

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Clinging to God

D. J. Stucky

If you are ever a victim of a shipwreck, the most important thing you can do is stay afloat. To survive is to cling to something that will keep your head above water. Jacob must have been drowning in anxiety the night before he met with his brother Esau. However, even in this circumstance, he held on to God and was blessed as a result.

Jacob had already sent his family and possessions towards Esau, leaving him alone at camp (Gen. 32:13-23). A Man, whom Jacob clearly recognized as divine, came and wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Jacob would not allow the Man to prevail against him, and so the Man touched the socket of Jacob's hip and caused it to go out of joint (32:24-25). Nevertheless, Jacob refused to let the Man go until He blessed him. The Man changed Jacob's name to Israel because he had "...struggled with God and with men, and...prevailed" (32:26-28). The Man, being greater in rank than Jacob, refused to tell His name to Jacob. But He still blessed Jacob then and there (32:29). Jacob named the place Peniel, which means "the face of God," because he knew he had survived an encounter with God Himself (32:29-32).

Jacob greatly desired to have the blessing of God, and he cleaved to God with all his might to get it. However, receiving the blessing required a name change. The name Jacob means "one who supplants." Though this name was given for the circumstances of his birth (Gen. 25:26), it became true in his life. Esau said of Jacob, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" (Gen. 27:36). In contrast, the name Israel means "God struggles" or "He struggles with God." This name change announced a shift in Jacob's moral character. He would no longer be characterized by his skillful deception but instead by his relationship with God. The same is true when we take on the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26). The old man of sin has been put to death so that we can walk as new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20-21, Rom. 6:3-4). This means that, like Jacob, we must learn to cling to God in all things. When we draw near to Him, He draws near to us (Jas. 4:8). When we rely on Him, He takes care of us (Matt. 6:33, 1 Pet. 5:6-7). When we cling to Him, He will never forsake us (Heb. 13:5, Matt. 28:18-20). When we face the struggles of life, let us cling to God and prevail.

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

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But We Asked Nicely!

Kevin W. Rhodes

The northern tribes of Israel had set themselves in rebellion against God from the days of Jeroboam. The introduction of the golden calves in Dan and Bethel had paved the way for full-fledged idolatry. Thus, the introduction of Baal to Israel by Ahab, and ultimately participation in the rituals of Molech, doomed the northern kingdom to the destruction God accomplished through the hand of Assyria. This divinely appointed desolation against the capital of Samaria in Ephraim and all the people throughout the kingdom led those in the southern kingdom of Judah to feel pity for their brethren, despite their long-held division. Therefore, as the psalmists in the family of Asaph reflected on this sadness, they penned a heartfelt expression of their grief in a cry to God as the Shepherd of Israel to return in His glory and power to aid His people (Psa. 80:1-2).

Three times in this psalm they employed the wording of the Aaronic call for blessing requesting restoration, fellowship, and salvation. In the first they pled, “Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved” (Psa. 80:3). In the devastation of the northern tribes’ captivity they found themselves pondering why God would not listen and restore them as before (Psa. 80:4-6). They assumed this surely could not be permanent. In the second instance, they cried out the same plea but appealed to the “God of hosts” (Psa. 80:7). This reference to God’s headship of a great army implies their desire to see Him use yet another nation to reverse what Assyria had done. Using the imagery of a vine, they appealed to their beginning in Egypt and the Lord’s care in establishing them in Canaan (Psa. 80:8). They looked back through their history to note how long God had blessed them, cared for them, and

protected them (Psa. 80:9-11). Thus, with this background of extensive interest, they could not fathom why God would invite a heathen nation in to trample the vineyard He Himself had planted (Psa. 80:12-13), calling for Him to defend His own once more, reverse course, and withdraw His hand of rebuke (Psa. 80:14-16). Therefore, in leading up to the final cry, they requested that He strengthen them again with the promise that they would not leave Him again (Psa. 80:17-18). Ending with the final plea, “Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!” (Psa. 80:19), they added one final element to their petition: the covenant name of Yahweh. In this they were asking Him to remember His covenant, because they finally did too. But it was too late for Israel, and Judah had to face up to that fact.

So many people seem to believe that they will always get one more chance to repent, one more chance to get things right, one more chance to obey their Lord. Like Israel, they assume that the longsuffering of the Lord knows no bounds, and sadly, they will only learn better when it is too late. They mistakenly look back to better times, assuming that they deserved them then and deserve the same now, misunderstanding the goodness and grace of God as if it is an eternal pool of blessings for them to dip into as they wish. Then, when they become desperate, they finally realize the importance of the covenant. Unfortunately, they often think of it in terms of God’s promises but not their own responsibilities. How sad that so many people have the opportunity of salvation and yet cast it aside until they need God to pull them out of the consequences of their own failures. They assume He always will. They are wrong (Rom. 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:9-11). Salvation and blessings are not a right; they are a privilege, and should be treated accordingly.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Clara Mae Fish has been moved to room 169 in memory care at Colonial Manor.
- Georgia Haynes requested prayers for her niece, Shantese Guerrero, and her family. She had an MRI on Monday to see if the tumor in her brain is benign or cancerous.
- Burnice Gentry, Wayne's father, is in the hospital with pneumonia.
- Nan and Henry Homan's nephew Danny Lee's cancer is growing. He is needing extensive surgery.
- Casey Lehtinen's blood counts were about the same as they were last week. He started on his medicine this past week also.
- Dianne Melton has septic infection. They are asking for no visitors.
- Melisa Reed's surgery is scheduled for Thursday, October 12th.
- Lawrence Sowell, Meredith's son, had a heart catheterization in Waco last Friday.
- Darlene Walker's surgery is scheduled for Thursday, October 5th.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Billie Shaw. She passed away last Sunday. The funeral was Saturday.

New Member

Bruce Eversole placed membership last Sunday. His address is 905 Phillips St. 76033. Cell phone is 817-718-6527. Welcome to our family!

Responses

Jane Mayden responded to the invitation on Wednesday evening asking for prayers to be stronger for God. May God bless her as she continues to grow.

Directory Update

Dewayne and Virginia Henegar have a new address. It is 1706 Brookhaven St., Cleburne, TX 76033.

Please note...

- The youth devotional will be Sunday, October 1st, after the evening worship service at Larry and Ginger Owens' home.
- Our next game night will be on Tuesday, October 11th, at 6:00 in the annex.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

2 Peter 2:20-21

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 10/1

Front South

Paul Murphy
Clint Owens
Rob Stidolph

Front North

Tim Norman
Ryan Cowan
Robert Pennay

Back South

Michael Mora
Larry Owens
Melvin Owens

Back North

Howard Newberry
Gene Threadgill
Ricky Threadgill

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Larry McWilliams

Sunday PM

Mike Hight

Wednesday PM

Bill Cashion

Cody Grinnell

Logan Frasier

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Dale Ash

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

DJ Stucky

Sunday PM

DJ Stucky

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes

Beacon of Truth, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

Expositions, Kevin's new television program, airs at 7:30 pm Monday nights on GBN and will re-air on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Accomplishments of Faith

Hebrews 11:32-35a

PM

Practical Issues Concerning

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

Calendar of Events



10/29

5th Sunday Q&A

11/5-8

Gospel Meeting with Mark Hanstein

12/10

Congregational Dinner

1/19-20

Evangelism Seminar
with Rob Whitacre



Our Records

Bible Class.....	147
AM Worship.....	207
PM Worship.....	130
Wednesday Bible Class.....	120
Contribution.....	\$7,327

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