

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Tell Me Something Good

D.J. Stucky

Despite what the mainstream media might indicate, people like hearing good news. We want to hear that good things will happen to us. We want to hear things that are pleasant. But in reality, we know that some news is difficult to hear. Pharaoh's baker experienced this in Genesis 40:1-23.

Two servants of Pharaoh were thrown in prison for displeasing their king. The two men, a butler and a baker, were put under Joseph's charge (Gen. 40:1-5). Both men dreamed on the same night and became sad because there was nobody to interpret their dreams. Fortunately, Joseph had the ability to interpret dreams because he served the Lord to whom all interpretations belong (40:6-8). The butler's dream was interpreted first. He would be reinstated to his position in three days (40:9-15). Upon hearing that the butler's interpretation was good, the baker asked for the interpretation of his dream. Joseph interpreted the dream and discovered that in three days the baker would be killed (40:16-19). Three days later, everything happened exactly as Joseph had interpreted.

The baker was only interested in God's word, the interpretation of his dream, when he heard about the good that the other interpretation contained. It is true that God tells us many good things in His word. He promises to care for us when we seek Him (Matt. 6:33). He has promised to make a place for us in heaven (Jn. 14:1-4). He has told us about the eternal life that is available through a relationship with Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:16; Titus 3:5-7). These are the things we want to hear. However, there are also some painful realities that are revealed in the word. We must change our relationships with people who would pull us away from God (1 Cor. 15:33-34; 2 Jn. 9-11). We must abstain from the lusts of the flesh that may have become habits (1 Pet. 2:11; 4:1-4). We must obey God, even if that means being shunned by family (Matt. 10:34-36, Lk. 14:26). The rich young ruler wanted Jesus to tell him that he was doing everything necessary for eternal life. Instead, he was commanded to sell his goods and give to the poor because he trusted in his riches, a command that caused him sorrow (Matt. 19:16-22). There are things in the Bible that are easy and pleasant to hear. There are many more that are difficult. Both are the words of God.

Surely the baker was not expecting such a dour revelation from God. Unfortunately for him, his fate was sealed. Today, when we discover something difficult in God's word, we have a choice. We can choose to change ourselves to fit the word or we can ignore the hard things and listen only to what is easy (Matt. 7:13-14). One of these will lead to a relationship with God, and one of these will lead to death. Which one will you choose?

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

Volume 14,
Number 50

December 24,
2017

Refuge in Life

Kevin W. Rhodes

In God We Trust. The national motto of the United States of America rings hollow today considering the rampant march toward immorality perpetrated by her government. And yet this hypocrisy demonstrates, by its irony, the importance of real trust. Throughout the Bible, trust always serves as the central characteristic of a strong relationship with God. Broken trust severs that relationship. Hollow trust ignores it. Binding trust restores it. But perfect trust established it. The beautiful prophecy of the Messianic Psalm 91 illustrates this latter fact perfectly. The wording of the pronouns throughout this psalm make it difficult to establish the extent of the application intended. However, it would appear that the inspired anonymous psalmist (perhaps Moses in a sequel to Psalm 90) developed the theme of personal trust in the LORD (Heb. 11:6) that Satan applied to Jesus directly in the process of temptation (Matt. 4:6) and that Jesus fulfilled perfectly in overcoming all temptation (Heb. 4:15).

Although many pay lip service to the essentiality of faith toward God, here the psalmist establishes that God Himself must be the epicenter of our trust. And yet this is no mere passive belief in a Creator but a meaningful and personal trust based upon a deep understanding and appreciation for who God is—the Most High, who transcends His creation; the Almighty, who governs His creation; My God, who has the power to help His creation; and the LORD—Yahweh—who, in offering a covenant relationship, is always there for His creation (Psa. 91:1-2). This is the substance of trust, and living by faith is

its manifestation (2 Cor. 5:7). However, contrary to modern applications that equate faith with wish fulfillment, trusting God is a direct response to what God Himself has offered us. As the psalmist develops His theme, he offers three examples of what God has spoken that both require and deserve our trust. He has given us truth by which *we* can build spiritual knowledge as a foundation for life (Psa. 91:3-4; John 17:17). He has offered His protection for His people in day to day care so that we need not live life in fear (Psa. 91:5-8). This does not relieve us of responsibility or keep us from all pain and discomfort in life, as Jesus Himself saw and experienced, but it reminds us of God's presence and care even during the trials that go with the nature of this life (Heb. 13:5-6). Third, God has made us precious promises, especially in regard to His providence (Psa. 91:9-13). This is not magical safety net against harm, but it surely demonstrates that God can operate within nature by angelic means to turn events as He wishes for the benefit of His people. In the final section of this beautiful poem (Psa. 91:14-16), the inspired writer offers God's own response to faith that trusts Him completely: a listening ear, promised presence, deliverance and victory, and blessing and salvation in life. He promises a great future.

Jesus, as even Satan recognized, lived by this kind of trust. He died still holding fast to this kind of trust. And God rewarded Him for having this kind of trust. And the beauty of what Jesus accomplished by doing so is that we who trust Him and what He did can enjoy the same reward (John 14:1-6).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Darla Baze Mullen, Dorothy Baze's daughter and Steve's sister, will have a PET scan on December 26th. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Scott Crow, a friend of Bruce Eversole, is in remission from leukemia but had a heart attack just before Thanksgiving and now has pneumonia.
- Karen Homesley, Linda & Don Manning's daughter, is going through tests and treatments.
- Janice Redden is having tests on her kidney.
- Bob Stapleton, Director of the Brown Trail School of Preaching, is in ICU at Medical City in Arlington. He had surgery to repair 8 ruptured arteries in his throat. He will have more surgery in the coming weeks.
- Joe Warlick has started radiation treatments. He is very weak.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mittie Wiginton. The funeral was Friday in Grandview.

Baptism

Kimberly Mann was baptized for the remission of her sins on Monday evening. Her address is 6036 Beachview, Ft. Worth. We rejoice with her in her decision to obey the gospel!

Please note...

- The office will be closed from December 22nd — January 1st. Please call Sherry or one of the elders to add any of the sick to the announcements.
- Sunday, December 24th, we will have our regular morning worship, sandwich lunch in the annex, and a 1:00 PM Question & Answers service. Please bring sandwiches, chips, dips, and desserts.
- Sunday, December 31st, we will have our regular services times. The fish fry and New Year's Eve party will be in the annex after the evening worship service.
- Wednesday, January 3rd, Ladies Bible Class will resume at 10:00 AM.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/24

Front South

Will Cammack
Joshua Haynes
Jeff Day

Front North

Russ Jones
Doug Jones
Logan Frasier

Back South

Perry Elkins
Sid Carruth
Weldon York

Back North

Howard Newberry
Mark Stubblefield
Mike Harding

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Tim Norman

Andrew Collins

Sunday PM

Pat McIntosh

Larry McWilliams

Wednesday PM

Clint Owens

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Dale Ash

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

D. J. Stucky

Sunday PM

D. J. Stucky

Wednesday PM

Jeff McWilliams

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

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

Blessed Assurance
1 John

PM

Questions and Answers

Calendar of Events



12/24

1 PM Assembly with Q&A

12/31

New Year's Eve Fish Fry
after 5:00 PM worship

1/19-20

Evangelism Seminar
with Rob Whitacre



Our Records

Bible Class.....	141
AM Worship.....	185
PM Worship.....	133
Wednesday Bible Class.....	125
Contribution.....	\$5,786

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