

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



January 9, 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 #2

Some say John 3 is speaking of being born again of the Spirit, not water baptism.

In John 3:3, Jesus tells Nicodemus that one must be "*born again*" in order to see the kingdom of God. In verse 5, he describes being born again as being "*born of water and of the Spirit*" in order to "*enter into the kingdom of God.*" We became a member of the human race when we were born of our mother's womb. Jesus reveals there is a birth involved in order to be a member of the kingdom of God — the family of God. Our physical birth into the world involved a father and a mother. Our spiritual birth into God's kingdom involves *water* and the *Spirit*.

Membership in the Lord's kingdom is essential. Only those who are members of the kingdom go to heaven. Those not in the kingdom do not go to heaven. Both John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2) and Jesus (Matt. 4:17; 10:7) preached about the "kingdom of heaven" being at hand; i.e. it would soon begin. It is also called the "kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14; 9:1). Membership in that kingdom is an absolute necessity. Read these passages carefully: Acts 2:41, 47; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 5:23; Hebrews 12:28. Jesus revealed in Matthew 16:18-19 that His kingdom is the church — His church is the kingdom. It is the body of the saved. Jesus is the Savior of the body, the church (Eph. 5:23; 1:22-23; 4:4).

When Jesus speaks to Nicodemus of the new birth (being born again), the kingdom had not yet been established. Jesus is talking about a birth that would put one into the kingdom of God. The practice of this new birth took place for the first time on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Believers on that day were told "*...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (Acts 2:38). About 3,000 obeyed the Gospel that day and became members of the Lord's church, His kingdom (Acts 2:41, 47). They put into practice what Jesus revealed to Nicodemus.

Let's look at John 3 more closely. In verse 3, "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" In verse 5 "*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*" "Born again" (v. 3) is the same as "born of water and of the Spirit" (v. 5). In order for us to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be "born again." Verse 5 explains that being born again involves being "*born of water and of the Spirit.*" Being born again involves "one birth" that consists of two elements: water and the Spirit. There is no new birth unless it involves both. One is not born again without both water AND the Spirit. The only water connected with entering the kingdom (being saved) in all the Scriptures is water baptism. If it's not water baptism, then what water is it — what is the water? It's impossible for the water to be the water of our physical birth. Our physical birth included two elements, a father and a mother; and, the new birth includes two elements, water and the Spirit. Jesus is talking about another birth, a second birth, separate from our first birth.

"The Spirit" is not Holy Spirit baptism. "The Spirit" in being born again is spoken of in Titus 3:5 as a renewing of the Spirit. Notice the words of the Holy Spirit in

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

(Continued from page 1)

verse 5: “according to his mercy he saved us, by **the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.**” Salvation comes when a sinner is “born again” of water and the Spirit. When sinners believe, repent, confess and are baptized, their sins are washed away just as Saul’s sins were washed away when he was baptized (Acts 22:16). The “old man” is done away (buried in water) and a “new man” arises (Rom. 6:6). This is according to the teaching (instructions) of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the one who revealed the will of God to man. He does this by and through the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, “...*Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (2 Pet. 1:21). In the New Testament, the truth was revealed “*by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven*” (1 Pet. 1:12). If it were not for the Scriptures we would not know about sin and what to do to have forgiveness of sins. The Holy Spirit worked through the apostles and those upon whom they laid hands to impart miraculous gifts (Acts 8:18). One of these gifts was the revealing of the Scriptures. Inspired words were written down by inspired writers. What they wrote down are the 27 books of the New Testament. Since the revelation from God was completed in the 27 books, the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit ceased. It is no longer needed (see 1 Cor. 13:8-13).

In physical birth we say a child is begotten of his father and born of his mother. In the new birth one is begotten of the Spirit and born of water. There is a begetting and a birth. How does the Holy Spirit beget and bring about the new birth? It’s by (through) the Word of God. “*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth*” (Jas. 1:18). “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God*” (1 Pet. 1:23). Paul wrote, “...*in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel*” (1 Cor. 4:15).

