance of the things he possesse[d]". God said the man was a fool (20).
 1. Such are men who plan carefully, deal wisely, store shrewdly, but do not place investments in spiritual things.
 2. At just the time he can comfort himself in all his luxury (v. 19), God demands his soul.
 - D. Luke 12:22-32 = Matthew 6:25-34.
 - E. Luke 12:33-34 = Matthew 6:19-21.
 - F. A summary of Jesus' teaching on materialism.
 1. Real life is not in our stores of wealth (22-23).
 2. Don't worry about your basic needs, God will provide (24-30).
 3. Spend your time seeking spiritual things (vv. 31-32).
 4. Give your excess away so that you can invest in eternal treasures (33-34).