

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 23, 2022

Contact Us:

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Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
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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

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

The Great Sales Meeting

Sometimes, because they have products or services to market, businesses have **sales meetings** to pep up the sales force. Some of these sales meetings may resemble high school sports **pep rallies**. Companies insist that their salespeople have an **emotional commitment** to promoting their products or services. Some of the most productive salespeople maintain a high degree of **company loyalty** and are convinced that their company's products or services are **uniquely superior** to all competitor's products or services.

Often, salespersons have **quotas** or **goals** that they must achieve **regularly**. Those quotas or goals are set just beyond salespeople's grasp – requiring them to stretch and reach for the objectives. The more often a salesperson or sales team achieves its quotas or goals, the more useful that salesperson or sales **team** is to the company.

Many times, salespersons are motivated by incentives or rewards. Cold, hard cash – money – is an ever-popular favorite! Sometimes vacations to exotic locations entice salespersons to reach or to exceed their quotas (e.g., "Hawaii or Bust!"). Of course, there is always the negative incentive of being **fired** for either **poor personal performance** or for being a **poor team player**.

Are you beginning to see some similarity between being proficient salespeople and being fruitful children of God – Christians? The parallel between a salesforce and evangelistic Christians should be apparent. References to emotional commitment, loyalty, a superior product, goals, regularly, team, fired, poor personal performance and poor team player easily relate to the exercise of one's Christianity.

God is an equal opportunity employer. Every Christian is God's salesperson. The whole world is the market. God has an incomparable product – the Gospel of Christ. God has set quotas or goals for His sales force. God's positive incentive for being the best salesperson we can be is an exotic vacation from planet earth – to Heaven forever. God's negative incentive for being the best salesperson we can be is to be fired – in a devil's Hell for eternity.

Whereas in the secular world, numbers or **quantity** may be the overpowering drive, the Lord's sales force must also concern itself with **quality** (1 Cor. 3:11-15). **Quality – conviction and conversion – supersedes quantity or numbers**. (Unfortunately, often the church merely judges its success based on numbers; Christians often ask a short-term missionary upon his return home, "**How many** people did you baptize?") Whereas some companies may be little concerned with ethics, of course, God requires His salespersons to conduct themselves ethically always and certainly respecting the conversion of souls, too. With the Lord, numbers are important, but **numbers** alone are not the driving force for the **conversion** of the lost.

Examples and instructions for taking God's Word to the world appear in both testaments of the Bible. God has always required His people to take His Word to the world, even when His servants sometimes **did not want to go**. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel used the illustration of watchmen in a tower overlooking a walled city and its surroundings to teach personal responsibility toward others. His message is so important, we simply have to allot space here for it.

*Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood I will require at your hand**. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but **his blood I will re-***

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quire at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.” (Ezek. 3:17-21; cf., 33:1-9)

No other words could more emphatically reinforce personal obligation to convey God’s Word to others. Likewise in the New Testament, the half-brother of Jesus, James, taught fellow Christians to restore wayward church members (5:19-20).

Sometimes these watchmen heralded news of peace (Isa. 52:7-8; 62:6; cf. Rom. 10:13-18). However, some watchmen were derelict in their duties; *“His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber”* (Isa. 56:10). What a horrific characterization of God’s people, and hopefully God doesn’t look at you and me that way. Unfortunately, some people will not respond to God’s watchmen; *“Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen’”* (Jer. 6:16-17). In addition, sometimes God’s messengers are delinquent, and Jonah is probably the most famous derelict prophet of God, one who refused to take the Word of God to the lost (Jonah 1-4).

Especially in New Testament times, God’s people often eagerly and boldly proclaimed God’s Word, despite frequent perils. Brethren in Thessalonica went beyond their own community to spread the Gospel of Christ (1 Thess. 1:6-8). Imagine the delightful surprise of the apostle Paul when he was interrupted by fellow Christians who exclaimed, *“Thessalonian Christians were here before you and introduced us to the Gospel.”*

Though scattered from Jerusalem by severe persecution, early Christians told people everywhere they went about the Gospel of Christ (Acts 8:4). Do we demonstrate in our lives and does the Gospel roll off our tongues everywhere we happen to go today? Perhaps, we can learn a valuable lesson from and imitate first century Christians, even if we are fortunate not to be scattered by persecution because of our faith. No greater conviction and no lesser regard for personal safety could be cited than the example of John the Baptist when proclaiming the Word of God (Matthew 14:3-12). Though penned much later, John the Baptist lived and died by the exhortation of Revelation 2:10, which reads, *“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw*

some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

The first century church so widely spread the Gospel message that Christians were accused of turning the world upside down with it (Acts 17:6). Oh, that you and I would turn the world upside down with the Gospel – to saturate communities near and far with Gospel opportunity. The apostles of Christ refused to stop teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18-21; 5:29). Stephen became the first Christian martyr for boldly and relentlessly preaching the Gospel (Acts 7:54-60). The apostle Paul suffered extensively while proclaiming the Gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 11:23-28; Acts 9-28).