When a sinner reads, hears, learns the Gospel, he is begotten of the Spirit when he comes to “belief” (faith). But as he was not born at the moment of his physical begetting, he is not born spiritually when he comes to belief. He has the right “to become” a Christian, but he has not completed the process. Concerning Jesus we read, “*As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name*” (John 1:12). A man and a woman obtain a marriage license. They now have the right to get married but they’re not married yet. A sinner hears the Gospel and believes (is begotten), but he must

also be born again — born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5). Water is simply water. There’s nothing special about it. Any water will do as long as there’s enough of it to immerse the believer. Baptism requires “much water” and a going “down into the water” (John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39).

Many refuse to believe water baptism has any connection to salvation, so they desperately try to explain it away by saying the water is the water of our mother’s womb when we are born as a baby. Being born as a baby in natural child birth has absolutely nothing to do with being saved from our sins. Babies have no sin. If being born as a baby is being born of water, that would be two births: 1) a birth as a baby and 2) a birth of the Spirit as an adult many years later. There are not two births in John 3:3-5. There’s one birth. The very reason Jesus calls the new birth being “born again” removes it from our birth as an infant. Being born from our mother’s womb was certainly a birth. But Jesus is talking about being “born again” (separate from our birth as an infant). Being “born again” can’t have any connection to one’s birth as a infant. Jesus clearly pointed out that being “born again” involves and includes “water” AND “the Spirit.”

We must not stretch or twist the Scriptures beyond their natural and normal meaning. For example, would we say that a person must first be physically born in order to ride a bicycle or drive a car? Such a concept would never be imagined. Of course one must be born and mature to the point at which they learn to ride a bicycle or drive a car. Nicodemus wondered if Jesus had reference to a natural birth when he asked, “*How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born*” (John 3:4)? Jesus responded by saying he was not talking about being born of the flesh. He is talking about a spiritual birth. A spiritual birth cannot be seen with human eyes. As we cannot see our sins with our physical eyes, we cannot see our sins when they are washed away by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5; Eph. 1:7). When sinners are begotten by the word of God when they believe and are born of water (baptism) according to the teaching of the Spirit, they are “born again.” That is a spiritual birth. That’s when the Lord “*delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*” (Col. 1:13).

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

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. 9	Matthew 23-24; Psalm 9
Jan. 10	Matthew 25-26; Ps. 10 (video)
Jan. 11	Matthew 27-28; Psalm 11
Jan. 12	Mark 1-3; Psalm 12 (video)
Jan. 13	Mark 4-5; Psalm 13 (video)
Jan. 14	Mark 6-7; Psalm 14
Jan. 15	Mark 8-10; Psalm 15 (video)
Jan. 16	Mark 11-12; Psalm 16

“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 **37** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ There will be **no service at CARE** this afternoon or next week, due to a Covid outbreak in the home. After that is TBD. Please keep our members there in your prayers.
- ◆ Covid numbers have spiked significantly in Brown county in the past week. While the new variant does not seem to be as deadly overall, it is still deadly to some. (4 deaths in Brown county last week.) Please us precautions.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

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

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Jan. 28-30—**Beyond the Valley Widowhood Seminar** @ 5th & Grape in Abilene w/ Jeff Jenkins.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Apr. 3-6—**Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton** w/ Kerry Clark.
- ◆ Apr. 30-May 5—**Focal Point** in San Marcos.

Our Perpetual Passover!

The Passover Supper was the beginning of the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread for the Jews. It marked the beginning of the year for them, and it was a time of rejoicing for deliverance from Egyptian slavery and from the Death Angel that destroyed the firstborn of all who were not protected by the blood of the Passover Lamb (Ex. 12:1-42).

Now what does any of this have to do with us? As Paul might say, much in every way (Rom. 3:2a)! The Lamb is the Lord Jesus (John 1:29; Rev. 5:6). Jesus is our Passover Lamb, sacrificed for us, whose blood covers our guilt before God and saves us from His wrath. "...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:7-8).

Therefore, we are to keep the Feast! For how long? Well, how long are we to be unleavened in sincerity and truth? Remember, the Old Testament feast lasted a week, beginning with the slaughter of the Passover lamb.

