

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## A Grandfather's Blessing

D.J. Stucky

Every grandparent wants to leave his grandchildren with something of value. As the patriarch Jacob came to the close of his life, this is exactly what he did for Manasseh and Ephraim in Genesis 47:1-22.

Jacob left his grandchildren with a reminder of what God had promised (Gen. 48:1-7). Jacob had lived his entire life in hope of God's blessings. This is the hope that he was passing on when he said, "your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh... are mine, as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine." The job of parents, and grandparents, is to pass on our faith in God's promises (Ps. 78:4, Eph. 6:4). Our children should know what God has done and know that we have something to look forward to beyond the present.

Jacob left his grandchildren with a reminder that faith brings families together (Gen. 48:8-11). Jacob recognized that only through the power of God, manifested through the faith of Joseph, could he see his son and grandchildren. Faith in God can bring families together no matter how far away they might be. For Jacob this was true physically. In the church it is true spiritually. Though we are separated from some of our brethren by miles of ocean and vast differences in culture, we are still one in Christ (Gal. 3:26-29). Our common faith in God brings us together.

Jacob also left his grandchildren with an understanding of God's blessings (Gen. 48:12-20). God does not work according to the traditions of men. Tradition dictates that the older receives the blessing. Jacob knew from experience that this was not always the case. Jacob, the younger brother, was blessed beyond that of his older brother because that is what God determined (Gen. 25:22-26). The same held true with Joseph (Gen. 37:1-11). Therefore, Jacob chose to bless the younger more than the older (Gen. 48:17-19). God can choose His own way to operate, and that way will always be best (Jer. 10:23).

Finally, Jacob left his grandchildren with an understanding of home (Gen. 48:21-22). Egypt was not where Jacob belonged, and he knew it. That is why he requested to be buried in Canaan, and in doing so provided an example for his family. Though we may reside on earth, our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). If we are faithful, our common faith will bring all of us together to be with the Lord in the Last Day (1 Thess. 4:16-18). God has prepared a place for us (Jn. 14:1-6). It is up to us to follow the pathway that leads there.

As Jacob neared the end of his life, he used some of his final moments to bless his grandchildren and prepare them for the time to come. Christian grandparents should do the same!

### 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

Volume 15,  
Number 10

March 18,  
2018

# The Promise of Faithfulness

Kevin W. Rhodes

David's rise to the throne of Israel and subsequent reign dominate the landscape of Jewish history. From the young shepherd boy who fought wild animals to budding warrior who killed Goliath to the faithful soldier running from a jealous commander, the early life of David established a powerful backstory for the mightiest king in Israel's history. Despite his youthful anointing by Samuel, he patiently and faithfully served Saul, consistently respecting him as "the LORD's anointed." Here we find no power-hungry leader but a man of faith and principle. He did not view his anointing as a political opportunity but as a spiritual responsibility. And while the psalms surrounding his coming to the throne located in Book One are more familiar, Psalm 101 offers great insight. It essentially records David's promises to the LORD upon coming to the throne of the kingdom. However, this emphasis provides another practical consideration and perspective. David saw these characteristics as essential when he came to the throne of an earthly kingdom, but they have even greater application for all who become Christians and enter Christ's heavenly kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13-14).

Throughout this psalm David makes a series of promises to the LORD. The two words "I will" dominate the psalm. But for the Christian, submitting to the reign of Christ as King by being immersed to enjoy the forgiveness promised (Acts 2:38) and the joy assured (1 John 1:4) is an even greater promise—the promise to live faithfully as a subject in the kingdom, whatever that may require (Rev. 2:10). David saw his responsibilities as God's anointed leader of the nation of Israel, but truly Christians have an even greater obligation as subjects of a far greater kingdom. Therefore, upon entering the kingdom, Christians are promising to worship God faithfully (Psa. 101:1). This

