

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

When You Have a Problem

Kevin W. Rhodes

After Abijah died, his son Asa reigned over Judah (2 Chr. 14:1). In doing so, he faced all the history of problems existing between Judah and Israel, the threat of enemies beyond those borders, and the challenges of a society falling away from Jehovah within. However, despite all this, “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God” (2 Chr. 14:2). His focus from the beginning, and rightfully so, was not on the external problems but on those within. Therefore, he destroyed the altars and images erected to foreign gods and commanded his people to follow Jehovah and His law (2 Chr. 14:3-5). Having addressed a deteriorating society, he then built fortifications and an army to protect the people from external threats, recognizing that the LORD had made this time of peace and prosperity possible (2 Chr. 14:6-8). But Zerah the Ethiopian came against Judah with a million men, creating challenge to Asa’s faith and the newfound strength of Judah (2 Chr. 14:9). Asa did not back down from this challenge, but, despite being heavily outnumbered, gathered his troops to go to battle (2 Chr. 14:10). However, Asa did not attempt to fight this battle alone. Instead, “Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, ‘LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!’” (2 Chr. 14:11). The LORD answered Asa’s plea in the affirmative, overthrowing the Ethiopians and providing great spoil for Judah, chasing them to Gerar (2 Chr. 14:12-15).

While we do not face this same kind of challenge as God’s people today, we certainly can take great comfort knowing that we can appeal to the same God who has the same resources. However, we must recognize this when problems first appear. We must become a people who readily turn to God in prayer for help—not expecting Him to perform miracles for us, but knowing that He can affect our circumstances in ways of which we could only dream. But let us approach Him with confidence, assured that He is indeed able (Dan. 3:17) and that the size of the problem matters not to Him. May we go forward to please Him regardless and put His name forth as our standard always. May we so identify with Him that He is truly our God. More than that, may we learn to battle whatever problems we face to achieve a victory for Him more than one for ourselves. This is the key to handling problems. And that key is true, unrelenting faith. “And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4b).

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen

Deacons

Gary Barger
Jeff Day
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Tim Norman

Preacher

Kevin Rhodes

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 12,
Number 14

April 12,
2015

No Escape Clause - Part One

Kevin W. Rhodes

Most people, at least those who ascribe to some modicum of godliness, expect that they must obey some commands of God, but they do not necessarily accept that they must keep all of them. The rich young ruler's answer to Jesus' call for him to keep the commandments—"Which ones?"—implies that some of what God says is unnecessary to keep, and that is exactly how some people act today as well. However, there are no exceptions to what God requires us to obey. To the contrary, complete obedience is the rule of thumb for a disciple of Christ. It is the very essence of our role as disciples and Jesus' role as Lord. The writer of Hebrews points out that this follows the pattern of Jesus' own life, for "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:8–9). Therefore, to be Christlike is to obey the Father.

While the Old Law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14) and is therefore not what God requires of us, it is not because God was dismissing the importance of commandments, but because it always pointed to something better (Heb. 8:8–13). Indeed, God's commands exist to call us to adopt His character, which is why they are always for our good. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 Jn. 5:3). Therefore, since God's Word reflects God's character, to reject what the Lord says is to reject the Lord (Jn. 12:48). Thus, sin is not the transgression of some arbitrary law set down by God; it is the striking rejection of God's own character (1 Jn. 3:4; Isa. 59:1–2).

Unfortunately, when the reality of God's message exposes the depths to which sin has

taken us, not everyone proves prepared to accept the full extent of discipleship. Instead, people look for some loophole and argue for imaginary escape clauses not found in Scripture. Sadly, some people act as if God's call for repentance only applies to things they previously decided to give up, but the apostle Paul's call for universal repentance in preparation for Judgment cannot be pigeonholed in such a way.

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:30–31).

Some seek simple rituals as a panacea for their sin, accepting big, grand ideas while rejecting the simple tasks of basic obedience. We recall the way Naaman originally responded, preferring his problem to the revealed solution (2 Kings. 5:11–12). Some individuals follow when it is easy but give up as soon as faithfulness becomes difficult. They enjoy the pleasant hope of eternal life but have no stomach for the disciple's unqualified commitment to Christ (Jn. 6:60). Others follow as long as they can get something out of it—business contacts, youth activities, financial support—but stop when they are expected to give something, failing to accept that obedience in service is at the heart of all their Lord has done (Mk. 10:45). The reality is simple: if you have to ask what part of God's Word you do not need to obey, you do not have the heart of Jesus, or the heart of discipleship.



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Lou Baker is in room 310-B at Walls Hospital with pneumonia and UTI infection.
- Roland Bishop is in hospice care at home. Please remember Roland, Pauline and the family.
- Lisa Blythe, Tracy Rhodes' cousin, has Cowden's disease. She has a tumor at the stem of her brain that is growing that she will have to have removed on April 22nd.
- Karen Jeter, Donna York's niece, is battling breast and lung cancers.

Remember in prayers

Ken Boroughs; Lonnie Burk, Laurie McPherson's father; Darla Dill; Janie Duffield's first cousins' Edrie and Audrie; Lois Howard, Betty Lane, Don Manning, Mary Reynolds, Dawn Taff, Tracy Rhodes' cousin

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of former member, Ron Wisialowski, who passed away Friday morning. Services were Tuesday at 10:30 AM at Lucas Blessing Funeral Home in Burleson.

Peoples serving our country

Please say a special prayer for those serving in our armed forces. We have several from our congregation who are in dangerous situations.

Please Note...

- Tuesday, April 14th, will be 55 years and older game night starting at 6:00 PM in the annex.
- Saturday, April 18th, Family Day will start at 10:30 in the annex.
- We will no longer be providing CD's since our duplicator is not working. We will, however, be recording all lessons and be providing them online.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 4/12

Front South

John McGilvray
Larry McWilliams
Paul Murphy

Back South

Jeff McPherson
Michael Mora
Rob Stidolph

Front North

Tim Norman
Luke Norman
Robert Pennay

Back North

Clint Owens
Larry Owens
Melvin Owens

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Ken Boroughs

Robert Pennay

Wednesday PM

Ryan Cowan

Kyle Day

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Russ Jones

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Jason Hackler

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Ken Boroughs / Wayne Gentry

Wed. PM Devotional (4/15)

Ryan Cowan



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Tim Norman

PM

Tim Norman



Listen to the Gospel!

Granbury Street's Worship

LIVE every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Luis and Mike in the Mornings

(Monday - Friday) from 7:00 am - 9:00 am cst on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Monday - Friday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am
btradio.net



Our Records

Bible Class	154
AM Worship.....	220
PM Worship	164
Wednesday Bible Class 4/1.....	143
Contribution	\$6,104

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