

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Either, Or...Why Not And?

Pat McIntosh

There are some things, due to their very nature, that are mutually exclusive. Something can be black or white, but it cannot be both. The Law of Excluded Middle, in logic, indicates that something cannot be both true and false at the same time. For example, God either exists or He does not. Jesus was either the Son of God, or He was not. Most will understand this concept.

Many in the religious world, however, have a hard time seeing the concept that certain things in Scripture do not oppose each other, especially as it relates to the attributes of God. For example, Joel portrays both the love and justice of God as it relates to Israel. In Joel 1:4ff, a locust plague such as has never been seen before is being sent by God as punishment for their sin. However, note that God indicates that it is “His vine” and “His fig tree” that are going to be destroyed. God still loved His people, but He had to punish them for their sins. Therefore, His love and His justice/wrath are not mutually exclusive. It is not a matter of “either-or”, but a matter of “and.”

Another example is seen in the area of faith and works. Many follow John Calvin’s idea that faith and works are mutually exclusive. They look to passages such as Ephesians 2:8-9 and declare a belief that “faith only” saves because man is not saved by works. They therefore struggle with passages such as James 2:24 as they see a contradiction. Martin Luther, father of the Reformation Movement, believed this so strongly that it impacted his theology resulting in a “faith alone” system of justification. When the Bible is examined correctly, the truth is seen that both faith and works must be present in one’s life for an individual to manifest a biblical faith. It is not “either, or”; rather, it is “and.” This truth is understood when we see that works, as used by James, is describing actions and attitudes that stem from one’s faith. These works are not opposed to faith; rather, they have faith as their source and motivation.

An understanding of these truths will help relieve much of the religious confusion and division that exists today. A true understanding of God will let us see that He will both bless and punish, based upon man’s reception or rejection of His will. He loves man, but His justice requires punishment for sin. He has provided for that which will remove that sin, and desires that all men avail themselves of it. We are saved by grace through faith, and people should see this reality through our works. In one sense, we should not have to tell people we are Christians. They should see it in the way we live our lives and how we interact with others.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

Pat McIntosh

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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Full Atonement - Can It Be?

Kevin W. Rhodes

The Jews journeyed to Jerusalem for several feasts every year—each having a special significance. As they traveled and approached the city and especially the temple, their purpose in drawing near grew clearer and clearer. This developed not only from their proximity to their ancient capital but also due to their practice of singing psalms as they approached, songs designed to remind them of their identity, of their need, and of their purpose in coming to worship in the temple on that occasion. While obedience to the Law—especially following their captivity in Babylon—motivated and directed them, the focus and content of the psalms shows that other concerns also drove them. The third feast commanded, the Feast of Ingathering, began on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Ex. 23:16); however, the LORD designated a solemn Sabbath just five days before this on the tenth (Lev. 16:29-33), Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Reflection on this day and its meaning permeates Psalm 130 thereby giving it a deeper meaning and tone.

Depression and despair, regular themes in the psalms, take on greater gravity when placed in a spiritual context. Guilt—properly felt due to sin—is serious cause indeed. And experienced fully, it produces a separation and loneliness like no other (Isa. 59:1-2), making the opening cry of the psalm even more forlorn: “Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD” (Psa. 130:1). Sinful man needs a holy God—desperately. It is essential that man knows it, realizes it, feels it. Sadly, many feel their guilt and ignore it, feel their guilt and dismiss it, or feel their guilt and misinterpret it. But those who recognize it as the offspring of sin, turn to the LORD as He desires and seek pardon for it (Psa. 130:2). The Lord knows our sins—every one. But He is also longsuffering and does not act on them immediately due to His loving forbearance (Psa. 130:3). The LORD wants to forgive; He longs to forgive. Therefore, He has created a plan to forgive. And this should produce a deep reverence in all who realize the extent to which He is willing to go to have a relationship with us (Psa. 130:4). He does not need us as slaves or anything else, but He still

wants us as His children. What a marvelous thought! “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Rom. 8:15). The relationship God desires is personal, spiritual, and character driven. He has given His Word and offered promises to create hope in those who read and gain faith with the design that the message within will create a spiritual longing for the LORD in return (Psa. 130:5). However, spiritual longing for the LORD should surpass some casual interest but turn into a grand expectation rooted in the full consideration of His character and thus building a confident expectation that assures all of the certainty of the fulfillment of every promise (Psa. 130:6). Having then gained full assurance of the great extent of the LORD’s desire to forgive, the psalmist called on all of Israel to adopt the same confidence. The answer to all matters of guilt and the sin that created it depend on an understanding and expectation of the depth of mercy bestowed upon man by the Yahweh (Psa. 130:7). Because He has reached out His hand in mercy rather than striking out in anger, He has placed His character and love on display, supplying the purchase price necessary to provide redemption in the face of despair. In doing so, He does not address a fraction of trespasses practiced or remove a portion of sins committed but the whole, addressing and redeeming Israel from “all his iniquities” (Psa. 130:8).

