



January 2, 2022

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

Questions On Salvation #1

When asked about whether water baptism was essential to being saved, a certain denominational "pastor" responded with a series of replies. They are numbered below. What is the Bible answer to his comments? Let's examine the Scriptures and see.

1. "A person is dead in their sins. Ephesians 2:1-3."

It is true that a sinner is dead in their sins. We need to point out that babies are not born in sin. They are innocent. Jesus said, "*Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God*" (Lk. 18:16). If babies are born in sin, inherited from Adam, then Jesus is saying, "unless you become as little sinners, you can't enter heaven!" That's not scriptural nor logical.

Each person sins when they violate God's word. Sin is a transgression of God's word (1 Jn. 3:4). And, Romans 4:15 says, "*for where no law is, there is no transgression.*" Babies can't violate the Scriptures, they're innocent. Each one sins when they are drawn away by their "own" lust (Jas. 1:14-15). So, those who are dead in "their" trespasses and sins, are those who have personally sinned themselves by giving in to their own lust. We're not responsible for someone else's sins. We're responsible for our own sins (Ezek. 18:19-32).

2. "God is the one who makes us alive. v. 5"

Yes, God makes sinners alive WHEN they BELIEVE (trust) Him and OBEY His will. When one believes and obeys the Lord in baptism, they receive the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; see also Rom. 6:3-6, 17-18). Hebrews 5:9 says, Jesus is the "*author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY him.*" What if a person "believes" in Jesus but does not "obey" Him? Belief "alone" (faith alone, faith only) is dead, useless, void (Jas. 2:17, 24, 26). Mark 16:16, "*He that BELIEVETH and is BAPTIZED shall be SAVED; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" That is not emphasizing obedience over faith. Nor is it emphasizing faith over obedience. It involves BOTH. When there is no Belief and Baptism, there is no salvation.

Man is required to "respond" to God's will in order to be saved. Man decides for himself whether he will reject God's word or accept God's word. Man does this, not God. God gives us "free will" to choose for ourself. Every action man chooses for himself is something he chooses for himself: "doing, obeying, working."

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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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Man's choice to "believe" is a work, not a work of merit, but a work of action that man chooses to DO. Belief (faith) is something man DOES — one chooses to believe. Faith is not forced upon anyone. John 6:29 says, *"This is the work of God, that ye BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent."* **Faith** is a work that God commands man to do. Those who desire to be forgiven, do it, therefore they believe. **Repenting** is a work man chooses to do because God's commands it (Acts 17:30). **Confessing** Jesus as God's Son is a work man chooses to do because God commands it (Mt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37). Being **Baptized** is a work man chooses to do because God commands it (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48; Acts 22:16). When a sinner does these things (believes, repents, confesses, baptized), Acts 2:40 says it is man making the decision to save himself. Actually, it is God that saves man, but only WHEN man responds (in faith) to God's commands. A sinner believes and obeys God in order to be saved. At no time can man claim God owes him salvation or that man has placed God in his debt. That's the point made in Ephesians 2:8 when we read *"and that not of yourselves. Not of works...."* Man's obedience (action, work) is not "our" work. Man did not make up out of our own mind. It is God's work (the work) that God has commanded man to do. Man simply trusts God enough to do what (the work) God commanded him to do.

3. "Salvation is by grace (Eph. 2:5), not of our own doing (v. 8) and not a result of works (v. 9)."

Salvation certainly is by grace. Grace means "favor, benefit." God is doing man a favor, extending man a benefit, by offering him forgiveness of his sins. God's grace is extended to the entire human race (Titus 2:11-12), not just those who believe him and obey him. Jesus died for all men (Heb. 2:9). He extends to mankind the wonderful benefit (favor) of his grace/mercy; that is, the forgiveness of our sins.

Man's salvation did not come about by man's own doing. Man did not come up with the idea of forgiveness and how to obtain it. Nor did he work out a plan where

he could save himself. That's impossible. Salvation from sins is God's plan, not man's plan. Man can't save himself apart from God. However, there is a sense in which man can, and does, save himself (but not of his own doing, plan, or process). Acts 2:40 says, "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, SAVE YOURSELVES..." Yes, we can save ourselves. The inspired Peter said so.

