

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Godly Labors

D. J. Stucky

Work is a virtue. All people, regardless of personal background, job description, or age, can benefit from a strong work ethic. Not only will we benefit personally, but others around us will be blessed too. The beauty of a work ethic is that we can choose to work hard no matter what our circumstances might be. In Genesis 30:25-34, we see how Jacob's hard work and dedication allowed him to prosper.

Jacob had worked many years in Laban's household, fulfilling every obligation laid on him for his two wives, Rachel and Leah. Jacob requested to be sent back home (Gen. 30:25-26). Laban recognized the blessing that Jacob had been to him, so he asks what it will take for Jacob to remain (30:27-31). Jacob asked that livestock with specific markings be given to him, while the rest would belong to Laban (30:32-33). Laban agreed to the terms, and Jacob then spent another six years laboring in his household (30:34; 31:7).

When we are godly, we are a blessing in the lives of others. (Gen. 30:25-27). However, Jacob was only a blessing to Laban because of his diligent work (Gen. 30:28-30). We too should work to be a blessing to others, even if they are unjust (1 Pet. 2:18). Laban would never be considered a good boss. That did not change Jacob's responsibility towards him. Likewise, Christians are expected to work hard no matter who they are working for. Ultimately, our work is for the Lord (Eph. 6:5-8). As people benefit from the good work that stems from your faith, they are more likely to become curious about that faith. This is one way that people in the world can see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:14-16).

Jacob also made himself accountable for his wages by suggesting he take livestock that could be easily identified by their markings (Gen. 30:31-34). Christians should never fear accountability, but should embrace it. We should actively seek honesty, transparency, and accountability in our dealings with others, even if they do not (Gen. 30:35-36). This is yet another way we can show the character of God in our own lives.

In the end, Jacob's willingness to work provided a great blessing for himself, his family, and his master. If we want to be a great blessing, then we must be ready to put in the work!

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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Until Calamities Pass By

Kevin W. Rhodes

Sooner or later you will find yourself in the midst of adversity, under attack from the malicious, and trapped by circumstances. Sometimes these problems are financial, sometimes they revolve around health, and often they are spiritual. Those who have been in battle understand this reality quite literally. And yet the mindset essential to surviving with soul intact, ready to move on to the next challenge, is the same. When Saul was chasing David, the future king lived under constant threat, emotional hurt, and physical challenges. On at least two occasions he retreated into a cave to escape the notice of Saul and his men (1 Sam. 22:1; 24:3). His emotions on both occasions must have been powerful, and yet his reflection on this experience, recorded for our benefit in Psalm 57, provides practical advice rooted in spiritual insight.

The challenges that confront us may take many forms, but most take some time to develop and can push us to a very negative place. That is why, whenever life throws us off course or forces us to retreat into our own “cave,” we ought to learn from David’s experience. While the order is not an absolute, it is very telling—and beneficial.

1. When you find yourself in the midst of adversity, do not let it overwhelm you and do not let it cause you to doubt. Instead, trust God and His care (Psa. 57:1).
2. Then, with renewed attention to what God can do regardless of what Satan has thrown your way, pray (Psa. 57:2); pray without ceasing (1 Th. 5:17).
3. Thus growing in faith and confidence (Psa. 57:3), and armed with the knowledge that God is with you, you can endure the hardships, endure the attacks, endure the affliction, and endure the pain (Psa. 57:4), because you know they have an end.
4. No matter what is going on around you, and no matter how bad you may feel at that moment, worship God, praise Him, and focus once more on the things above (Psa. 57:5).
5. While the problems that beset us seem

overwhelming on their face, they often serve only as a platform for Satan to set the real trap. Therefore, during the challenge of adversity, it is essential to become even more aware of the enemy’s devices so as to avoid falling into various pitfalls (Psa. 57:6).

6. As funny as it sounds, it is often during these times of trial that we can have greater clarity of purpose. Adversity is thus not the time to weaken our resolve. Adversity is the time to grow our commitment (Psa. 57:7).
7. When struggles begin and we face tremendous challenges, this is the time to give even more effort, to wake ourselves up to the depths of our soul, and to arise ready for spiritual combat each and every day (Psa. 57:8).
8. When we thus prepare ourselves, we will become more outspoken about our faith and more ready to stand out among others (Psa. 58:9).
9. We can do all of this knowing the character of our God and gaining perspective even during trial of how much He has done for us and continues to do (Psa. 58:10).
10. In the end, on the other side of trial, you will come to see how great God truly is, more confident than ever in His majesty, His glory, and His care (Psa. 58:11).

We all face adversity. We all experience challenges throughout life. We all go through trials of one form or another. And some of these will likely reach the point of overwhelming us from time to time. But that is all the more reason why we should embrace David’s perspective. He went from triumph to tragedy multiple times through his life. Yet, through it all, his faith provided the foundation for him to overcome each test and emerge stronger than before. You will face trials in life—most of which you would never have anticipated. Regardless, you can always know how and where to turn. “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by” (Psa. 57:1).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Margaret Ash, Dale and Cheryl's mother, is living with Pat and Cheryl.
- Juanita Baxter had a heart catheterization on Tuesday, April 18th. Everything was fine.
- Billy Bryant received a good report last week from his cancer surgeon. Thanks for all the prayers.
- The Hackler family are all sick.
- Helen Henslee had tests on Tuesday at Harris downtown.
- Wayne Holly has been moved to room 433 at Plaza Medical. They put a PEG tube in for feeding on Monday.
- Casey Lehtinen results from the PCR test came back and showed zero cancerous mutations CML in his blood. He will have a bone marrow biopsy this week. The transplant will be in about 5-6 weeks.
- Johnny Walker should have been released from the hospital on Thursday.

Mora twin girls' baby shower

We will be having a diaper and baby wipes shower for the Mora family's new baby girls. The shower will be on Sunday, April 23rd in the annex from 1:30-3:00.

Cherokee Home for Children's annual food drive

Cherokee Home for Children's annual food drive will be Saturday, May 6th. There will be a bar b que at noon and the home will be open to visitors. We will have a special collection after the regular contribution on Sunday, April 30th.

5th Sunday

Sunday, April 30th, will be our next 5th Sunday. We will have regular morning worship, lunch in the annex, and a 1:00 PM afternoon service led by the young men.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day According to the Scriptures.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 4/23

Front South

Ryan Cowan
Tim Norman
Michael Mora

Front North

Larry McWilliams
Gavin McGilvray
Paul Murphy

Back South

James Hunt
Dennis Lane
Howard Newberry

Back North

Clint Owens
Larry Owens
Doug Kilcrease

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Bill Hughes
Rob Stidolph

Sunday PM

Gary Barger
Doug Jones

Wednesday PM

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Kyle Day

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Justice of God

PM

The Hero and the Harlot
James 2:21-26

Calendar of Events



5/14-17 Gospel Meeting with Mike Bonner

6/7-8/30 Summer Series: Families of Faith

9/15-16 Marriage and Family Seminar
with John and Carla Moore

11/5-8 Gospel Meeting with Mark Hanstein



Our Records

Bible Class130

AM Worship.....209

PM Worship.....113

Wednesday Bible Class109

Contribution..... \$6,454

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