

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Unchangeable Promises of God

D.J. Stucky

People want to control their own destinies. We have the desire to be self-reliant. If somebody puts an obstacle in our way, we overcome it. If somebody tells us we cannot do something, we attempt to prove them wrong. For example, a person with an injury may be told that he will never walk again. Some may accept that news and begin preparing themselves to live without the use of their legs. Others prove the doctors wrong, regaining the use of their legs through determination, grit, and a little bit of luck. However, when God tells us something is true, nothing we do can change it.

As a young man, Joseph received visions in a dream that implied his family would one day bow to him (Gen. 37:5-10). This angered his brothers, who sold him into slavery and claimed he was dead (Gen. 37:11-36). However, even this could not thwart the vision of God. In Genesis 42:1-22, all of Joseph's brothers, save for Benjamin, are sent to Egypt to buy grain due to the famine (Gen. 42:1-6). Joseph, now unrecognizable to his brothers because of his assimilation into Egyptian culture, saw them and remembered the dreams he had those many years ago (42:7-8). Joseph seized Simeon, demanding that they return to Egypt with Benjamin (42:9-20). Joseph's brothers attributed this trouble to their sin, saying "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us." (42:21-24)

The sin that meant to undo the visions of Joseph actually served to make them happen. No matter how hard men may buck up against the word of God, it will never change, because God Himself never changes (Heb. 13:8; Jas. 1:17). Man cannot change the fact that only those who believe and are baptized will be saved (Mk. 16:15-16 cf. 2 Thess. 1:7-9). Man cannot change the fact that those who practice sin will be denied entrance into the kingdom (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9). Man cannot change the fact that those who are faithful will receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 8:31-39). No matter what difficulties other people cause, we can overcome them, knowing no man can overthrow the promises of God. Trying to overthrow God's promises can only result in guilt and despair. Being faithful to God's promises will result in life and peace. May we choose to accept God's promises and change our lives accordingly.

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 3
January 28,
2018

Waiting

Kevin W. Rhodes

Waiting. It does not matter whether you experience it sitting at the doctor's office, standing in line buying groceries, or doing a little of both at the local DMV; waiting can prove quite trying. Waiting presents numerous difficulties for people bound by time because it highlights various uncertainties that characterize our existence upon the earth. Most uncertainties create discomfort because they simply reflect and amplify how much lies outside of our personal control. This actually lies behind the human desire to impose explanations for events beyond what the evidence (or reason) indicates. Conspiracy theories exist to comfort our human uncertainty, providing an explanation when none other is readily available. Sadly, this often leads people to attempt to superimpose some human control or blame over events (such as various natural disasters) where none exists. In similar fashion, the uncertainty inherent in waiting challenges man in another way. It forces each of us to accept that we cannot control everything, nor should we try. Instead, we should remember and live according to the One who is actually in control.

The whole of Psalm 94 revolves around this very theme: waiting. And yet, in typical poetic fashion, the psalmist walks the reader through the challenges present with having to wait to the climax of faith that the godly should both learn and employ while waiting. Nevertheless, the message of the psalm does not lie simply in an exhortation to wait, but in how to do so in a manner harmonious with faith. Therefore, do not simply wait, but wait calmly. Wait calmly for God to establish His justice rather than indignantly inflicting your own (Psa. 94:1). We have no right to judge others by our own standards. Instead, we must calmly wait for God to punish in accordance with his own (Psa. 94:2). We must also learn to wait patiently, judging success not by the trouble of the moment but by the certainty of eternity (Psa. 94:3). This further demands that we evaluate

the wicked not by the mirage of power they have in the moment but by their insolence and ignorance (Psa. 94:4-7) because God knows best, and that includes knowing the best timing, including for judgment (Psa. 94:8-9). Fulfilling these things requires that we also wait humbly rather than haughtily making demands, both on others and on God. In every situation, no matter how negative, we should humbly look for what we can learn instead of seeking only to reinforce what we think we already know (Psa. 94:10-11). While it takes discipline, humility can help us see the blessings involved even in adversity, an essential trait for maturity (Psa. 94:12-13). Therefore, learn to think in terms of God's character and your personal responsibility (Psa. 94:14-15). Nevertheless, when we approach waiting in faith, we can cast aside some of the uncertainty and wait confidently because of what God has promised. We can have confidence in His protection when seen from the right point of view (Psa. 94:16; Psa. 16:1), confidence in His help to provide the aid we need through life (Psa. 94:17), and confidence in His mercy through the trials we face (Psa. 94:18). Thus, our confidence does not derive from some promise of invincibility but from a relationship with the One in control of eternity. For this reason, we should always wait faithfully for God. When we trust His ability to handle our problems, we need not worry (Psa. 94:19; Phil. 4:6-7). When we trust God's character, knowing He will do what is right and best for us, we remove doubt and uncertainty from the big picture of life and replace it with faith (Psa. 94:20-21). When we trust God's will, we no longer feel an obligation to enforce our own on others (Psa. 94:22-23). God can take care of it.

Waiting reveals much about our relationship with God. It can reveal our trust or expose our doubt. It can demonstrate our maturity or prove how much growth is still needed. Waiting does not get easier with time; it gets easier with faith.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Andrew Collins had surgery Thursday USMD in Fort Worth.
- Vernie Collins, Dollye's husband, had surgery Thursday USMD in Fort Worth.
- Scott Crow, a member of the Rendon congregation, is having complications from leukemia.
- Earlene Doty is sick with a bladder infection and fluid on her lungs.
- Pam Jones has been battling Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). It is genetic and there is no cure. She is in stage 3. The further it progresses, the more complications she has.
- The Lehtinen family continues to need our prayers.
- Marvin Parrish, Johnnye and Helen Ann Threadgill's brother, had total knee reconstruction surgery Monday.
- Mary Reynolds has been having several health problems.
- James Townzen, a former member, had surgery Thursday at the Providence Hospital in Waco.

Please remember in prayers

Casey Lehtinen, Betty Rutledge, Pat Thompson, Joe Warlick,

Sympathy is extended to...

The Crecelius and Melton families in the passing of Don & Dianne's sister-in-law, Pat Crecelius. The memorial was last Saturday.

Coming up...

- Wednesday night singing will be January 31st in the annex.
- Ryan Cowan and Kevin will be leaving for Cape Town, South Africa from February 4th until February 13th. Please pray for their safe trip and that much good will be done.
- The youth devotional will Sunday, February 4th, after the evening worship service. Justin and Leah Hopkins will host the devotional at their home.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 1/28

Front South

Mike Hight
Clark Lehtinen
Bill Hughes

Front North

Russ Jones
Doug Jones
Daniel Hughes

Back South

Ryan Cowan
Dennis Lane
Jim Hudgins

Back North

James Hunt
Doug Kilcrease
James Henslee

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Vince Grinnell

Sunday PM

Doug Jones
Rob Stidolph
Bill Cashion
Joshua Haynes

Wednesday PM

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Doug Jones

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Russ Jones

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen
DeWayne Henegar

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett /Wayne Gentry

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 and then re-airs on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Overcoming Fear through Faith
Genesis 32:1-21

PM

God and His People
Zechariah 3:1-10

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street 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.....136
AM Worship.....191
PM Worship.....135
Wednesday Bible Class.....92
Contribution.....\$6,734

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