

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

With Love, the Rhodes

Kevin W. Rhodes

Fifteen years. We have enjoyed fifteen years worshipping together, working together, praying together, mourning together, rejoicing together, eating together, and helping one another. We have said goodbye to many over that time. Many have passed away, some have fallen away, and some have moved away. But we have also welcomed many into our midst. We have welcomed a number of babies (some of whom are now teenagers!), welcomed some who have moved into the area, and welcomed new Christians as the gospel works on the hearts of men and gives us new family to enjoy.

When we arrived, I still thought of myself as a young preacher. That certainly changed over the years, but it also means that you witnessed that transformation. Your help and support from the beginning and throughout has allowed me to study and write, teach and preach, visit and hold Bible studies, laugh and cry, as much as necessary for the good of the work. I have benefitted personally as a result. Of this there is no doubt. I have grown in my biblical knowledge just from the need and opportunity to study different books and preach many different types of lessons over the years. I have worked to improve in the pulpit, smoothing off any remaining rough edges (I hope!), learned how to build a visual presentation that helps rather than offends, and attempted to incorporate various nuances homiletically—all in the hopes of becoming more effective. I have matured as a writer and teacher as well through the regular practice of teaching three adult Bible classes and writing two articles every week in the bulletin up until only a couple of years ago. So, for all these things, I thank you. I am a much better preacher and a much better Christian for it.

My children have grown up at Granbury Street. It is hard to believe that Makaria was not yet in school and Hannah was barely walking when we arrived when I see them today. I have always appreciated how not only the adults but also the youth treated them as one of their own. Considering some of the food challenges and health challenges they have faced, it would have been easy for them to be ostracized, but the youth at Granbury Street would have none of that. Tracy and I have so many friends here. We will miss each and every one of you dearly. But we are even more thankful that we had the opportunity to know you, to work alongside you, and to love you. Granbury Street will always be special to us. Thank you for making it so.

With love, the Rhodes

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

Volume 15,
Number 49

December 23,
2018

In the Midst of Chaos

Kevin W. Rhodes

Uncertainty dominates the landscape of the postmodern world. Boastful threats from rogue nations, mounting corruption in international institutions, and political rancor on both sides of the aisle dominate the news. Moreover, wanton violence against youth, total incivility both online and in person, and blatant immorality throughout the various layers of society mirror this upheaval of order. Some uneasiness stems from the rapid change that technology has introduced into the economy. However, much comes from the intentional efforts to degrade standards to the point of nonexistence. Indeed, the call of some to ignore international borders and thereby the nature of citizenship serves as a metaphor regarding the general philosophy of the standard-less. Blurring lines has become second nature to those who have invested their souls in calling good evil and evil good. But how should God's people address an environment such as this? David's heartfelt expression recorded in Psalm 140 serves as a powerful answer as Christians try to cope with the chaos around them.

David faced many foes during his lifetime—most of them close acquaintances. He understood the dangers of wickedness from experience, having lived through harrowing events much of his early life only to have them return with a vengeance in his later years. Thus, as he wrote Psalm 140, we read not merely inspired encouragement but also the hurting heart of experience. In the midst of chaos, trusting God serves as far more than some instinctive method to hope against all hope when tragedy strikes but as the natural extension of faith that trusts God at all times. The wickedness that confronts mankind daily can provoke fear and dread, but those who know God also know He can deliver them from evil men, from evil plans, and from evil words (Psa. 140:1-3). Violent men take pride in their ability to influence the peaceful to react with violence in kind. Thus, whether by threats or actions, they push against the righteous to provoke unrighteousness in return (Psa. 140:4-