What do we commemorate now on the first day of every week? The death for us of Jesus (Acts 20:7)! We should hold that commemoration in our heart for the rest of the week, right? Then what? Then, we do it all again! Every Sunday is our Passover celebration, and every week is our feast of unleavened bread seen in our behavior. As the Old Testament Passover is a type of Christ's sacrifice and thus fulfilled on Calvary so long ago, so today, our celebration of freedom from sin and death is every week, until He returns (1 Cor. 11:26). Our Passover Feast is perpetual – in Christ!

Terry Wheeler (Gospel Gazette Online, Jan. 2022)

"FIRST WE OVERLOOK EVIL.
THEN WE PERMIT EVIL.
THEN WE LEGALIZE EVIL.
THEN WE PROMOTE EVIL.
THEN WE CELEBRATE EVIL.
THEN WE PERSECUTE THOSE WHO
STILL CALL IT EVIL."



"WOE UNTO THEM WHO CALL EVIL,
GOOD, AND GOOD, EVIL!"
ISAIAH 5:20

Celebrate

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



Records

	Dec. 26, 2021	Jan. 2, 2022
Bible Class	23	30
AM Worship	25 + [10]	32 + [12]
PM Worship	22 + [10]	27 + [10]
Wednesday PM	23	27 + [5]
Contribution	\$1,084	\$1,722

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/9/22	Next Week: 1/16/22	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: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Ken Maninger		
Communion	Chase Churchwell, Randy Huckaby Coyce Reed, Ryan Settles	Dex Dennard*, Kyle Duaine Daniel Edwards, Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Rafe Smith	John Barnum		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Dex Dennard	Mike Bannister		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Chase Churchwell	Dex Dennard		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Chase Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 12 James Fuller	January 19 Johnny McCaghren	January 26 Don Smith	February 2 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 January 9, 2022

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

<p>"Unless You Repent You Will All Likewise Perish" (Luke 13:1-5)</p> <p>Twice Jesus told His audience in Luke 13, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." He wanted to make sure that they, and we, got the message: Repent or perish!</p> <p>I. "Unless You Repent..."</p> <p>A. Repentance Demanded.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The necessity for repentance is emphasized in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. It has been suggested that the Bible puts great emphasis on repentance because people find this the hardest of God's commands to obey. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The need to repent strikes at our <i>pride</i> – and people are full of pride. True repentance requires a change in one's lifestyle – and we do <i>not</i> like to change. <p>B. Repentance Defined.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is repentance simply being sorry for sin? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Being sorry one has sinned is vitally important, even essential, but only the right kind of sorrow ("godly sorrow") will do, and, even then, it is what "produces repentance" (2 Cor. 7:9-10); it is not repentance itself. Sorrow for sins, by itself, is not repentance. Is repentance that you stop doing what is wrong and start doing what is right? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Again, a change in life is important, even essential, but such a change is the result of true repentance; it is not repentance itself. Reformation of life is not, within itself, repentance. A brief word study: μετανοέω = "after thought" – "a change of mind about sin." <p>II. "...You Will All Likewise Perish."</p> <p>A. Universal Consequences. "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:23); therefore, all must repent.</p> <p>B. Unceasing Consequences.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If one is unwilling to repent, then that one will perish. It is that simple. To encourage us to repent, God uses two principle motivators (Rom. 2:4-6). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The glad story of His goodness (v. 4). The sad truth of His wrath (5-6). 	<p>Jesus Questioned and Warned (Luke 13:23-35)</p> <p>I. Question About Entering the Kingdom (23-30).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Lord, are there few who are saved?" (23). "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (24). "When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us...' " (25a). "I do not know you, where you are from" (25b). "We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets" (25). "I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity" (27). "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out" (28). "They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God" (29). "And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last" (30). A compilation of teaching on who would be saved and who would not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way to salvation is narrow and difficult (24; compare Mt. 7:13-14). Some who think they will be saved will not be (25-27; compare Mt. 7:21-23). Some (Gentiles) will be saved even though the Jews did not think it possible for them to be saved (28-30; compare Mt. 8:11-12). <p>II. The Pharisees Warn Jesus About Herod (31-35).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You" (31). "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.' 33 Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem" (32-33). "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!" (34). "See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (35).
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