

Those who serve

Lords' Supper: 2/17

Front South

Perry Elkins
Jason Hackler
Mike Harding
Vince Grinnell
Cody Grinnell
Justin Hewlett

Front North

Joshua Haynes
Kenneth Helm
Dewayne Henegar
Royce Gorman
James Henslee
Justin Hopkins

Back South

Back North

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day
Don Crecelius

Sunday PM

Gary Barger
Paul Doyel

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Barry Lehtinen

Wednesday

Russ Jones

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

D. J. Stucky

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Paul Murphy / Jeff Day / Kyle Day

Our Records

Bible Class.....154
AM Worship.....235
PM Worship.....163
Wed. Bible Class 2/6.....158
Contribution.....\$6,552

Sermons

AM Befriending the World
 Hosea 4:1-19
PM A Widow's Choice
 1 Corinthians 7:39-40

From Faith to Faith
Granbury Street Church of Christ

Volume 10 Number 6 February 13, 2013

Casual Faith

Kevin W. Rhodes

At a low point in Israel's history, Joash, king of Israel, approached an elderly Elisha, weeping over Israel's inability to defend herself against Syria (2 Kings 13:14). In response Elisha had him shoot an arrow out the window as a sign of the deliverance the LORD offered as a means of destroying the Syrians (2 Kings 13:15-17). The prophet then told Joash to hit the ground with the arrows, which he then did—three times (2 Kings 13:18). When Elisha saw the timidity of Joash, he became angry and told him, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times" (2 Kings 13:19). His response might puzzle the casual reader. Why would the number of times a king hit the ground with arrows matter? He had not specified how many times the king should hit the ground. But herein lies the point. He had told the king that the arrows represented the LORD's willingness to help him against Syria and that the LORD would help him destroy Syria. Unfortunately, Joash only offered a token effort himself. As such, Joash provides an excellent example of casual faith.

Many Christians experience ongoing struggles, with sin and faithfulness, throughout their lives. They fall on hard times—sometimes financially, sometimes personally, sometimes spiritually—and reach out to someone they view as a rock spiritually, someone on whose faith they may lean to get them through the dark times. But given the opportunity to express their own faith, they fall short again because they remain unwilling to commit completely to the task. They want relief from consequences but not peace from faith. They want success in life but lack the diligence to have success in eternity.

Many people express a casual faith. They believe in God—pretty much. They believe the Bible—or at least parts of the Bible. They are good people—for the most part. They attend worship—when it suits them. They are casual Christians the same way many people are casual fans. They wait until things get interesting before they begin paying attention. But that simply will not work spiritually. Casual faith is not faith at all. Trust is not casual. Obedience, the full extension of faith (Jas. 2:18), is not casual (Heb. 5:8-9). Hope, the promise of faith, is not casual (Heb. 11:1-6). Worship, an expression of faith, is not casual (Jn. 4:24). People may have a casual attitude toward God and Christianity, but please do not think that is faith. It is just a fad, and like the world it is rooted in, it too will pass away (Jn. 2:15-17).

Evangelist
Kevin Rhodes

Elders
Sid Carruth
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
George Sowell

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Service Times
Sunday: Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. 5th Sunday Second Worship Service, 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Class 7:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Class 10:00 a.m. (Sept.—May)

Being a Good Follower

By Kevin W. Rhodes

Most people prefer leading to following. Oh, I realize that many people do not want any type of leadership responsibility. I also know that many people would prefer to have someone completely take over anything in their lives that might remotely cause stress. But I still maintain that most people prefer leading to following. Why? Because it is always easier to tell someone what to do than to do what someone else wants. Talking requires far less effort than doing. Unfortunately, many people wrongly view giving orders as the essence of leadership. Perhaps this explains why so many people want to lead the way but few know where they are going.

We surely need leaders today—in the world, in society, and in the church. But the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle said something very insightful that applies here: “He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader.” Many of our problems stem from people trying to lead others when they have trouble following. Following requires listening skills, accepting a place in a world bigger than yourself, and giving your heart to a cause that does not place you at the center. Therefore, it is essential to learn to follow first.

This has a number of applications. For instance, you cannot lead someone to Christ if you are not following Christ. Many young men go to train as preachers, where they must lead spiritually in some capacity, before they truly have learned to follow. The results can be disastrous for a congregation. Likewise, the first training in being a good

parent is learning to be the right kind of child. A parent who does not honor his father and mother does not have the requisite knowledge to teach his own child how to do so. A teacher must first be a good student, growing through diligent study and growing to love the process of discovery.

But many people indeed resign themselves to following. In fact, they do not even seem that picky about whom and what they follow—especially when it comes to religion. They will look for something that is “a comfortable fit,” “accepting and non-judgmental,” and “not too demanding.” Once they find something that fits *their* paradigm, they will then follow. But if they set all the rules and parameters for an acceptable religion, are they really following? No, not really. In fact, this explains why so many religious groups change with society. They are religions that follow society and the world—not a religion that leads people out of the world. Only pure Christianity that follows Christ through the scriptures can do that, because it alone transcends the world.

Therefore, it is not enough to follow; we must follow what is right. We must not be content with following at a distance but desire to follow Jesus closely. We cannot simply be followers; we must be the right kind of followers. Jesus emphasized this throughout His ministry, and the apostles echoed His themes. There are plenty of people wearing jewelry for Jesus and calling themselves Christians. But Jesus wants more than that. He calls on us to be good followers.

News and Notes

Among our sick

- Karsyn Boroughs went to the specialist at Dallas Scottish Rite Hospital last Wednesday for her back.
- Kay Holly had oral surgery on Wednesday.
- Mary McPherson results from the MRI showed a torn ACL, sprained MCL and contusion on her knee with a mild fracture. She saw the specialist Friday morning to determine what further treatments will have to be done to correct the injury.
- Charles Melton had out patient surgery on Thursday to place an implant in his back for back pain.

Sympathy is extended to...

- Ken & Debbie Boroughs and family in the passing of Ken's uncle Travis Freeman. The funeral was Saturday at Rosser's.
- The Carruth and Ewart families in the passing of Mary Carruth's father, Gary Ewart. Mary is Sid & Sherry's daughter-in-law. The Funeral was Tuesday.
- Doug and Gail Kilcrease and family in the passing of Doug's brother, Bobby. The funeral was Wednesday at Hico.

Congratulations

Andrew and Ruth Collins are proud to announce the arrival of their grandson Oliver Andrew. He was born Tuesday, February 5th and weighed 7 lbs. and 2 ozs. Proud parents are Matthew & Liz Collins. Vernie & Dollye Collins are the proud great grandparents.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Jessica Hughes. She has completed 1500 hours of instruction in cosmetology, and passed her written and practical exams. On Wednesday January 29th she received her state license in cosmetology.

Please note...

- Saturday February 23rd will be Family Day starting at 10:30 in the annex. We will be studying Hebrews 12.