

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

My Whole Heart

Kevin W. Rhodes

“Worship is boring!” That, my friends, is the attitude of far too many Christians. They may not say it. They may never use those words. However, their restlessness throughout the assembly, their discomfort during the singing, and their hurry to get done and out the door speaks volumes. Similarly, youth may enjoy the rapid fire pace of shorter devotional songs (especially those that are repetitive and do not require four part harmony), a brief lesson aimed directly at them, and a casual atmosphere, yet find a sermon of greater weight, traditional hymns, and the more formal atmosphere of the assembly not quite to their taste. Many have sought to address these latter concerns by offering different worship styles at different times or changing the assembly to take on a more devotional character. For the former problems, the preacher usually shoulders the load of responsibility for shortening his sermon and perhaps the elders also decide to sing fewer songs. Regardless, none of this sounds remotely like David when he wrote, “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High” (Psa. 9:1-2).

Practically speaking, it is undeniable that the quality of the song leader and the quality of the sermon affect how people perceive their time in the assembly. This is a responsibility that all who lead in worship—in any capacity—should take to heart. However, it matters not if the song leader selects the perfect songs, stays on pitch, sings at the right tempo, sings out, and sings with meaning if the people in the pew do not reciprocate. It does not matter how much the preacher has studied, how effective his delivery might be, or how pertinent the passage if Christians in attendance do not listen well. At some point, we must recognize that what the individual puts into worship matters just as much as what anyone leading does. How much you put into singing matters to God as much how well the song leader leads. How well you listen matters to God as much as how well the preacher preaches. How involved you are in praying personally matters to God more than the grammar of the person leading the prayer.

We have come to rely far too much on our setting and circumstances to determine our worship when what matters most is bringing our whole heart to worship every time we come to bow down before the throne of Almighty God. Worshiping in spirit and truth matters. Jesus made that abundantly clear (Jn. 4:24). But He also made it clear that the kind of worshippers who come before the Lord matters just as much (Jn. 4:23). We have an opportunity to express the depth of our love for God not only in our attendance in the assembly but in what we do within the assembly. Every week we remember how much God gave for us (Jn. 3:16; 1 Cor. 11:23-29). Our heart should reflect the same each and every time we come before Him (Matt. 15:8-9; Mk. 12:30).

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

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

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

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Civil Disobedience in an Uncivil Society

Kevin W. Rhodes

For many years, the situation in America provided an environment where Christianity could grow and have influence in society due to the spiritual focus of many early Americans and the appreciation for biblical principles and ethics that the founders considered essential for the republican framework of government based in liberty they called for in the Declaration of Independence and then codified in the United States Constitution. Unfortunately, that situation has changed dramatically in recent years, though Satan sowed the seeds of spiritual discontent long ago. This has created an environment in which those who previously enjoyed at least a respected position as moral people forming the backbone of society have now been challenged to bow at the feet of secularism and submit to the god of immorality. Recent decisions of the Supreme Court and the cultural shift exemplified in Hollywood films and even on ESPN provide more than enough evidence to support this claim. However, we must not allow this change in circumstances to force us to compromise or retreat.

When Mordecai found himself in a foreign land with laws and leaders pushing an agenda hostile to God's people, he accepted its reality but he did not allow it to become his standard. Rather than bowing to the pressure of a king's command or to those around him, he refused to bow before Haman, a decision that unsurprisingly angered Haman greatly (Est. 3:1-5). However, since Mordecai explained his civil disobedience on the basis of being a Jew and therefore obeying God rather than man, this simply motivated Haman to attack all of God's people as a result (Est. 3:6)—a reaction that should make God's people today take notice. Whether the government is pagan and secular really does not matter. A government (or, more accurately, government

officials) hostile to truth, that recognizes the criticisms of personal behavior included in the Word of God or that wishes to convince people that the state or representatives or the state are supreme, will seek to silence God's people. Today's society may limit the means somewhat (at least currently), but Haman's attempt to destroy all Jews differs little from modern efforts to silence voices pointing to the authority of God and His Word (Est. 3:7-11), whether that includes references to the Ten Commandments, prayer, or morality in general. Interestingly, after the new decree became law, the bureaucrats went about their business implementing it, the leaders congratulated themselves in their own wisdom and success, and the common people scratched their heads trying to figure out what the people in government could possibly be thinking (Est. 3:12-15). Sound familiar?

