

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

God is Greater

D.J. Stucky

A life without problems is nothing but fantasy. The reality is that all people experience problems and trials in one way or another. What matters is how we handle them. If we are not careful, we may become so absorbed in our own problems that we fail to see anything else, including potential solutions.

Israel was under great oppression in Egypt. Pharaoh had rejected Moses and Aaron's requests to allow Israel to go worship and instead increased the difficulty of their labor. The people cast the blame upon Moses, who cried to the Lord in confusion (Ex. 5:20-23). The Lord answered Moses, assuring him that Israel would be delivered by His hand because of the covenant He established with Israel's forefathers (Ex. 6:1-8). When Moses brought this incredible news to Israel, "they did not heed Moses because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage." Despite this rejection, Moses was sent to Pharaoh to demand the release of God's people.

Israel was given an astonishing promise of redemption, liberty, and freedom. Unfortunately, they were too focused on their suffering to hear it. Perhaps they thought God was unable to follow through on His promise. Perhaps they believed that their suffering was so great that God could not fix it. Regardless of why they chose to reject God's message, it is clear they were focused on the wrong things (Col. 3:1-2; Phil. 4:8-9). God has given a message of redemption to the entire world, yet some refuse to hear it. Some have determined that they can tackle the problems of life on their own without the aid of God. Others believe that God is unable to help them. Still others will say "my sin is so bad that I just don't know how God could forgive me!" It is true that sin is a problem for every person (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). However, there is no sin that God cannot forgive (1 Tim. 1:15; Lk. 23:32-34; Col. 2:13). Spiritually, there is no problem that God cannot solve. Life may still be difficult. Life may still have problems. But our greatest problem can be taken care of if we but trust in God.

Our problems, no matter how big, are never beyond the power of God. When God promises to take care of a problem, we can be assured that He will come through. Though Israel did not believe this at first, they would ultimately come to see the magnificence of God's power displayed on their behalf (Ex. 7-12). Their problem was indeed great. God was, and is, greater.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes

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 Guilt of Accusers

Kevin W. Rhodes

Lies hurt. They hurt the truth, they hurt feelings, and they can hurt reputations. However, when lies turn into accusations and accusations into action, a malicious lie, once believed, can lead people to commit character assassination, outright violence, and even atrocities—and justify it all in the name of a lie. People have little patience today to wait for evidence, and many seem uninterested in facts. The world's rejection of absolute truth has led the people of the world to find comfort in the relativity of lies. Encouraging worldviews independent of reality has thus led to the proliferation of extremism across the spectrum and its accompanying self-justification. The incivility, division, and vitriol exhibited in society so regularly today characterizes interactions at every level in practically every sphere, whether political, ethnic, social, or even spiritual. Having abandoned the anchor of truth, people have no standard for agreement and no foundation for reconciliation. Hatred, contention, jealousy, anger, and ambition rule the day. However, these problems did not arise recently. They have existed for millennia, even if their current incarnation has a more technological flavor to it. In fact, in the ancient world, trials mainly consisted of accusers attacking and the accused defending himself before a government official. Psalm 109 captures the ageless essence of the issue as David presents this problem in the form of a type of courtroom where he stands as the accused.

Anyone who steps forward to lead with conviction will face unjust accusations at some point. At that first realization of the severity of the attack and malice underlying it, the heart searches desperately for someone—anyone—to come to its defense (Psa. 109:1). The lying tongues of angry accusers spill out their jealousy and hatred against the innocent to justify themselves, often projecting their own motives, ambitions, and behaviors onto their victim (Psa. 109:2-3). Sadly, many of these attacks come from former friends and associates who feigned love as long as it proved useful but inwardly loved only themselves (Psa. 109:4-5). The situation itself unnerves the righteous as helplessness and indignation swell within. Then a cry for justice calls

