

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

The Reality of Judgment

D. J. Stucky

A frustrated mom is trying to finish her shopping trip and her youngest child is running amok. She tells him that she is going to start counting, and if he does not obey before she gets to three, he is going to be in big trouble. The count begins: One... two.. two and a half... two and three quarters... three... four..., but Timmy is still doing acrobatics on the clothing racks. He has learned that the threat of judgment is empty and he has no reason to respond. Other times children may be warned to change their behavior, then receive swift discipline when they fail to do so. This scenario usually ends with tears and a child saying "No fair!" Unfortunately, this is how many people treat God. They believe He is so permissive that He would never pass judgment on men. Others believe that God's judgment is so strict that it simply is not fair. If we are to have a proper understanding of God's justice, we must take the biblical view.

In Genesis 18:16-32, after Abraham had helped the three men who came to his tent (Gen. 18:1-15), two left to go toward Sodom. The Lord revealed to Abraham that He was going to Sodom and Gomorrah to pass judgment on them for their grave sin (Gen. 18:16-21). Abraham was concerned because he knew the wickedness of that place, and he knew that his nephew Lot was living there. He questioned the Lord, asking Him, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?" Abraham knew that this was not consistent with God's character (Gen. 18:25). He asked if the Lord would destroy the city if fifty righteous people lived there, and the Lord said no. Abraham was still concerned and asked again if the Lord would destroy it for forty-five. Then for forty, for thirty, for twenty, for ten. The Lord would not destroy the city for ten righteous people, and as Genesis 19:1-29 relates, God would not allow any of the righteous to be harmed.

We serve a perfectly righteous and holy God. He is not going to make a mistake in judgment, and never will there be a righteous person harmed by the judgment of God. Only those who live against the Lord will suffer His wrath (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Even then, God does not punish because He enjoys it (Ezk. 33:11). In fact, it was and is God's desire that all people would repent and turn to Him (2 Pet. 3:9-10). But when we refuse to repent and continue to live according to our own way, God's justice demands that we suffer the penalty of our choice. There were not ten righteous people in the city of Sodom, and it was destroyed for the wickedness that occurred there (Gen. 19:1-29). God was perfectly just in doing just this. If we are to make a difference in the fate of our own nation, we must let others know that God has given us a perfect standard of judgment, and that He is one day coming in judgment.

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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My Own Familiar Friend

Kevin W. Rhodes

The emotional and poetic nature of the psalms both highlight the true meaning of a relationship with God and make them more difficult to interpret. This is especially true of psalms applied in some way to the Messiah while other portions of the psalm make it quite impossible to refer to Jesus completely. David's reflection on God's having come to his aid, recorded in Psalm 41, falls into this category. Jesus' own quotation of Psalm 41:9 in John 13:18 demands a Messianic meaning, and yet clearly Psalm 41:4, "I said, 'LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You,'" does not apply to Jesus. So how are we to understand this beautiful psalm?

The Jews themselves recognized the close tie between David and the Messiah, so much so that they assumed the Messiah's kingdom would be identical to David's kingdom. However, in this they failed to appreciate the most important element of the relationship between the two that the Holy Spirit provided in scripture: the Messiah would be better than David—in every way. Jesus Himself pointed to a psalm of David to make this point to the Jewish leadership, "He said to them, 'How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: "The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'" Therefore David calls Him "Lord"; how is He then his Son?" (Luke 20:41-44). Therefore, while the life of the Messiah would have many parallels to David, both the highs and lows in David's life were a mere shadow of what we find in Jesus.

Therefore, when David reflects on how God cares for those in trouble and preserves them alive, he referred to a deliverance that kept him from death, but in Jesus these are heightened to refer to victory over death (Psa. 41:1-3). David indeed had sinned and felt it in times when his enemies gathered against Him, but Jesus never sinned; nevertheless, He still had enemies who hated Him, wanted to hurt Him, and wished to end all memory of Him (Psa. 41:4-8). However, it is in verse nine where Jesus pulls the parallels together to highlight a place where David's situation so mirrored His own: "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me" (Psa. 41:9). During the rebellion led by Absalom, David's trusted advisor, Athithophel left David to give advice to his rebellious son (2 Sam. 15:12, 31). He knew what it was to be betrayed by a close associate, and in this Jesus found a parallel practically identical to His own situation.

