

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Reunion

D.J. Stucky

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” This phrase, though often employed to great comedic effect between siblings or married couples, rings with truth. When we are separated from our loved ones, we long to be with them. The joy we experience when we reunite with them is immense. Our hearts soar when we see loved ones that we have missed. How much more if we see a person we thought we would never see again? This is exactly what Jacob got to experience when he was reunited with his son Joseph in Genesis 46.

After Jacob’s sons returned from their second trip to Egypt, he journeyed to Beersheba where he offered sacrifices to the Lord (46:1-2). Here the Lord reminded Jacob that he would be made into a great nation (46:3-4). Then Jacob and his entire family, seventy people in all, traveled to the land of Egypt (46:5-27). Finally, Jacob was reunited with his son Joseph, who clung to his son as they wept together. Finally, Israel could say “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive.” (46:28-30). Joseph then revealed his plan for his family to reside in Goshen as shepherds, a trade which would keep them separated from the Egyptians (46:31-34).

Jacob thought that Joseph was lost to him forever, and his sorrow was great (Gen. 37:34-35; 42:38, 44:29-31). He did not believe he would see his son again, but God had other plans. In this life we are certain to experience many trials (Jas. 1:2-3). One of those will undoubtedly be the loss of a family member that we love. In the moment, it is difficult to bear. Jesus Himself wept at the death of his friend Lazarus (Jn. 11:35). However, we must recognize that this life on earth will not be the last place that we meet. For all of those who serve the Lord faithfully, there is a crown of righteousness waiting for them (2 Tim. 4:6-8 cf. Rev. 2:10). Our inheritance is even greater than the promise of our own land, or the promise of becoming a great nation. Our inheritance is reserved for us in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4). Neither is this inheritance limited to us only, but it is available to every person who chooses to stand separate from the world and live their lives based on faith in God. Experiencing loss on this earth can be difficult and tragic, but we can handle it if we have the right attitude. May we look beyond the pain of this life, instead looking forward to the day where we will be called home to spend eternity with our family and with our God.

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 8

March 4,
2018

God Who Forgives

Kevin W. Rhodes

The LORD's reign dominates the landscape of the brief section of psalms of which Psalm 99 is a part, and its offering includes just as much depth, opening once more with the powerful but elegant declaration, "The LORD reigns." Building upon the previous psalms' promise and Messianic hope, this song presents the exalted character of the LORD, thus expressing confidence not only in His right to judge but also in the righteousness of His judgment. As such, the knowledge of our human weakness—in every way—should wake us to the reality of just how unprepared we are to stand before His throne. We should tremble at the prospect, for this is the God of Israel who "dwells between the cherubim." Indeed, the whole earth should quake at the thought (Psa. 99:1). He is exalted above mankind—not simply by His placement on Mount Zion in Jerusalem but because He reigns from heaven itself (Psa. 99:2). This is no idol contrived by man and reflective of man's foibles. Yahweh stands above such flaws in perfect holiness (Psa. 99:3). Therefore, He remains the rightful King, having the strength of rule and the character to judge (Psa. 99:4). His decisions and His will reflect His holiness, and He thus deserves not only allegiance, but also adoration and worship (Psa. 99:5). He has every right to reign, every right to rule, every right to judge.

Then, in an interesting turn, the psalm turns to three prominent men from Israel's past: Moses, Aaron, and Samuel (Psa. 99:6a). Each interacted with the LORD in a rather personal way: Moses as lawgiver, Aaron as high priest, and Samuel as a

prophet. However, the psalmist emphasizes one unifying characteristic among them: "They called upon the LORD, and He answered them" (Psa. 99:6). The LORD spoke by right of His reign, and these great leaders of the past fulfilled their role as divine subjects: they obeyed (Psa. 99:7). But what type of occasion did these share in common? They each interceded for people who needed God's forgiveness, for the psalm declares, "You answered them, O LORD our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds" (Psa. 99:8). He did not take away the consequences of their actions, but He did send away their sin. The holy God who established His perfect standard, the divine King who reigns over all, the just Judge who holds our fate in His hand is also "God-Who-Forgives." What a powerful, moving thought!

The LORD reigns. How truly glorious that is! And when we recall the preceding crescendo of the previous similar psalms, we gain an even greater insight. The LORD came to a world of dying men (Psa. 90), trusted God as a man (Psa. 91), lived as a man among unworthy men (Psa. 92), lived as God among men (Psa. 93), was rejected by senseless men (Psa. 94), was needed by men (Psa. 95), overcame all odds to establish His kingdom (Psa. 96), proved Himself worthy of worship (Psa. 97), and achieved the greatest of victories on behalf of God for the benefit of mankind (Psa. 98). And all of this was essential to make forgiveness available to man. Oh, indeed, the LORD is worthy of exaltation. He is worthy of worship. And He is holy in every way (Psa. 99:9).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Jenny Brown's cousin, Steven, was in a motorcycle accident Monday night. He is stable at Harris downtown in ICU but has a long road ahead of him physically and emotionally.
- Susanna Torres will have an echocardiogram on her heart Wednesday, March 7th.

Please remember in prayers

Debbie Boroughs, Amy Harris (Steve Baze's niece), Amy Hackler, Georgia Haynes, Helen Henslee, Pam Jones, Darla Baze Mullen, (Steve's sister), Ralph Rockett, Don Toth (a good friend of the Rhodes' family), Joe Warlick, Ella Dianne Habluetzel-Sexton (Austin Habluetzel's mother).

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Donald and Shannon Barron in the passing of Donald's uncle, David Gibson.

Congratulations

Ryan and Chandler Baze are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jaxon Taylor, born on his Dad's birthday, February 27th. He was 19 inches long and weighed 6 lbs. 14 ozs. Proud grandparents are Steve and Carla Baze. Great grandparents are Dorothy Baze, James & Helen Henslee.

Baptism and Restoration

Susanna Torres was baptized for the remission of her sins on Thursday, February 22nd. Her address is 701 McAnear, Apt. 1104; 7603; 817-344-8784.

Linda Crecelius was baptized for the remission of her sins on Sunday, February 25th. Darrell Crecelius, her husband, was restored. Their address is 1241 Willowwood Dr. 76031; 817-641-8252.

We rejoice in their decision! May God bless them!

Please note...

- Teachers, the spring quarter will begin on Sunday, March 4th. If you have any questions, please see Ryan Cowan.
- Game night will be Tuesday, March 13th, starting at 6:00 PM in the annex.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

John 7:6

Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.

John 9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 3/4

Front South

Tim Norman
Gene Threadgill
Rob Stidolph

Front North

Paul Murphy
Robert Pennay
Jeff McPherson

Back South

Michael Mora
Larry Owens
Melvin Owens

Back North

Howard Newberry
Clint Owens
Tom Collins

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Will Cammack

Sunday PM

Joshua Haynes
Andrew Collins

Wednesday PM

Ryan Cowan
Logan Frasier

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Jeff Day

Wednesday

Dale Ash

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray
DeWayne Henegar

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

Life Verlooy speaks

PM

Building Faithful Endurance
Hebrews 12:12-17

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.....	143
AM Worship.....	207
PM Worship.....	135
Wednesday Bible Class.....	75
Contribution.....	\$6109

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