

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Joining the Battle

Kevin W. Rhodes

Each day in our current era seems to bring a new ethical challenge to the forefront of society. Satan actively promotes the approval of all kinds of sexual sin on the one hand while simultaneously working to push God and religion out of the public sphere on the other. This should come as no surprise. Peter told us that Satan is a cagy adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), and Paul warned us to beware of his tactics (2 Cor. 2:11; 11:14-15). However, many Christians seem oblivious to the fact that they are in a war. It is not a conventional war, to be sure, but a war nonetheless. The battle lines have been drawn, the stakes are high, yet many have yet to put on their armor to engage the enemy (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:13-17). Although the LORD had allowed the division of Israel following the death of Solomon, He in no way condoned the unrighteous course pursued by Jeroboam. Division into different nation states was acceptable; division into different spiritual states was rebellion. Therefore, while originally thwarting Rehoboam's forays against Jeroboam, this changed when Abijah began to reign (2 Chr. 13:1-3).

Although the specific circumstances differ greatly from today, spiritually speaking, Abijah's efforts offer a principled plan worthy of emulation in opposing the forces of evil now arrayed against us. However, rather than seeing this as a political action taken on a grand scale and played out in the news media, we should instead see this as an effort undertaken to plead with people we know to do what is right. In his speech to those on the opposite side, Abijah did not waver, nor did he offer a compromise. He stated the facts straightforwardly, but more importantly, he put them in a spiritual context. And that is precisely what we should do as well. Rather than beating around the bush, we should directly address those responsible for sin and error (2 Chr. 13:4), appealing to God's covenant (2 Chr. 13:5) as the basis for all that we say. But we should also not shy away from stating the problem, citing the sins at issue while taking responsibility for any individual failures on the other side as well (2 Chr. 13:6-7). But spiritual problems are solved only when there is a spiritual focus, acknowledging sin and error for what it is rather than attempting to paper over such issues for the sake of unity (2 Chr. 13:8-9). The problem that separates people spiritually, more often than not, lies between forsaking the Lord and being faithful to Him (2 Chr. 13:10-11). Judah had its problems at this time, but it was not rebelling against the LORD. But this also shows why it is essential in talking to others to keep it about God—not you (2 Chr. 13:12). Do not let anyone's spiritual rebellion become personal; always see it as spiritual, because it will always be more personal to God than to any of us. However, the reaction is often not kind, to say the least. We must prepare for the possibility of vitriol (2 Chr. 13:13). Indeed, becoming the focus of someone's anger with God can often keep us off the battlefield. We cannot let that happen. Instead, we must rely on the Lord throughout (2 Chr. 13:14-18), trusting always that His way is the best way. Following this process, like Abijah, you may not restore the unity you once enjoyed together, but God's people will always be stronger when standing up for the truth (2 Chr. 13:19-22). Satan and those on his side are not stronger or more capable, we just need to offer greater resistance (Jas. 4:7).

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen

Deacons

Gary Barger
Jeff Day
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Tim Norman

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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No Exceptions

Kevin W. Rhodes

Most people have some preconceived ideas about discipleship before they ever open the cover of their Bible. Imbibing various ideas about Jesus from popular culture and popular religion, mixing these together with their own upbringing and experiences, they form a model of expectations upon which they hope to build a relationship with Jesus Christ. It seems to be a universal problem, but this proves dangerous for the soul.

Christianity is not something you evaluate piecemeal, sifting out which parts fit into your lifestyle and which do not. Christianity itself sifts through your life to eliminate what should remain in your lifestyle and what should not--and what ingredients need to be added in to make it what it ought to be. If you really want eternal life, you do not start with your life as it is, you start with Jesus Christ and what He says. And that was a lesson that one rich young ruler learned the hard way.

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall

not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions (Mt. 19:16-22).

Luke tells us that this was a ruler (Lk. 18:18), which means he was well-connected and well-respected--likely the financial sponsor of a synagogue and perhaps even part of a ruling body. However, with all this earthly success, he still wanted confirmation of his spiritual situation. In ancient Israel, his wealth would have been considered sufficient evidence of his righteousness. But he was eager to hear Jesus confirm this as well, running to Him to ask his question (Mk. 10:17). However, Jesus' expectations are different from man's. And the exchange that followed shows just how different they can be. This rich young ruler was not a bad person—far from it. But, as he found out, that is not enough to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Ken Boroughs got the results of his tests. The cancer on his liver is dead. Tumors on his lungs are not growing. But the cancer has spread to his lymph nodes. He saw the liver specialist, oncologist and had chemo on Monday.
- Don Kirby has asked that everyone not call them for a while. Judy is still not doing well, and it upsets her. Cards would be nice but nothing else.
- Sandy Pennay's father, Romeo Cervini, had open heart surgery Tuesday at Harris Heart Center downtown.
- Lynn Sowell has been in Walls Hospital with an infection in his leg.
- Bill Trantum has shingles.

Please remember in prayers

Mary Lee Allen; Ken Boroughs; Lonnie Burk, Laurie McPherson's father; Lee Childers, Kenneth Helm's cousin; Darla Dill; Mary Fogarty; Glenda Helm; Dawn Taff, Tracy Rhodes' cousin; Don Toth, friend of the Rhodes', Ron Wisialowski

Please Note...

- The next Family Day will be on Saturday, March 21st, beginning at 10:30 A.M. We will study Esther 8.
- Saturday, March 28th, the Elders, Deacons and Preachers will meet at the Sunrise Grill for breakfast. There will be a meeting following breakfast at the building.
- Sunday, March 29th, will be our next 5th Sunday. We will have our regular morning services, potluck lunch in the annex, and a singing in the auditorium beginning at 1:00 P.M.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 3/15

Front South

Larry McWilliams
Luke Norman
Clint Owens

Front North

Paul Murphy
Tim Norman
Rob Stidolph

Back South

Michael Mora
Jeff McPherson
Larry Owens

Back North

Gene Threadgill
John McGilvray
Melvin Owens

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Paul Murphy
Mike Hight

Sunday PM

Vince Grinnell
Jim Hudgins

Wednesday PM

Colton Allen

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

Jeff Day

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

Wed. PM Devotional (3/18)

Will Cammack



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Patience and Prayer - Part 2
James 5:7-20

PM

If You Would Preach...
1 Corinthians 9:12-23



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	139
AM Worship.....	193
PM Worship	146
Wednesday Bible Class 3/4.....	n/a
Contribution	\$5,992

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