Today, we need realistic **individual** and **congregational** goals toward which to strive in earnest. **Jesus Christ firmly established evangelization of the whole world as the goal of the church and the Christians who comprise it** (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8). Likewise, the apostle Paul defined the work of Gospel preachers or evangelists (2 Tim. 4:2, 5). However, evangelization of the world is not limited to the duties of preachers, but it is also the responsibility of **every child** of God (1 Pet. 3:15; John 15:1-8; Titus 2:14).

Evangelism is a primary characteristic of the New Testament church. Without evangelism, the church in its local sense will cease to exist (Rev. 2:1-7; 3:14-22), and that is happening at an alarming rate. Statistically, the church of our Lord will cease to exist in the local sense in a matter of a few decades in western civilization, including the USA.

Christians are capable of telling the world about the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:14; Col. 1:23). Congregations must saturate their respective communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every affordable method that promises favorable results needs to be used to help familiarize a congregation’s local populace with the Gospel and with the church Jesus Christ built. This may take the form of Gospel meetings, VBS, Bible Preschools and other activities to which the public is invited. When possible, public media such as radio, TV and Internet platforms can help. Massive distribution of Gospel literature in any community contributes to spreading the Gospel. The local church must saturate its neighborhood with the Gospel through various opportunities.

Individual Christian goals will contribute immeasurably to the success of the congregational goal. **First**, Christians must at-

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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. 23	Luke 9-10; Psalm 23
Jan. 24	Luke 11-12; Psalm 24
Jan. 25	Luke 13-14; Psalm 25 (video)
Jan. 26	Luke 15-16; Psalm 26
Jan. 27	Luke 17-18; Psalm 27
Jan. 28	Luke 19-20; Psalm 28 (video)
Jan. 29	Luke 21-22; Psalm 29
Jan. 30	Luke 23-24; Psalm 30 (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 **29** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ♦ There will be **no afternoon service at CARE** until further notice. (Hopefully not long!)
- ♦ **Justin Hopkins** will be here Wednesday evening to give an update.
- ♦ Two **area events** this week. Note below.
- ♦ Next Sunday, **Ryan Smithey** will teach Bible class and preach the morning sermon. **Dex Dennard** will bring the lesson in the evening.
- ♦ Covid numbers continue to spike in Brown county. (1,108 positive tests last week, 15 hospitalized, 7 deaths.) 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..."**
- ♦ **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.

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tend all the appointed assemblies and classes they can, for the world observes whether we have enough conviction to match the claims we mouth. **Second**, each child of God must always practice his or her Christianity carefully and faithfully because the world is looking for hypocrisy in us. **Third**, each Christian must take personal responsibility for encouraging absent and delinquent church members to attend services regularly. **Fourth**, each child of God must accept personal responsibility for informing non-Christians (e.g., family members, friends, fellow students, coworkers, neighbors) about the Gospel and the true church of the Bible. **Fifth**, individual Christians and collectively as congregations, the Lord's church must take seriously and personally the Christ-given charge to take the Gospel to the world. If Christians don't take Christianity seriously enough to propagate it near and far – who will?

The local congregation has the responsibility to evangelize its own community, turning it upside down with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Just as much as a lighthouse that fails to warn ships of treacherous rocks is useless, a congregation that fails to evangelize its community is powerless, too. The Gospel of Christ and only the Gospel of Christ is powerful enough to save souls (Romans 1:16). Failure to obey the Gospel is eternally tragic, whereas obeying the Gospel makes one a child of God (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rom. 6:17; Acts 2:38; 8:22).

Brethren, you and I must accept the responsibility for evangelizing the lost. Elders and churches need to set reasonable goals to evangelize the local community, rather than limiting financial participation and evangelistic efforts to foreign fields. Don't neglect precious souls abroad, but neither neglect souls equally precious at home. Some of the Christian hymns that promote evangelistic zeal are "The Banner of the Cross"; "Onward Christian Soldiers"; "Soldiers of Christ Arise"; "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"; "To Christ Be True"; "Stepping in the Light"; "I Want to be a Worker for the Lord"; "To the Work"; "There's a Great Day Coming" and "Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims." If only these spiritual songs and others like them were sung preceding the Sunday morning sermon, do you suppose that the congregation would anticipate a lesson about personal evangelism? If hymns such as these were led frequently, do you think that the congregation could be reminded often of the need to be evangelistically minded – as a local church with their families and acquaintances in mind, as well as mindful of people they will never meet overseas? Brethren, let's accept the Christ-given responsibility to evangelize the lost – far and near.