When the first Gospel sermon was preached on the day of Pentecost, those who cried out saying *"men and brethren, what shall we do"* (Acts 2:37) were told to *"save yourselves"* (Acts 2:40). Since we can't save ourselves without God, why does this verse say we can save ourselves? The answer is this, sinners save themselves by accepting (that is, believing, trusting) the Lord's plan (not man's plan) AND obeying (doing) what the Lord specifies SINNERS MUST DO in order to be saved. In verse 38 they had been told to repent AND be baptized "FOR" (in order to) receive the forgiveness of sins. In verse 40, there were many other words spoken to exhort them to DO (obey) what they were told to do. In verse 41, those who gladly received these words of exhortation WERE BAPTIZED. They did what they were told in verse 38. As a result, about 3,000 souls were added unto the church that day. WHEN were these people added to the church, the Lord's body? Acts 2:41 says it was WHEN they were BAPTIZED. Not before they were baptized.

Another example is found in the conversion of a sinner named Saul. He was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians. He was struck down on the road by a bright light. *"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to DO? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou MUST DO"* (Acts 9:6). He was trembling in fear having learned he was persecuting the Lord and his church. He desperately wanted to be forgiven of such a heinous sin. He went to Damascus and for three days was so troubled in heart that he refused to eat or drink (Acts 9:9). A disciple named Ananias came to him, taught him the Gospel and what he had to do to be saved. Being taught God's word like those on Pentecost,

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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/

Jan. 2	Matthew 5-7; Psalm 2 (video)
Jan. 3	Matthew 8-10; Ps. 3 (video)
Jan. 4	Matthew 11-12; Psalm 4
Jan. 5	Matthew 13-15; Psalm 5
Jan. 6	Matthew 16-18; Psalm 6
Jan. 7	Matthew 19-20; Ps. 7 (video)
Jan. 8	Matthew 21-22; Psalm 8
Jan. 9	Matthew 23-24; Psalm 9

"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 **24** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** today.
- ◆ Paper copies of the **Interactive Bible Reading Plan 2022** are available by the bulletins. A digital copy was also emailed. Take time to watch the videos! They are very informative. If online, you can open the videos directly from the Reading Plan document.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Jan. 29—BCS Ladies' Day. "*What a Christian woman must be...*" (RSVP by 1/9 if you want a t-shirt.)
- ◆ 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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Ananias told him, "*why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16). He was not told to be baptized to show he had already been saved. He was told to be baptized in order to wash his sins away. He did the same thing those in Acts 2:37-42 did. They repented and were baptized in order to receive the forgiveness of sins. Saul repented and was baptized in order to receive the forgiveness of sins.

According to many, Saul was saved on the road to Damascus when he was struck down by the light. If that is true, then he did not have any sins to be forgiven by being baptized three days later. Also, if he was saved on the road to Damascus, he was the most miserable saved man you can ever imagine. For three days his soul was in such turmoil that he refused to eat or drink. That doesn't sound like a saved man to me, does it you? Acts 8:39 tells about a man from Ethiopia that was rejoicing **AFTER** he was baptized. Paul certainly wasn't rejoicing **BEFORE** he was baptized! It was **AFTER** he was baptized that he was able to eat (Acts 9:19-20).

Saul was told to go into Damascus in order to **LEARN** what he **MUST** do to be saved. He did not know what to **DO** on the road. He had to be **TAUGHT** what to do. There was no one on the road to teach him. God did not give the task of teaching the Gospel into the hands of angels. He placed that responsibility in the hands of men. Souls have to be **Taught**. They have to **Hear**. They have to **Learn** (Jn. 6:45). They have to **Believe**. They have to **Obey** what they've learned (Jn. 8:24; Mt. 7:21).

We often hear someone claim they were saved "here or there," while doing "this or that." A man once told me he was saved in the middle of a corn field. He said he wasn't even thinking about it and the Holy Spirit just came and saved him. He said he just had this wonderful feeling come over him and he did absolutely nothing to be saved! Dear reader, salvation doesn't happen that way. The Holy Spirit doesn't work that way —nor does God the Father or Jesus the Christ.

Without being **TAUGHT** what to **DO** to be saved and then doing that from the heart, sinners can't be forgiven of their sins. That's why Jesus said, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mk. 16:15-16).

