

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Planning for the Future

D.J. Stucky

Most are familiar with the idea of a rainy-day-fund, which is setting aside money when times are good to help us through when times are bad. Regarding retirement planning, financial guru Dave Ramsay has often said, "If you will live like no one else, later you can live like no one else," his point being that if we diligently save money now, we will have plenty to use in the future. Doing this requires wisdom, self-discipline, and careful analysis of what may lie ahead. In Genesis 41:33-57, Joseph knew about the days that were ahead for Egypt, and he used his wisdom to prepare for them accordingly.

Joseph had interpreted Pharaoh's dream to mean that seven years of plenty would come, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph counseled that a man be chosen to set aside grain during the seven years of plenty so that people could eat during the seven years of famine (Gen. 41:33-36). Because of Joseph's wisdom, he was chosen to lead the endeavor. Pharaoh established Joseph as second in command, giving him all the symbols of authority necessary to rule (41:37-45). Joseph fulfilled his duty, and when the famine came, people from all over came to Egypt to buy the food they needed to survive (41:46-57).

Joseph, and even Pharaoh, showed great faith in the revelation of God. They trusted the revelation, and then they responded accordingly via their preparation for the days of famine. This faith in God saved the nation of Egypt, and it will save men today (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:16-17). God has told us everything we need to know about salvation, not through dreams, but through His inspired word (Heb. 1:1-2, Jn. 12:48). We can be certain that there is a day of judgment coming, just like Joseph was certain there were years of famine coming, because God has revealed it (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). This day will be our doom if we fail to prepare for it. People will agonize over getting a perfect portfolio for retirement, but neglect to plan for the Judgment Day, which is far more important (Matt. 25:1-13). Preparation for this Day requires far more than setting aside a portion of money. It requires giving up our will to the Father and becoming a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2). There are some things we must give up (Matt. 19:16-21). Our lifestyles may have to change (1 Pet. 4:1-4; Eph. 2:1-3). However, we are promised eternal life (Titus 1:1-2; Jn. 3:16). So we must ask ourselves a very serious question. What are we preparing for? Are we more concerned about being prepared for retirement than we are eternity? Are we going to spend our lives seeking self? Or, are we going to spend our lives seeking Him? May we set aside our own will so that we may be prepared to meet our Lord on the Last Day.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

D.J. Stucky

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am
AM Worship
10:00 am
PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am
Bible Study
7:00 pm

Cleburne,
Texas

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The Noise of Many Waters

Kevin W. Rhodes

The catastrophic destruction left behind in the wake of Hurricane Harvey's wrath has provoked a renewed appreciation for the force of wind, the power of the ocean, and the accumulative effects of rain. However, the profound revelation of the hearts of people reaching out to help those in need has proven wonderful medicine for a heartsick society. The same people that ignored each other at Wal-mart a week earlier, the same people that had nothing to say to each other not long ago, found unity and strength together in the midst of tragedy. More than that, this historic storm has provoked Christian hearts to action, to reach out in love to their fellow man and to bind congregations together in bearing the burden of feeding and housing those in need, cleaning and repairing those areas hardest hit, and giving to relieve the burden on those most affected. As noted in Psalm 93, all this is completely appropriate for a people who know the LORD.

The LORD created this world and still reigns over it. Every aspect of creation declares this still. Indeed, creation acts as evidence of His grandeur and His rule. The power and beauty of creation are far more glorious than the ornamentation of Versailles or the throne room of Buckingham Palace. By these things the LORD wears a robe of majesty that shows the power of His rule by the unmoving, unyielding nature of creation itself

(Psa. 93:1). Indeed, despite how nature's destructive forces can wreak havoc on the works of men, they do nothing but confirm the power of God as His creation goes on, seemingly unaffected by the worst that man can handle. In this there is confirmation once more to confess to God, "Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting" (Psa. 93:2). Therefore, no matter what may happen upon this earth, no matter how great the destruction or how great the tragedy, our God still reigns. He is still our King! As such, every word He has spoken is proven true and worth our attention. He is distinct and holy in every way, and everything shows it. He is Yahweh, the One who is and must be, the One who is there for us (Psa. 93:5).

This remains true in the midst of hardship and tragedy as much as it does in times of goodness and plenty. When destruction, famine, or pestilence strike, when disease or misfortune fall upon you, you have a God who is there for you, who cares for you, and who reigns over you and all that you face. The psalmist knew this; he saw it; he felt it. And his words reveal the heart that we ought to share. "The floods have lifted up, O LORD, The floods have lifted up their voice; The floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier Than the noise of many waters, Than the mighty waves of the sea" (Psa. 93:3-4). And let all the church say, "Amen!"



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Andrew Collins will have surgery on Thursday, January 25th.
- Shirley Elkins has been sick with an upper respiratory infection since coming back from NYC.
- Brenda Homan, Henry and Nan's daughter, had reconstructive knee surgery on Thursday in Fort Worth.
- Dee Lockett, Sherry's mother, still has pneumonia.
- Scott Crow, a member of the Rendon congregation, has complications from leukemia and is not doing well.
- Mike Maddox, father of Melissa Ann Burnett, received good news. He does not have cancer but has endocrine tumors that are benign. He will receive an injection each month to control the tumors.
- Janice Redden received a report that her kidney function is down to 35%. If it goes to 25%, she must begin dialysis.
- Pat Thompson had outpatient surgery on Friday, January 19th, at Baylor All Saints.
- Our hearts are very sad to report that our brother, Casey Lehtinen, has suffered a total relapse. His leukemia has returned and is much worse. Since he feels his body would not be able to tolerate the only available course of treatment, he and Natasha have chosen instead for him to enter Hospice Care and enjoy their family in the short time they have left. Please pray for them throughout this very difficult time. They have asked for cards and replies only on Facebook after they have posted it. No visitors please. May God bless this family and give them peace in this time of trial.

Please remember in prayers...

Pauline Bishop, Mike Maddox, father of Melissa Ann Burnett, Darla Baze Mullen, Betty Rutledge, Joe Warlick

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Dot Blitch and family in the passing of her brother, Hudson Hightower. The funeral was Thursday in Hillsboro.

Also, we extend our sympathy to Betty and Dennis Lane in the passing of Betty's mother, Violet Perez. She passed away Wednesday morning. Violet's husband, Juan, is in a worsening condition at Harris Southwest.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 5:15,16

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Rejoice always,

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 1/21

Front South

Jeff Day
Dale Ash
Logan Frasier

Front North

Kenneth Helm
Justin Hewlett
Vince Grinnell

Back South

Perry Elkins
Royce Gorman
Cody Grinnell

Back North

Jason Hackler
Wesley Hackler
Conner Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Sid Carruth

Sunday PM

Don Crecelius
Andrew Collins

Wednesday PM

Doug Jones
Clint Owens

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Jeff Day

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray
Will Cammack

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett /Wayne Gentry

Beacon of Truth, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

Expositions, Kevin's television program, airs on GBN every Monday night at 7:30 pm and then re-airs on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Understanding God

PM

Patience in Persecution
James 5:7-12

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

9/7-8 Marriage and Parenting Seminar
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard



Our Records

Bible Class.....148
AM Worship.....204
PM Worship.....129
Wednesday Bible Class.....121
Contribution.....\$5,512

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