

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## A Blessing to All

D.J. Stucky

When Jacob finally reunited with his son in Egypt, it became time to find land and settle down. Joseph had determined that he could give them the land of Goshen, so he presented five of his brothers to Pharaoh that they might request the land for their use (Gen. 47:1-4). Pharaoh gave them the land requested, and even offered to make the competent men among them chief shepherds in Egypt (47:5-6). Later, Joseph brought his father to see the Pharaoh, whom Jacob blessed (47:7-10). Jacob and his family were given the land promised to them, as well as bread for them to eat during the famine (47:11).

Everything about this chapter is expected considering that Joseph had already explained his plan in Gen. 46:31-34. What may be unexpected is Jacob's blessing of Pharaoh. Hebrews 7:7 says, "Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better." How then could Jacob bless Pharaoh? Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, had just given Jacob and his family the greatest pasture lands he could. Pharaoh offered to make Jacob's sons chief herdsmen. Pharaoh was a man of great authority and power, yet he was blessed by Jacob because Jacob belonged to God. That put him in a greater position than Pharaoh would ever have as only the king of an earthly nation. Pharaoh, despite his power, did not have a relationship with God. When we have a relationship with God, we can be a blessing to all men regardless of their physical status.

As God's people, we have a special relationship with Him (2 Pet. 2:9-10). Because of this, we can be a blessing to others. We may be a blessing through our example of righteous living (Matt. 5:14-16). We may be a blessing because we seek to do good to all, even if they do evil to us (Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:17-18). We can be a blessing because we have something to offer that is far greater than land, power, or wealth. We have the truth (Jn. 8:32; Jn. 17:17). The truth of God's Word can solve the problem that every human has, rich or poor, male or female, slave or free. Truth solves the problem of sin. If we know the truth and share the truth, we can be a blessing to the greatest of kings or to the lowest of peasants, because only the truth can save (Rom. 1:16-17 cf. Matt. 28:18-20). We should not be intimidated by the power or status of others in the world, because they are the ones in need. If we keep our faith like Jacob, perhaps one day we too may have the opportunity to bless kings.

### 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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# The Origin of Thankfulness

Kevin W. Rhodes

Few traits demonstrate a combination of humility and joy better than thankfulness. Its very nature depends on recognizing others' contributions to our well-being and happiness. Because of this, from a young age, most parents teach their children the importance of saying, "Thank you." And yet, as we grow older, and perhaps because we lack the necessary humility or are missing out on the joys of life, we do not seem as ready to say it—even when the situation calls for it. However, Psalm 100 exudes thankfulness. Every phrase builds on the previous to express a crescendo of thanksgiving offered to the LORD Himself. This on its own bears imitation. But this psalm's placement follows a poetic series that begins with man's needs, shows God's provision, points to the Messiah, and then marvels at the possibility of forgiveness the LORD makes available in the context of His judgment. As sinners needing all of these and yet incapable of creating any circumstance comparable to such a plan, thanksgiving ought to spring forth from within our hearts like a budding flower welcoming the sun. Indeed, the psalmist captures this very sentiment with this brief psalm's joyful cry of thanks.

While the history of the United Kingdom records various times when David rightfully might express such appreciation, and while the Jews who returned from captivity most certainly would feel it, these should serve only as mere shadows to those who realize the forgiveness available through the blood of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the broad wording of the psalm allows the reader to consider all of these perspectives while encouraging him to internalize the psalm. Thus, all that God has done should motivate us to respond with thanksgiving—yet not simply a casual "Thank you" but rather a heartfelt gratitude that builds a relationship (2 Cor. 5:14). The reality of sin and its consequences should flood our soul with guilt and shame. Indeed, this