5). Therefore, the threat of such a society lies not simply in the evil of others but in the failure of God's people to control it within themselves. This is why we must train ourselves—even in the most difficult of circumstances—to trust that God will listen, God will protect, and God will deliver (Psa. 140:6-8). We must trust that God will handle wickedness—in His own time and in His own way. This does not mean that He will not employ human means, but it does remind us not to force the issue ourselves. Repeating a Hebrew construction translated as “Let,” David's words emphasize that evil has a way of leading to its own consequences. But, more than that, it shows the importance of letting God handle the larger issues of wickedness in this world and accepting His justice in the greater scheme of time and eternity rather than allowing ourselves to become trapped by the moment (Psa. 140:9-11). Indeed, as he closes, the simple confidence expressed by David we should adopt as our own. God will do what is right. He will stand up for the oppressed and take care of the needy. He will hold up the righteous and accept them in His presence (Psa. 140:12-13).

Trusting God remains the core defense saints have against a world gone mad. Regardless of the problem, regardless of the foe, leaning on God offers the greatest comfort and greatest strength available in this world of sin. The faithful know this at heart, and yet many have trouble turning that foundational principle of faith into tangible trust. The world will always create challenges for the faithful, but the response we give should always begin with trust. Therefore, while we may not be able to predict the outcome of the events confronting us in this world, we can know the right way to react—trusting in God and doing His will. Our responsibility remains to place ourselves on God's side through the simple tasks of daily life that lie within our control and hand over to Him the larger issues of this world that are beyond it. In doing so, though living in the midst of chaos, we can still enjoy peace (Phil. 4:7).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Henry and Nan Homan and Mary Reynolds have asked for prayers.
- Michael Hughes has been in the hospital with an infection from his last surgery. He continues to need prayers and appreciates all of the cards and prayers on his behalf.
- Mary Ann Jackson will have heart valve surgery on Tuesday, January 8th, in Dallas.
- Dianne Melton had cataract surgery on Tuesday.
- Janice Redden will have hernia surgery Thursday, January 3rd, at Walls Hospital.
- Lois Thompson has been room 506 at Harris Hospital downtown.
- Pat Thompson had an iron infusion on Wednesday.
- Joe Warlick was released from the hospital.
- Weldon and Donna York have asked for prayers for their family. Donna Kay Davis, Weldon's sister had gallbladder surgery. Weldon's brother is having problems with kidney stones and infection. Donna's sister, Fay Pike, had neck surgery on Monday at Harris Downtown. Betty Ware's husband, Tony, is not doing well with liver cancer.

Please note...

- The Smyrna Group—Tim Norman will not meet Sunday for a meal. The cards will be in the teacher's workroom Sunday morning and Sunday evening for everyone in the group to sign.
- Sunday, December 30th we will have our regular morning worship, lunch in the annex and 1:00 PM Question and Answer lesson
- Monday, December 31st will be the New Year's Eve Party and fish fry. We will start at 6:00 PM. Clark will start frying fish at 5:00 PM and if you can help please let Clark know. Bring side dishes and desserts to go with the fish and don't forget your games and snacks for afterwards.
- The office will be closed from December 24th — January 2nd. There will not be any bulletins but if you have anything that needs to be announced call one of the elders.
- The next PEP meeting (Personal Evangelism and Pizza) will be on Friday, January 11th, at 6:30 in the annex. Please see Kerista regarding your food plans if want to attend.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/23

Front South

Andrew Collins
Kenneth Helm
Robert Pennay

Front North

Colton Allen
J. D. Allen
Vince Grinnell

Back South

Jim Hudgins
Mike Hight
Weldon York

Back North

Rob Stidolph
Jeff McPherson
Daniel Hughes

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Clark Lehtinen

Sunday PM

Will Cammack

Pat McIntosh

Wednesday PM

Don Crecelius

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

Logan Frasier

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Will Cammack / James Hunt

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 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

The Work Must Go On

Exposition of 2 Timothy

PM

Up to the Challenge

Zechariah 14:1-21

Calendar of Events



12/31 New Year's Eve Party



Our Records

Bible Class.....	117
AM Worship.....	154
PM Worship.....	97
Wednesday Bible Class.....	94
Contribution.....	\$4,267

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