

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Ready for the Fight

Kevin W. Rhodes

Without any doubt, Christianity is under assault in America today—indeed, throughout the world. Facing secularism on one hand and Islam on the other, Satan has led attack after attack against the Bible and the morality it represents. Whether this onslaught comes from Hollywood, the Supreme Court, or false teachers of various stripes, Christians must ready themselves for the fight with the same conviction as the apostles Paul, “appointed for the defense of the gospel” (Phil 1:17). However, conviction demands preparation—not just indignation (1 Pet. 3:15).

When Sennacherib, king of Assyria, led his troops into Judah, Hezekiah prepared himself and Jerusalem for a determined defense. Thinking ahead, he stopped any water supply that the Assyrians could use outside the city during a siege (2 Chr. 32:1-4). He then built up fortifications for protection of the city, forged weapons to use in its defense, and prepared the leadership accordingly (2 Chr. 32:5-6). Hezekiah took all these practical steps for the fight, but he did not rely on these steps for Judah’s defense. Instead, he placed his trust in the LORD and called on the people to do the same (2 Chr. 32:7-8).

The Assyrians sought to wear down the faith of God’s people, pointing out difficulties and mocking their trust in the LORD (2 Chr. 32:9-11). They treated Judah like the pagan religions with which they were so familiar and appealed to worldly evidence in their support (2 Chr. 32:12-15). They spoke loudly and often in order to frighten the people so that they might capitulate (2 Chr. 32:16-19). But all of their efforts were for nought, for the LORD delivered Hezekiah and the people of Judah, and they were rewarded in the end for their faithfulness to Him (2 Chr. 32:20-23).

We are already in the midst of a fight. The enemy has entered the country and is on the move. But this enemy does not come after our territory but after our hearts and souls. We must be ready to fight for them. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” (2 Cor 10:3-5).

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

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

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People Can Change

Kevin W. Rhodes

Manasseh assumed the throne of Judah at the age of twelve and reigned until his death at seventy-seven (2 Chr. 33:1). Born and raised after his father, Hezekiah, was granted another fifteen years of life, Manasseh led Judah into sin worse than any of those who went before him—not only reversing the reforms of his father but also introducing Judah to the most heinous practices of idolatry (2 Chr. 33:2-9), rejecting the LORD's calls for repentance (2 Chr. 33:10). However, the LORD humbled him greatly by allowing Assyria to capture him (2 Chr. 33:11). In response to his condition, Manasseh sought the LORD, humbled himself, and prayed that he might return to Jerusalem as king (2 Chr. 33:12-13a). "Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God" (2 Chr. 33:13b). Upon his return, he fortified the cities of Judah and removed the idolatry he had introduced (2 Chr. 33:14-15). Having thrown these idols out of the city, he restored the worship of Yahweh and commanded the people he ruled to serve Him, which they did to some degree (2 Chr. 33:16-17). Manasseh had been a chief of sinners, but he changed (2 Chr. 33:18-20). As the reign of Amon, his son, demonstrates, the effects of Manasseh's sin lingered as a consequence of his previous transgressions (2 Chr. 33:21-25), but Manasseh himself had repented—a fact sometimes lost on people if they read the Bible too hastily.

Today we often fall into the trap of classifying people's sins into unofficial categories. We class sins of general disobedience, doctrinal error, sins of the tongue, unlawful divorce, anger, and selfishness as a type of iniquity that we recognize as wrong but do not actually find repugnant (cf. Col. 3:5-11). We then have our other category of sins—murder, homosexuality, molestation. Now these categories can be

fluid. But you might notice that the major difference lies in how society sees the sin—not how God sees it. Granted, some sins have greater consequences, naturally and even biblically. A crime may have extended and sometimes capital consequences. A person may have to be a eunuch for the sake of the kingdom (Mt. 19:1-12). A man may not be able to serve as an elder (1 Tim. 3:1-7). And wisdom may dictate removing any potential temptation to repeat past transgressions, both for the person's benefit and for the peace of mind of the brethren. This is precisely what we see in the case of the apostle Paul, a former persecutor of the church (Acts 9). But what we sometimes see is that Christians do not simply recognize with wisdom the consequences of a certain sin but they decide to bestow their own consequences upon their brother or sister in Christ. They do not forgive—or at least not entirely—despite repentance (Luke 17:1-4). They hold a grudge. They count up wrongs (1 Cor. 13:4-7). And in so doing, they commit a sin just as wrong and just as damning as the one they find fault with in another (Col. 3:13-15).

Brethren, this is a serious issue, and it will tear the church apart. We must commit ourselves both to God's holiness and to God's love. When we fail to develop the character that does so, we fail to imitate Christ and we fail to be transformed (Rom. 12:1-2). It is a sad thing to realize that the LORD could forgive Manasseh, but some Christians are unwilling to forgive those like him. May we never forget: people can change. "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 Jn. 4:20-21).



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Nan Homan is doing better after having shots in her back.
- John McGilvray hasn't been feeling well.
- Charles Melton is doing better after having shots in his back.
- Charlotte Moulder is feeling better after surgery.
- Lonnie Polson is in room 603 at Plaza Medical Hospital. He will be going to hospice care.
- Janice Redden is having tests on her throat.
- Please remember our military men and women in your prayers as they fight for our freedom.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Martha Southerland. Funeral services were Saturday.

Please Note...

- If you want to have the directory on your iPhone, tablets or computers let Bill Hughes know. He needs your e-mail addresses.
- Saturday, October 17th, will be the Elders, Deacons and Preachers breakfast at 8:00 AM at Sunrise Cafe with a meeting to follow at the building. Please let the Elders know if you cannot attend.
- Saturday, October 17th, will be Family Day starting at 10:30 in the annex.
- CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE 2015 (NKJV)
Matthew 10:32-33 ³²"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 10/18

Front South

Kenneth Helm
Logan Fasier
Jim Hudgins

Back South

Royce Gorman
Perry Elkins
Cody Grinnell

Front North

Mike Hight
Justin Hewlett
Michael Mora

Back North

James Henslee
Wesley Hackler
Conner Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Sid Carruth

Clint Owens

Wednesday PM

Colton Allen

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Dale Ash

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Wednesday PM

Jason Hackler

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Ken Boroughs / Wayne Gentry

Wed. PM Devotional (10/21)

Justin Hopkins



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Symptoms of a Dying Society

Micah 7:1-7

PM

The Panoply of God

Ephesians 6:14-17



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 Class153

AM Worship.....211

PM Worship.....133

Wednesday Bible Class 10/7.....105

Contribution..... \$6,407

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