makes the possibility of forgiveness all the more real and meaningful, which in turn causes joy to well up within us until it bursts forth for all to hear (Psa. 100:1; Phil. 4:4). More than that, it changes our behavior so significantly that we take joy in serving the LORD who made it possible (Psa. 100:2a; Rom. 12:1-2), worshiping (Psa. 100:2b; Jas. 5:13) and praising Him (Psa. 100:4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5) from a heart overwhelmed with gratitude. And yet, as the psalmist declares, this newfound passion has a specific focus: the LORD. Sadly, many people separate the opportunity of forgiveness from the will and character of the One who made it possible. But Psalm 100 so integrates thanksgiving with the One worthy of it that the personal character of real thanksgiving shines brightly. Indeed, couched within this song of thanks the psalmist points to the reasons why the LORD is so deserving. Yahweh, the Hebrew name translated LORD, means "the One who is there." It is the covenant name of God signifying that He is by the very nature of His being but also that He is there for us (Psa. 100:1) as the offer of forgiveness so demonstrates. As our Creator, we owe our very existence to Him (Psa. 100:3a; Gen. 1:26-27; Col. 1:16-18). But He is also our Shepherd, caring for our every need (Psa. 100:3b; 23:1-6; John 10:1-10). He provides only what is good for us as part of His intrinsic nature (Psa. 100:5a; Jas. 1:17) and shows us mercy daily (Psa. 100:5b), disregarding our own character to offer aid because of His character. More than that, He does not allow us to wallow in our ignorance but reveals truth to us so that we might know Him and His will and be more like Him by doing His will (Psa. 100:5c; John 8:32; 12:48; 17:17). And because He is eternal so also can His forgiveness and blessings be bestowed on those who embrace that relationship with Him (Psa. 100:5; 1 Pet. 3:8). O how we should give thanks to the LORD—not only for what He has done for us, but also because of who HE is for us!





# News and Notes

## **Prayer request...**

- Terrie Knight, Royce and Jean Gorman's daughter, has been diagnosed with Graves Disease.
- Laurie McPherson had laser surgery for a torn retina last Friday.
- Darla Baze Mullen will have surgery on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. They had to stop the chemo treatments until after the surgery.
- Larry Owens had cataract surgery for one eye on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. He will have the surgery for his other eye on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Susanna Torres is scheduled for hernia surgery on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at Walls Hospital.

## **Please remember in prayers**

Debbie Boroughs, Amy Harris (Steve Baze's niece), Amy Hackler, Pam Jones, Ralph Rockett, Don Toth, Joe Warlick, Ella Dianne Habluetzel-Sexton (Austin Habluetzel's mother).

## *Sympathy*

Our sympathy is extended to Larry and Debbie Parker in the passing of Debbie's father, Bill Trantum. He passed away Saturday. There will be a memorial service in Tennessee in June.

## *Baptisms*

We rejoice that Calvin Gould and Sue Ellen Miller were baptized for the remission of their sins Monday afternoon. Their information will be posted in a later bulletin. Welcome to our family!

## **Directory update**

Kevin Hackler's new cell number is 682-847-8721.  
Shelley Hackler's new cell number is 682-702-6647.

## **Please note...**

- Game night will be Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM in the annex.

## **Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)**

### **Ephesians 4:32**

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

### **Hebrews 12:14**

Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 3/11

### Front South

Will Cammack  
Bill Cashion  
Colton Allen

### Front North

Joshua Haynes  
Tom Collins  
Clark Lehtinen

### Back South

Sid Carruth  
Steve Baze  
Weldon York

### Back North

Gavin McGilvray  
Don Crecelius  
Gary Barger

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Tim Norman

Sunday PM

Larry McWilliams

Kenneth Helm

Rob Stidolph

Wednesday PM

Daniel Hughes

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

Andrew Collins

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

D. J. Stucky

Sunday PM

D. J. Stucky

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Mike Hight

## 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

The Spirit of Revelation  
Revelation 1:1-3

PM

Help!  
Psalm 124:1-8

## 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.....	149
AM Worship.....	206
PM Worship.....	138
Wednesday Bible Class.....	109
Contribution.....	\$8464

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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