

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## The War Was God's

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**he fifth chapter of 1 Chronicles provides the genealogies of the tribes that settled on the east side of the Jordan: Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Recording a brief summary of their exploits in taking the land granted to them by God, the chronicler wrote, "And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heeded their prayer, because they put their trust in Him. Then they took away their livestock—fifty thousand of their camels, two hundred and fifty thousand of their sheep, and two thousand of their donkeys—also one hundred thousand of their men; for many fell dead, because the war was God's. And they dwelt in their place until the captivity" (1 Chr. 5:20-22). They won, it reads, because "they were helped." They were helped because "they cried out to God in the battle" and "He heeded their prayer." "He heeded their prayer" because "they put their trust in Him." This description of extensive victories differs greatly from typical ancient accounts. While many ancient peoples would call upon their gods for victory and attribute victory to their gods after the fact, the relationship described here emphasized "trust" as the distinguishing factor in bringing God into the battle. They did not cry out to Him in desperation. They did not call upon Him as a simple ritual. They did not pray to Him because "it couldn't hurt." They sought Him diligently in faith. And He rewarded them with a great victory. But the stated explanation for this victory offers even greater insight. The reason for victory was "because the war was God's." Now, putting these two facts together reveals an important perspective. When we turn to God in faith, trusting Him to handle those matters that lie outside of our control, our LORD takes ownership of the problem completely. It ceases to be our problem or our challenge; it belongs to God. God will take of it, and in the words of that great hymn, "God will take care of you" too.

Taking up the responsibilities given by God to go into spiritual battle, stand for truth, overcome temptation, and obey faithfully require great strength of will, but they must all receive the backing of real faith. Christians must recognize what they cannot do because of the limitations of the flesh and trust God to handle it, for herein lies the victory. Health problems, struggles at work, financial worries, or family issues may trouble you. But when you trust God and live for Him, whatever may happen to your health, your job, your checkbook, or your family, everything will be all right eternally, and that is what matters most. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7). The real reason we often lose battles in this life and beyond is because we stubbornly keep them as our own personal battles when we should have given them over to God.

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
George Sowell

### 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 10,  
Number 49

December 18,

2013

# Obediences Doesn't Look for Excuses - 1

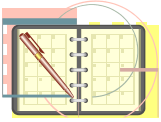
Kevin W. Rhodes

Excuses come easily to the tongue. They seem such a simple solution to our failings and defeats. However, they also have a strong self-justification element to them. They begin with the assumption that we deserve to win, deserve greatness, and deserve heaven. That's right—heaven. Far too often, people want to excuse their spiritual failures and shift the blame to someone else. (Do Adam and Eve come to mind?) But faithful disciples of Jesus focus on their responsibilities; they do not look for excuses. Solomon penned long ago, “Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?” (Ecc. 5:6). Making excuses do not help us in our relationship with God. God does not buy our excuses; instead, He will judge us for making them. Therefore, we must focus on obeying our Master rather than on coming up with reasons why we failed to do so.

Disciples do not try to excuse their disobedience by looking to what God said at some other time and situation. Remember, when the LORD told Moses, “Speak to the rock” and Moses instead struck it as the Lord had instructed him previously, the LORD judged Moses. “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them’” (Num. 20:6-12). This failure kept him from entering the Promised Land. That Moses did something that God previously requested was irrelevant. He had failed to obey, and no excuse would

change that fact. Yet people will sometimes attempt just such a tactic. When Jesus brought up the Samaritan woman's marital history, she quickly changed the subject to worship. For her, the question of the day revolved around the differences between Samaritan worship and Jewish worship. Jesus addressed the issue of worship then but also pointed to a time when neither type of worship would be acceptable to God, foreshadowing Christian worship (Jn. 4:19-24), yet many today insist on confusing the two—at least to some degree—as if what God wanted under the Old Law corresponds with what He wants under the New. Similarly, people unfamiliar with the Bible will sometimes refer to someone living under Patriarchal Law or perhaps Mosaical Law to show people who were saved without Jesus, failing to realize that they still needed His sacrifice and also that the conditions God set for salvation differ depending upon what He has revealed (Acts 17:30). Now that He has revealed all truth with the completion of the New Covenant (Jn. 16:8-13; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17), the New Covenant presents God's plan for all mankind (Rom. 1:16). Abraham wished to know more, but did not have it revealed to him. Sadly, God has now revealed it to all mankind on the pages of the Bible, yet many show little or no interest. Regardless, there is no excuse. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Jesus has given His last will and testament, and by this we *can* all be saved, but regardless of what we choose, we most certainly will be judged by it (Jn. 12:48). There will be no excuse.





# News and Notes

## **Among our sick**

- Colton Allen twisted his knee last week. He will have a MRI to see about the damage.
- Tom Barger, Gary's Dad, is in Huguley Hospital for tests on his heart.
- Ken Boroughs was released from the hospital last Thursday.
- Mary Fogarty has been in the local hospital with breathing problems but is back home.
- Charlotte Freeze is still recovering from her knee surgery.
- Jack Hewlett has started his chemo treatments.
- Rhonda Holden, Wayne Holly's sister, has been at M. D. Anderson for treatments on her eye.
- Amy Hackler has a double kidney infection.
- Carol McGilvray had surgery but didn't have a stint put in because the doctors found an aneurysm in the area. She will see another special.
- Donna York's daughter, Kathy Chavez had surgery to remove her thyroid that was cancerous.

## *Congratulations*

D. J. Stucky graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in music on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We are proud for D. J. and Dana.

## **Please Note**

- Barbara Burnett's party for the younger children will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Bring a camera and plate of goodies.
- We are in the process of compiling a new cookbook. See Jeri Allen for details.
- We will have singing in the auditorium on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be no classes.
- The following Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will meet and have regular classes.
- The office will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> till January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please call Sherry or one of the elders for any updates for the announcements.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be December 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have a chili and stew lunch in the annex and 1:00 afternoon singing. Bring chili and stew and all the trimmings
- The New Year's Eve party will be in the annex on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will have fried fish. Clark will start frying the fish at 6:00 if you can help. Please bring side dishes for the fish and snack foods for later. We will eat at 7:00.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 12/22

### Front South

Doug Jones  
Russ Jones  
Dennis Lane

### Front North

Bill Hughes  
Jim Hudgins  
Daniel Hughes

### Back South

Barry Lehtinen  
Patrick Kaiser  
Casey Lehtinen

### Back North

James Hunt  
Doug Kilcrease  
Clark Lehtinen

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Paul Murphy  
Tim Norman

Sunday PM

Jay Lehtinen  
Dale Mullen

Thursday PM

Kyle Day

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Thursday

Ryan Cowan

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Thursday PM

Singing

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

## Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

## Thurs. PM Devotional (12/26)

Paul Wilkinson



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Roy Conner

PM

Roy Conner



## Listen to the Gospel!

### Luis and Mike in the Mornings

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

### Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am  
[btradio.net](http://btradio.net)



## Our Records

Bible Class .....	137
AM Worship.....	231
PM Worship .....	144
Wednesday Bible Class 12/11.....	134
Contribution .....	\$8,649

## 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](mailto:granburystreet@aol.com)

[www.granburystreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.granburystreetchurchofchrist.com)