implies far more than regular attendance (Heb. 10:24-25) but rather a heart and soul dedicated to honoring the LORD as much as possible exactly how the LORD desires, as true worshippers do (John 4:24). More than this, upon entering the kingdom, Christians are promising to live and grow in accordance with God's design and for God's purposes rather than their own (Psa. 101:2). No disciple begins in exactly the same place, the same knowledge or the same problems, but every disciple should seek maturity in living for God by developing a spiritual maturity in a heart for God (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18). Upon entering the kingdom, Christians are promising to distance themselves from wickedness of every kind (Psa. 101:3-5). It is therefore essential to eschew evil (1 Pet. 3:9-12), reprove the works of darkness (Eph. 5:11), maintain a holy heart (Matt. 5:8), and avoid the wrong companions (1 Cor. 15:33). More than this, upon entering the kingdom, Christians promise to keep close to the faithful (Psa. 101:6), following their example (1 Cor. 11:1), building relationships with them (John 13:34-35), and preferring their company (Rom. 12:10). Finally, upon entering the kingdom, Christians are promising to stand against evil however it presents itself (Psa. 101:7-8). Rather than compromising conviction, God's people stand with the Savior (2 John 9-11). Instead of accepting iniquity, the LORD's people take action against trespasses (2 Thess. 3:6).

David fell far short of these promises at times, as the rest of inspired history makes clear. But his heart brought him back to these promises and his desire to be faithful to God each and every time. When we become Christians, we are promising our loyalty, our fidelity, and our all to the One who saved us. We may fall short in practice here and there, but may we ever keep the heart of David with a determination to keep our promises.



# News and Notes

## **Prayer request...**

- Dot Blitch will have a shot in her hip on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the surgical center.
- Johnnie Daugherty fell last week but doesn't have any broken bones.
- Rylee Hatch, Ruth Collins' 17 year old great-niece, has a detached retina and had emergency surgery last Wednesday.
- Amy Hackler fell and hurt her back.
- Anthony Harkins, Beverly Carter's good friend, has a tumor in his arm that has eaten through a main artery. He is in ICU in Denison Hospital.
- Larry Owens had cataract surgery for his other eye on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Mary Reynolds has been having problems with her hip. She will see the surgeon on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Laura Stephens has been in Huguley Hospital with several health problems.

## **Please remember in prayers**

Debbie Boroughs, Darla Baze Mullen (Steve Baze's sister), Pam Jones, Terrie Knight, Royce and Jean Gorman's daughter, Susanna Torres, Don Toth, Joe Warlick,

### *Responses*

Deb Stidolph responded to the invitation asking for prayers. Please keep her and Rob in your prayers. God Bless them!

### *Baptism*

We rejoice that Stephanie Coronado was baptized for the remission of her sins Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Her son's name is Alejandro Lara. Her address is 201 Rio Grande St. Apt A, Glen Rose, 76043, 254-396-0320. We rejoice in her decision!

### *Congratulations*

Jim and Carol Elder are proud to announce the birth of their new great grandson, Louis Harvill V. His nickname is Quin. He was born Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and weighed 8 lbs. Proud parents are Louis IV and Rae Harvill.

Jim and Sharon Rich are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel Marie Galbraith. She was born Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7 lbs, 13 ozs and 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Chris and Jill.

## **Door knocking Committee**

Door knocking committee will meet Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, after the evening worship in room 107.

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 3/18

### Front South

Mike Hight  
Perry Elkins  
Logan Frasier

### Front North

Kenneth Helm  
Justin Hewlett  
Vince Grinnell

### Back South

Jason Hackler  
Royce Gorman  
Cody Grinnell

### Back North

Conner Hackler  
Wesley Hackler  
James Henslee

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Andrew Collins

Sunday PM

Robert Pennay

Sid Carruth

Wednesday PM

Will Cammack

Clint Owens

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Doug Jones

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

Tom Collins

## 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 television program, airs on GBN every Monday night at 7:30 pm, every Thursday night at 6:00 pm, and every Saturday at 2:30 pm.



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Stand For The Truth  
John 9:1-41

PM

Joy In Working Together  
Philippians 1:1-11

## Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

7/5-8/9 Family Summer Series

9/7-8 Marriage and Parenting Seminar  
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting  
with Todd Clippard



## Our Records

Bible Class.....114

AM Worship.....178

PM Worship.....124

Wednesday Bible Class.....124

Contribution.....\$6,584

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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