

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

The Joy of Pleasing God

Kevin W. Rhodes

Asa had provided a strong foundation for his son and successor. Despite failing in patience and dedication in his latter years, Asa had strengthened Judah's position both politically and spiritually. After Asa died, Jehoshaphat took the throne and built upon the positive policies of his father (2 Chr. 17:1-2). In spiritual matters especially, Jehoshaphat "walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel" (2 Chr. 17:3-4). His character reigned in Judah so much that he received the blessings of stability in the land and the loyalty and love of the people (2 Chr. 17:5). Moreover, he used his influence to encourage greater understanding of and obedience to the Law by sending leaders throughout the land to act as teachers (2 Chr. 17:7-9). Jehoshaphat's actions led to others respecting the LORD's authority, even among the nations around them (2 Chr. 17:10-11), so that Jehoshaphat was able to strengthen Judah militarily against her potential enemies (2 Chr. 17:12-19). However, the inspired text offers a simple but profound explanation for Jehoshaphat's success, an explanation rooted in his motivation for doing all of this. In 2 Chronicles 17:6 it says of Jehoshaphat, "And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah." This statement reveals a level of dedication that matters greatly. His father had a loyal heart but did not remove all the high places (2 Chr. 15:17); Jehoshaphat had a heart filled with joy in the ways of the LORD and took the extra step.

We regularly see discussions recognizing the differences created by how much respect someone has for biblical authority (Col. 3:17; Rom. 4:3). We cringe when we see well-meaning brethren take verses out of context to support their position, even if it is not a matter affecting salvation, the church, or daily living (Mt. 22:29). We emphasize the importance of faithfulness in executing God's will through consistent obedience (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 5:8-9). But when was the last time you pondered the difference spiritually between doing God's will from a sense of loyalty and responsibility and doing God's will from the sheer joy of pleasing Him (1 Th. 4:1; Mt. 22:37-38)? Herein lies the difference between feeling an external obligation to God and feeling an internal love for God. So many Christians today live out of obligation but never transform their attitudes and their lives to living and obeying from a love for God (Jn. 14:15). And that is a pity, because a heart that "takes delight in the ways of the LORD" will be motivated beyond spiritual necessity to strive for the spiritual possibilities, to go beyond what is required, simply because that is what God wants and what God is like. More than that, this reveals an important truth: finding joy first in doing God's will is the key to finding joy in life itself.

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

Cleburne,
Texas

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Nothing Held Back - Part Two

Kevin W. Rhodes

The young man inquiring of Jesus wanted to know what more he needed to give, what additional responsibility he should fulfill, a single commandment that might make him complete and therefore free from other responsibilities. But Jesus reached into his very soul to address what the man was unwilling to give and what he proved unwilling to fulfill. And this indeed illustrated His deeper point. The Lord requires that we give our all. He quoted neither the four commandments focused on an individual's relationship with God (Ex. 20:1-11) nor the principle of loving God that underlies these commands—not because they were unimportant or unnecessary under the Old Law but because of the man's focus on external obedience in daily life.

Therefore, when we then consider the one commandment regarding the treatment of others that Jesus did not quote—"You shall not covet"—His purpose grows clearer. The young man happily obeyed all those commandments with some external manifestation. Jesus, by waiting to address covetousness with a simple test, pointed out that what was missing in the young man's quest was true, spiritual heart. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2). Few things are more contradictory

and more destructive than a disciple without a heart for God, and few things destroy such a heart more than a covetous heart clinging to this world.

Jesus does not call on men to create a shallow facade of external religious rituals but to develop a heart that mirrors His own. One cannot help but remember Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount as a response to the young man's question: "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). Jesus, then, does not teach disciples to build up themselves for themselves, but to give of themselves, to God and to others.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).

Our Lord did not just call us to receive mercy, but also to extend mercy. "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36). And for this He gave us the perfect motivation: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32).



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Amy Hackler is having high blood pressure problems and high heart rate. She is staying in bed until she goes back to the doctor.
- Deborah Lehtinen had her right knee replaced on Monday, April 27th.
- Tim Newberry, Howard and Nell's son, has been in Walls Hospital with a possible stroke.
- Nada Marler is in Hospice care.
- Mary Reynolds fell last week, cracking her wrist. She saw the hand specialist on Monday to see what needed to be done.

Remember in prayers

Lisa Blythe & Dawn Taff (Tracy Rhodes' cousins); Ken Boroughs; Lonnie Burk (Laurie McPherson's father); Darla Dill; Don Manning, Karen Jeter (Donna York's niece)

Responses

Cindy Newberry came forward last week confessing sin and asking to be restored. Her address 2320 CR 911, Joshua, TX 76058; phone number is 817-487-3733. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Remember in prayers

Please keep the men and women that are serving our country in the military. Many of them are in harm's way.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Weldon and Donna York in the passing of Donna's aunt Ramonia Davis. The funeral was last week.

Please Note...

- Saturday, May 2nd, following Sowing Seed, we want to honor all widows and widowers with a special event and luncheon. We ask that if you are a widow or widower to please sign the sheet in the back foyer if you plan to attend so we will know how much food to prepare. The luncheon will begin at 11:00 AM. If you are not a widow or widower and would like to help, please see Tracie Jones for more details. Also, SSC for May 2nd will begin at 9:30 instead of 9:00.
- Sunday, May 3rd, the youth devotional will be at the home of Jeff and Rhonda Day. See Rhonda about what to bring.
- Sunday, May 3rd, the next Lads to Leaders meeting will take place at 4:00 PM in room 107. Please see Ryan Cowan if you have any questions.
- The Jr/Sr Fun Day will be Saturday, May 9th.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 5/3

Front South

Kenneth Helm
Sid Carruth
Doug Jones

Back South

Justin Hewlett
Russ Jones
James Hunt

Front North

Bill Hughes
Jim Hudgins
Daniel Hughes

Back North

Mike Hight
Doug Kilcrease
James Henslee

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Mike Hight

Sunday PM

Justin Hewlett

Tim Norman

Vince Grinnell

Wednesday PM

Colton Allen

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Jeff Day

Wednesday

Tim Norman

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Paul Murphy / Jeff Day / Kyle Day

Wed. PM Devotional (5/6)

Justin Hopkins



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Justin Hopkins

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	131
AM Worship.....	207
PM Worship	127
Wednesday Bible Class 4/15.....	118
Contribution	\$9,270

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