Louis Rushmore (Gospel Gazette Online, Jan. 2022)

Celebrate

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

Records

	Jan. 9, 2022	Jan. 16, 2022
Bible Class	29	29
AM Worship	35 + [15]	30 + [13]
PM Worship	32 + [16]	31 + [10]
Wednesday PM	24 + [13]	25 + [5]
Contribution	\$2,038	\$2.227

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/23/22	Next Week: 1/30/22	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: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	John Barnum	Don Smith		
Communion	Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell Coyce Reed, Ryan Settles	Randy Huckaby, James Fuller Dex Dennard, John Barnum		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	Rafe Smith		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Dex Dennard	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Ken Maninger	Randy Huckaby		
Closing Prayer	James Fuller	Chase Churchwell		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 26 Justin Hopkins	February 2 Don Smith	February 9 Prayer Night	February 16 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 January 23, 2022

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 3:12
Wed. Class Justin Hopkins

<p>God's Plan for Man's Salvation (Part 2)</p> <p>I. Mankind's Appropriation of God's Gift of Salvation.</p> <p>A. As wonderful as God's gift of salvation is, it is not <i>unconditional</i>.</p> <p>B. In His various dealings with mankind, the LORD has stressed repeatedly the principle that man, if he would be justified, must "<i>live by faith</i>" (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).</p> <p>C. "<i>Living by faith</i>" (Heb. 11:13) never meant a mere "<i>mental ascent</i>" of certain facts; "<i>living by faith</i>" means <i>active obedience</i>.</p> <p>D. Faith consists of 3 elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An acknowledgment of historical facts; 2. A willingness to trust the Lord; and 3. A wholehearted submission (obedience) to the divine will. <p>E. Faith has not always – for all men, in all circumstances – required the same things, but it always has required obedience.</p> <p>F. The Scriptures are clear that "<i>obedience to the faith</i>" (Rom. 1:5; 16:26) is based on the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), and that both the faith and the obedience are demonstrated by <i>action</i>.</p> <p>G. Several critically important questions need to be asked.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where is salvation found? "<i>In Christ Jesus</i>" (2 Tim. 2:10). 2. Where are all spiritual blessings found? "<i>In Christ</i>" (Eph. 1:3). 3. How does one get "<i>into Christ</i>"? <p>II. The Road Home: Salvation Through "Obedience to the Faith."</p> <p>A. The only way to find the "road home" is to follow God's directions <i>exactly</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sinner must <i>hear</i> God's Word (Rom. 10:17). 2. The sinner must <i>believe</i> what he hears (Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31). 3. The sinner must <i>repent</i> of his sins and seek forgiveness (Lk. 13:3). 4. The penitent sinner must <i>confess</i> his belief before men (Rom. 10:9-10). <p>B. However, this is not all that God commanded.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As important and essential as they are – these will not rid a person of sin. 2. How does one get rid of sin? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. "...be baptized ... for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). B. "...be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). 3. It is baptism that puts a person "<i>in Christ</i>" (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). 4. "<i>There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism</i>" (1 Pet. 3:21). 	<p>Counting the Cost (Luke 14:25-35) and A Lost and Found Coin (Luke 15:1-6)</p> <p>I. Jesus Followed by a Multitude and One Important Lesson – Counting the Cost of Discipleship (Lk. 14:25-35).</p> <p>A. We cannot earn salvation as if we were twisting God's arm with good deeds. However, salvation is not free! Nothing short of <i>everything</i> is acceptable.</p> <p>B. Luke 14:25-27 = Matthew 10:37-38 [also Mt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23].</p> <p>C. "<i>Now great multitudes went with Him</i>" (25).</p> <p>D. "<i>If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple</i>" (26).</p> <p>E. "<i>And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple</i>" (27).</p> <p>F. Two illustrations about "<i>counting the cost</i>."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need to count the cost before starting a building project (28-30). 2. The need to count the cost before going into battle (31-32). <p>G. Luke 14:34-35 = Matthew 5:13 [also Mk. 9:50].</p> <p>II. Jesus Followed by Tax Collectors and Sinners and Three Touching Stories That Teach One Lesson (Lk. 15:1-32).</p> <p>A. Among those listening to Jesus were <i>tax collectors</i> and ... <i>sinners</i> (1).</p> <p>B. This caused the <i>Pharisees and scribes</i> to complain, saying, "<i>This Man receives sinners and eats with them</i>" (2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their statement was true, but meant in a derogatory manner. 2. They were insinuating that because Jesus eats with them He is like them. 3. Two important things to keep in mind. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Jesus' purpose</i>: He ate with them in order to save their souls (5:30-32). b. The extent of <i>Jesus' participation</i>: He ate with them, but He did not engage in their sinful activity. <p>C. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (3-7).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus told about a shepherd who lost a sheep and then rejoiced when he found it. 2. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to look for the one. 3. There is joy in finding what was lost. 4. All of God's people are precious, but there is still something especially joyful to God about "<i>finding</i>" a lost soul.
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