out: Who will set things right? Never does the path of justice seem clearer than when injustice has visited your doorstep. Therefore, the plea of David before the court calls for true justice, for the false witness to receive the punishment he so desires to be meted out on the object of his lies (Psa. 109:6-20). The details throughout carry a deliberate touch of irony. The accuser should be the accused. The punishment recommended should become the punishment received. The fate of Haman in the book of Esther well reflects the tenor of the passage. However, the final portion of the psalm provides perspective often missing from our own sense of justice. Rather than attempting to manipulate the system or returning evil for evil, the psalm closes by turning to the Lord and trusting Him to make things right. Rather than trusting in our own inherent goodness, which we lack, we should realize our own weakness and thus trust in the LORD (Psa. 109:21-24). Thus, when attacked by others, the faithful will draw nearer to God and place the matter in His hands (Psa. 109:25-27). The greater our confidence in the righteousness of the LORD, the greater our confidence can be that justice will be served—eventually (Psa. 109:28-29). The LORD's character stands fast; therefore, His people can move forward with confidence when they stand with Him (Psa. 109:30-31).

However, one verse in this psalm adds an important dimension to our understanding. In Acts 1:20 the apostle Peter quotes from this psalm and applies it to Judas: “Let his days be few, And let another take his office” (Psa. 109:8). The one who delivered Jesus for death ultimately suffered the curse from his own accusations. Our innocent Savior, on the other hand, “‘committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Pet. 2:22–24). The accusations against Jesus make the lies told against us seem small in comparison, but our approach should be the same.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Amy Hackler is having problems with her right leg swelling. It is 3x the size of the other one. She is waiting on lab reports and a call from the doctor.
- Olivia Mora, Michael's mother, is out of the hospital; feeling better.
- James Pike, Donna York's brother-in-law broke his hip and had surgery. He is in ICU with Heart trouble.
- Larry Shirley, Betty Rutledge's brother has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Baptism

We rejoice that Austin Habluetzel, Joshua and Georgia Haynes' son-in-law, was baptized on Monday. Austin and Crysta live in Glen Rose. Their address is 5468 N. FM 56; Glen Rose, TX 76043. God Bless Austin in his decision to obey the gospel! Diane Sexton, Austin Habluetzel's mother, is battling colon cancer. She lives in Arkansas. Her address is 212 Eighth Street; Cotter, AR 72626.

Responses

Stephanie Saldaña responded to the invitation on Sunday asking for prayers. God be with her in all her decisions. We love her and her family!

Congratulations!

Mary McPherson graduated from Texas Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments! God bless you in your future decisions!

Updates

Ruth Wilson has moved to her daughter's home. Her new address is 2610 River Oak Ct. Kingwood, TX 77345. Her home phone is 281-812-0517; cell phone is 817-556-0619.

Please note...

- Wednesday, May 30th, we will have singing in the annex. There will be no classes.
- Sunday, June 3rd, is promotion day for the classes. We are in need of a teacher for Wednesday cradle. See Ryan if you can help with this.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 5/13

Front South

Don Crecelius
Andrew Collins
Ryan Cowan

Front North

Will Cammack
Colton Allen
Clint Owens

Back South

Steve Baze
Gavin McGilvray
Cody Grinnell

Back North

Mike Harding
Gary Barger
Joe Warlick

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Kenneth Helm

Sunday PM

Tom Collins
Joshua Haynes
Sid Carruth
Logan Frasier

Wednesday PM

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Andrew Collins

Wednesday

Jeff Day

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

DJ Stucky

Sunday PM

DJ Stucky

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen
DeWayne Henegar

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Paul Murphy

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, every Thursday night at 6:00 pm, and every Saturday at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Against All Odds
2 Kings 4:1-7

PM

Embracing God
Hebrews 12:25-29

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

7/5-8/9 Family Summer Series

9/7-8 Marriage and Parenting Seminar
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard



Our Records

Bible Class.....	130
AM Worship.....	176
PM Worship.....	119
Wednesday Bible Class.....	110
Contribution.....	\$5,051

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