Therefore, having drawn our attention to this psalm and having established Himself as greater than David, the fulfillment of the rest of the psalm promised greater things too. Jesus was indeed raised up, but in a very different manner than David (Psa. 41:10), and His enemy did not end up triumphing over Him (Psa. 41:11; Heb. 2:14-15). Instead, not only was it possible for Him to face God with integrity, but through His integrity He was able to be face to face with God once more (Psa. 41:12). This victory of the Messiah is thus the victory of the LORD, and the plan that made it possible is a reason to give Him thanks forever (Psa. 41:13).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Gary Barger's mother, Ruby Jo, was moved to Health South for rehab.
- Pauline Bishop is staying with her daughter Linda in Walnut Springs for a while.
- Kerri Boroughs' sister, April Tribble, is very ill. She needs prayers. Also asking for the family as they care for her.
- Lonnie Burk, Laurie McPherson's father, has been very sick and the family is asking for prayers.
- Bill Hughes will have a CT scan on his right kidney to determine whether an abnormality there is benign or not. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- Casey Lehtinen posted that the blood work for the Targeteo chemo came back very good. Cancer cells were totally undetectable. This test is done every 3 months & results can fluctuate, but we will just pray they don't.
- Jasmine Norman had oral surgery on Wednesday in Fort Worth.
- Johnnye Parrish had an outpatient procedure Tuesday at Plaza Medical.
- Dyne Pinkerton had nerves burned in her back next Monday, December 12th.
- Malinda Wheeler's family was in a car accident in Oklahoma last weekend. John Womack, Malinda's grandpa, is in room 211 ICU at Plaza Medical with a brain bleed. He is not doing well.

Please keep in your prayers

Darla Dill, Shirley Elkins, Helen Henslee, Janice Redden, Darla Stubblefield, B. E. and Lois Thompson, and all our shut-ins.

Please note...

- Sunday, December 18th, everyone that would like to help with delivering the fruit baskets to the shut ins should meet at the building at 1:00 PM. If you would like to help with the cost of the fruit baskets, give your money to one of the elders.
- The office will be closed from December 23rd through January 2nd for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.
- Friday, December 30th, will be the New Year's game night. There will be a fish fry. Clark ask if anyone wants to help him with the fish, please let him know and be at the building before 6 pm. The fish will be served at 6:30. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for anyone that is coming so they will know how much fish to fry. Bring your games and snack foods and enjoy this time of fellowship.
- If you haven't received your directory updates, please check with Bill Hughes.
- Sunday, December 25th, we will have 9:00 am Bible class and 10:00 am morning services only. Wednesday, December 28th, will be singing in the auditorium. No Classes. January 1st, we will have services at our regular time.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 12/18

Front South

Jeff Day
Kyle Day
Logan Frasier

Front North

Kenneth Helm
Justin Hewlett
Vince Grinnell

Back South

Neil Stidolph
Steve Baze
Cody Grinnell

Back North

Jason Hackler
Conner Hackler
Wesley Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Clark Lehtinen

Mark Stubblefield

Sunday PM

Sid Carruth

Jim Hudgins

Wednesday PM

Kyle Day

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Russ Jones

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Kyle Day

Wednesday PM

Russ Jones

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Qualification and Roles of Elders

PM

Pure Religion
James 1:26-27

Calendar of Events



12/18

Fruit Basket Delivery

12/23-1/2

Office will be closed for the holidays



Our Records

Bible Class	126
AM Worship.....	197
PM Worship	140
Wednesday Bible Class	122
Contribution	\$5,915

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