It is amazing how some people act as if the Bible is too old to be relevant. The account of Mordecai refusing to comply with a law based on a religious objection and the resulting persecution that followed could—with just a few alterations—come from today's headlines. With this in mind, we should commit ourselves to building the same conviction that led Mordecai to refuse to obey a law that conflicted with God's law. We must prepare ourselves to endure attacks and persecution because of our convictions. And we must strengthen our faith so that whatever may happen, we know that God is with us, He will take care of us, and He is sovereign. Others may not acknowledge this, but our dedication should be so strong that they must acknowledge it in us. Mordecai's unwavering conviction led the way to the preservation of God's people, and that is how it always will be. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Lk. 14:35b).



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Gary Barger stepped off the back of a trailer Tuesday hurting his knee.
- Sidney Ann Birchfield is in room 206 at Walls. She was admitted on Wednesday with chest pains.
- Karsyn Boroughs will be having surgery to correct her scoliosis. The surgery is set up for May 31st.
- Beverly Carter's cousin, Johnny Edwards', cancer has returned and he has been given "months" to live. He attends the church in Santo.
- Emma Hackler's surgery was Thursday, April 7th, at Cooke Children's Hospital.
- Don Kirby had a heart attack Tuesday night. He is at Harris Heart Center in Fort Worth following surgery to put in two stints.
- Natasha Lehtinen's grandfather, Clint Pruitt, from the Blum church is doing very poorly. The family has requested prayers.
- Please keep Stephanie and Saida Saldaña's brothers in your prayers. Their brother, Efrain, just started Ranger School in the army, and their oldest brother, Manny, is going through a difficult time.
- Selena Simonton is not doing well. Please keep Janell and Selena in your prayers.
- Betty Williams fell last week cracking her collarbone. She fell again Sunday.
- Bess Yates' grandson, Schane (Shane) Simmons (36) (Pat's youngest son), participated in a rodeo recently and a bull stepped on him, crushing his pelvis and paralyzing him from the waist down.

Jr/Sr Banquet

The Jr/Sr trip will be Saturday, April 23rd. Seniors this year are Logan Frasier, Luke Norman and Stephanie Saldaña. Juniors are Kyle Day, Jasmine Norman and Makaria Rhodes.

Senior Game Night

Senior game night will be Tuesday, April 12th, starting at 6:00 PM in the annex. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2016 (NKJV)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 4/10

Front South

Will Cammack
Don Crecelius
Vince Grinnell

Front North

Kyle Day
Jeff Day
Logan Frasier

Back South

Sid Carruth
Perry Elkins
Steve Baze

Back North

Royce Gorman
Gary Barger
Britt Bachhofer

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Will Cammack

Sunday PM

Colton Allen

Robert Pennay

Wednesday PM

Mark Stubblefield

Kyle Day

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Doug Jones

Wednesday

Jeff Day

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Jeff McPherson

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry

Wed. PM Devotional (4/13)

Andrew Collins



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Motivating Leadership
Nehemiah 4:1-23

PM

Stay on Message
1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Calendar of Events



Calendar of Events

4/12 Senior Game Night (6:00)

4/16 Ladies' Day Briar church of Christ

6/1 Summer Series: Learning to Love

8/12-14 Apologetics Seminar with Eric Lyons



Our Records

Bible Class 137

AM Worship..... 197

PM Worship 135

Wednesday Bible Class 65

Contribution \$7,601

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