Spiritually-minded people seeking God’s forgiveness today should marvel still at His longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9) and be drawn to turn their hearts back to God in faith (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6). However, God’s plan today, rooted in the atonement made possible through the sacrifice of His Son (1 Jn. 2:1-2; Heb. 7:26-27), demands more than simple prayer but rather convicted repentance (Acts 17:30), confessed allegiance (Matt. 10:32-33), and committed obedience (Acts 22:16; Heb. 5:8-9), thus calling on the name of the LORD (Acts 2:16-38). We must never take forgiveness lightly, for what it cost God or what it requires of us. But once received, we should sing about it often, with words similar to the psalmist’s.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Sydney Ann Birchfield, Janice Redden and Sandra Bachhofer's sister, is in room 4414 at Huguley Hospital. She will have hernia surgery tomorrow.
- Amy Hackler met with the surgeon on Friday to see what will be done about the mass in her breast.
- Mike Harding is having shots in his back today in Ft. Worth.
- Doug Kilcrease will have vein ablation surgery on October 18th.
- Mike McIntosh, Pat's brother, suffered Global amnesia once in a lifetime episode. He was released from the hospital after a day.
- Nan Oliver's surgery was more intense than just a cyst. She will have a longer recovery time.
- Janice Redden will see the surgeon about the problem with her neck.
- Laura Stephens is in room 583 in the Richardson Tower at Harris. She fell out of bed and cracked a vertebra in her neck. She will have surgery tomorrow at 2:00.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Norman, Tom, Beth and Ava Collins in the passing of Mary Collins last week. The funeral services were in Silsbee, TX on Tuesday.

Also, sympathy is extended to Gary and Glenda Barger, Shannon Barron in the passing of Gary's cousin, Jerrel Peugh. Services were Monday.

Please note...

- The 99 Program begins Sunday, October 7th. Sid Carruth and Kenneth Helm are the leaders of the **Antioch Group**. They will meet in the annex after the morning worship service. Please bring soups and salads.
- Youth devotional will be Sunday, October 7th in the annex. Rob and Deb Stidolph will be hosting the devotional. Rob and Deb Stidolph will be hosting the devotional in the annex. Boys and girls need to cook something and bring it. Then they will be judged on their dishes.
- Game night will be Tuesday, October 9th, at 6:00 pm in the annex.
- Ryan and Kerista Cowan are inviting anyone who is interested in sharpening their personal evangelism skills to the first P.E.P. (Personal Evangelism and Pizza) meeting on Friday, October 12th at 6:30 pm in the annex. Bring your favorite drink and money for pizza. See Ryan or Kerista if you have questions.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 10/07

Front South

DeWayne Henegar
Justin Hewlett
Perry Elkins

Front North

Jason Hackler
Conner Hackler
Wesley Hackler

Back South

Larry Owens
Clint Owens
Melvin Owens

Back North

Howard Newberry
Michael Hunt
James Hunt

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Larry McWilliams

Sunday PM

Joshua Haynes

Tom Collins

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Luke Norman

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Clark Lehtinen

Wednesday

Tim Norman

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Jeff McPherson

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday James Hunt

Jim Hudgins & Tom Collins

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Paul Murphy

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 Monday nights at 7:30 pm, Thursday mornings at 10:30 am, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm, and Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Rohan Jones speaks

PM

Cape Town Report
Rohan Jones

Calendar of Events



10/7/18 Rohan Jones visits

10/14/18 Guest Speaker

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard

12/9/18 Congregational Christmas Dinner
following evening services



Our Records

Bible Class.....110

AM Worship.....170

PM Worship.....100

Wednesday Bible Class.....92

Contribution.....\$6,070

Granbury Street Church of Christ

1211 N. Granbury Street
Cleburne, TX 76033

817-517-7713 (Local) or 817-517-6515 (Metro)

FAX: 817-556-3822

granburystreet@aol.com

www.granburystreetchurchofchrist.com