

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## God Provides the Answer

D.J. Stucky

Genesis 41 opens with Pharaoh having several strange dreams. Seven healthy cows were eaten by seven gaunt cows, and seven heads of grain were eaten by seven heads of blighted grain (Gen. 41:1-7). Pharaoh searched for an interpreter, but there was none to be found. Then, Pharaoh's butler remembered a man named Joseph who had interpreted his dreams before (Gen. 41:8-13). Pharaoh called Joseph to him and explained the situation. Joseph, through the power of God, was able to give Pharaoh the answers he sought. The dreams represented seven years of plenty for the land of Egypt, followed by seven years of famine (Gen. 41:14-32). In the problem of Joseph's imprisonment, and in the problem of Pharaoh's dream, we see that God is the one who provided the answer.

Joseph spent two years in prison before the butler remembered about his God-given ability to interpret dreams. It took time, but Joseph did eventually receive the benefits of his faith, as will we if we remain faithful to God (1 Pet. 1:9; Rev. 2:10). We must also keep in mind that we are not going to receive a reward because of our own greatness. Joseph was released because he could interpret dreams, yet he recognized God as the source of his ability (Gen. 41:16). Joseph understood that the ability that saved him from imprisonment was possible only because of God. Salvation from sin, man's greatest problem, is not something we can earn ourselves. God, through His grace, gave all mankind the opportunity to be saved through faithful obedience to the gospel (Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 5:8-9). We could not defeat the devil (Heb. 2:14), we could not overcome death (1 Cor. 15:26), but Jesus could. We were imprisoned by sin, but God provided an answer for the problem in Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:17-20).

God also provided the answer for Pharaoh. Pharaoh desperately wanted answers for his dreams, but he went to the wrong source for answers (Gen. 41:8, 24). No matter what his magicians tried, they could never provide the correct interpretation of the dream. What Pharaoh needed was the word of God. Although God no longer speaks to us in dreams and visions (Heb. 1:1-2), He does speak to us through His inspired word (Jn. 16:13; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Whenever we are perplexed by a situation in life, we cannot rely on men to fix it for us. There are mountains of self-help books, written by godless men, that are of no use at all. God has given us a book that reveals all things pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). If we use the Bible as our guide, then we can be certain we will be on the right path (Ps. 119:105).

Therefore, whatever problems we may experience in life, let us seek God for the answer.

### 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 Depths of Triumph

Kevin W. Rhodes

When Moses ascended Mount Sinai and originally received the Law from the LORD, he heard, for the first time, the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments, which God established as the foundation for Israelite society. Among the precepts instituted in the wilderness that day, the requirement to “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Ex. 20:8) would later generate great controversy throughout the life of Jesus as the first century Pharisees’ interpretation of the requirement (long ignored throughout Jewish history) took on an extensively regulated meaning. However, while we ourselves recognize the reality of rest that the LORD instituted as part of that law (Ex. 20:9-11), as did the Pharisees, we often fail to appreciate its essential character of holiness, which the Pharisees also missed. The title applied to the ninety-second psalm, “A Song for the Sabbath day,” deserves consideration. The LORD did not give the Sabbath merely for physical rest but also for spiritual renewal, as this psalm also implies. More than that, its thematic emphasis on the character of God Himself illustrates well the actual purpose underlying the original command to keep the Sabbath holy. It should have been a day distinctly spent in dedication to the LORD, thinking about Him and all that He had done. Therefore, while Christians follow the gospel rather than the Law, and therefore have no responsibility to keep the Sabbath (Col. 2:14-15), the holy aspect of its purpose should endure as God’s people today reflect regularly on the glory of their God and why He is worthy of their worship.