Garland M. Robinson (Seek The Old Paths, Aug. 2021)

Celebrate

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



Records

	Dec. 19, 2021	Dec. 26, 2021
Bible Class	32	23
AM Worship	35 + [13]	25 + [10]
PM Worship	32 + [8]	22 + [10]
Wednesday PM	27 + [10]	23
Contribution	\$1,946	\$1,084

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/2/22	Next Week: 1/9/22	January 2022 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Huckaby Clean Building: Dennard / Settles February 2022 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Clean Building: Huckaby	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Don Smith		
Communion	Dex Dennard*, John Barnum Daniel Edwards, Kyle Duaine	Chase Churchwell, Randy Huckaby Coyce Reed, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Rafe Smith		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Chase Churchwell	Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Dex Dennard	Chase Churchwell		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 5 Prayer Night	January 12 James Fuller	January 19 Johnny McCaghren	January 26 Don 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 January 2, 2022

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 3:1
Wed. Class How to Read the Book: Paragraphs

<p>Jesus Christ – Lord and Savior (Part 2)</p> <p>VI. Choices Regarding Christ's Deity. When Jesus was on trial before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high priest asked Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" To that question, Jesus replied simply, "I am" (Mk. 14:61-62).</p> <p>A. Was Jesus a Liar?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What sane man would be willing to die for what he knows is a lie? 2. "Someone who lived as Jesus lived, taught as Jesus taught, and died as Jesus died could not have been a liar." (McDowell) <p>B. Was Jesus a Lunatic?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lunacy of the sort ascribed to Christ by His detractors does not produce such genius. 2. "A character so original, so complete, so uniformly consistent, so perfect, so human and yet so high above all human greatness, can be neither a fraud nor a fiction." (Schaff) <p>C. Was Christ Deity? The evidence suggests that, indeed, He was.</p> <p>VII. Evidences for the Deity of Christ.</p> <p>A. Fulfillment of OT Prophecies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scholars have documented over 300 messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. 2. Could Christ have fulfilled 300+ prophetic utterances by chance? The probability is incalculable and utterly absurd. <p>B. Performance of Genuine Miracles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus told the inquirers sent by John, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Mt. 11:4-5). 2. Christ's unique identity had been proved "by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). <p>C. The Resurrection, and Post-Resurrection Appearances.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a matter of history that Christ's tomb was empty on that Sunday morning almost 2,000 years ago. 2. A dead Savior is no good! <p>"What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" (Mt. 22:42).</p>	<p>The End of the Judean Ministry, and the Beginning of the Perea Ministry</p> <p>I. Christ's Ministry from the 3rd Passover Until His Arrival at Bethany: In Judea (Lk. 9:51 – 13:22; Jn. 7:2 – 10:39)</p> <p>D. Feast of Dedication (Lk. 13:22; Jn. 10:22-39).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Luke recorded the two parables, he wrote that Jesus went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem (Lk. 13:22). 2. Jesus' visit to Jerusalem was to attend the Feast of the Dedication (Jn. 10:22). 3. Continued Conflicts with His Enemies (Jn. 10:23-30). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. During the festivities, Jesus was in the temple, in Solomon's porch (23). b. The Jewish leaders crowded around, challenging Jesus, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly" (24). c. Jesus responds with this allegory of sheep. d. "I and My Father are one" (30). e. We are eternally secure in Christ Jesus (28-29; Rom. 8:38-39). This passage does not teach that a child of God cannot fall, but it does teach that, as long as we choose to stay in the shelter of God's protection, no one else has the power to "snatch" us away. 4. Continued Efforts to Kill Him (Jn. 10:31-39). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus' boldness infuriated His enemies, and they once more picked up stones to kill Him. b. In verses 32-33, it appears that Jesus and the Jews are talking about two different things: <i>Miracles</i> vs. <i>Testimony</i>. c. As His defense, Jesus calls them back to Psalm 82:6, where the judges of Israel were called "gods" ('ēlōhīm – god, deity). d. "And the Scripture cannot be broken" (35). <p>II. Christ's Ministry from the 3rd Passover Until His Arrival at Bethany: In Perea (Mt. 19:1-2; Mk. 10:1; Lk. 13:23 – 17:10; Jn. 10:40-42)</p> <p>A. Jesus' Ministry "Beyond the Jordan" (Mt. 19:1-2; Mk. 10:1; Jn. 10:40-42).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first" (Jn. 10:40a). 2. "Great multitudes followed Him" (Mt. 19:2). 3. "Many came to Him and said, 'John performed no sign, but all the things that John spoke about this Man are true.' And many believed in Him there" (Jn. 10:41-42).
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