Remembering God and all that He has done is not just commanded; it is good. It is good morally, certainly, but it is good for us. Giving thanks to God helps us remember how blessed we are, and praising Him in song thrills the soul and unites our hearts (Psa. 92:1). Indeed, we ought to fill our days with declarations of His care and attention (Psa. 92:2-3). It may seem silly to some, overly demonstrative to others, but

stopping the hustle and bustle of daily life to consider what God has done—instead of always concentrating on what we must do—is one of the healthiest activities you will ever undertake. God has done far more for us than we could ever do for ourselves—and not just in providing salvation (Psa. 92:4). Reflecting on the thoughts He provides through His Word provokes us to grow and deepen our understanding of ourselves, of others, of our purpose, and of Him (Psa. 92:5-6). By meditating on His Word, we gain perspective amidst tribulation, knowing that the wickedness of the moment will one day pass and be destroyed but that the LORD reigns eternally (Psa. 92:7-9). Seeing life in terms of God’s blessings keeps us humble, knowing that whatever we achieve, we did so because of what God made possible (Psa. 92:10-11). In this there is no false humility but only confidence rooted in faith, that following God and doing His will leads to blessings and success because we understand success in terms of blessings and our achievements as a testimony to the glory of our God (Psa. 92:12-13). This will sustain us in life and bring comfort without end (Psa. 92:14), because no matter what else happens, we have the LORD as our standard, as our defense, and as our King, and He will never lead us astray (Psa. 92:15).

To some, these thoughts seem as mere platitudes for the weak, but in a faithless age, they increasingly require great courage to maintain. Many wish to eliminate God from public conversation because these thoughts make them uncomfortable. And they are uncomfortable because they themselves stopped thinking about God. Sadly, many Christians’ faith is failing them, and it could so easily be prevented if they would take the time to stop, reflect on God, and meditate on His Word. The godless negativity of the world may seem like the dominant voice in society today, but you do not have to listen to it. So just stop and, instead, take the time to spend with God and His Word.

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# News and Notes

## Prayer request...

- Pauline Bishop fell and broke her wrist. She had surgery on it yesterday.
- Andrew Collins will have surgery on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Bruce Eversole had knee surgery last week. He is doing well.
- Mike Maddox, father of Melissa Ann Burnett, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer which has spread to his liver. He is in the hospital in Jackson, Tennessee.
- Darla Baze Mullen has ovarian cancer.
- Brody Nelson, 7 year old son of Ty & Courtney Nelson at Westhill, had a 10-hour brain surgery to remove a tumor. Keith and Carla Crowell are his grandparents.
- Donna Perry, De Wayne Henegar's mother, was in Walls Hospital with pneumonia but has now returned to Ridgeview.
- Betty Rutledge has walking pneumonia.
- Carrie Williams had a CAT scan on Wednesday. Everything was great.
- Paula Winsett, Jean Gorman's sister, is in Baylor, Grapevine. She broke her leg and wrist in a fall and had surgery last week.

## *Sympathy*

Our sympathy is extended to Jim and Sharon Rich in the passing of their daughter Stacy Rich.

Also, we extend our sympathy to Gila McAnally in the passing of her husband, Kenneth. The funeral was Tuesday.

## Please note...

- Annual business meeting will be Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, after the evening worship service. Please sign one of the proxy for the meeting.
- Personal Evangelism Seminar with Rob Whitacre will be January 19<sup>th</sup> —20<sup>th</sup>. There are fliers in the foyer to pass out.

## Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

### Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should not longer be slaves of sin.

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 1/14

### Front South

Will Cammack  
Mark Stubblefield  
Tom Collins

### Front North

Andrew Collins  
Don Crecelius  
Kyle Day

### Back South

Colton Allen  
Steve Baze  
Weldon York

### Back North

J. D. Allen  
Joshua Haynes  
Gary Barger

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Will Cammack

Sunday PM

Clark Lehtinen

Larry McWilliams

Wednesday PM

Clint Owens

Daniel Hughes

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Doug Jones

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

D. J. Stucky

Sunday PM

D. J. Stucky

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

Jim Hudgins

## 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

First Things First  
Matthew 12:1-8

PM

Vision for 2018  
Tim Norman

## Calendar of Events



1/19-20

Evangelism Seminar  
with Rob Whitacre

6/6-8/29

Granbury Street Summer Series

9/7-8

Marriage Seminar  
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24

Gospel Meeting  
with Todd Clippard



## Our Records

Bible Class.....	132
AM Worship.....	191
PM Worship.....	137
Wednesday Bible Class.....	125
Contribution.....	\$8,694

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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