

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

No Room for God

Kevin W. Rhodes

We live in an age where busyness is a mark of industry and the hallmark of ethics. We brag about it. We compete over it. We sometimes look like we live for it. And then we complain about it. But busyness dominates our lives far more than it should and far more than we often will admit. We are busy working, sometimes in jobs that are not a lot of fun, but we take overtime for the additional money. We get our children busy in as many activities as we possibly can so they can prepare for...a life of busyness. We are busy on our phones, busy watching media, and busy being busy. However, what we rarely see in all of this is anyone being busy for the Lord.

We have reached the point where Christians seemingly treat four hours per week to worship God and study His Word as an onerous load. Everything we do as the Lord's people, it would appear, must fit into that four hour window. Why? We are busy. Therefore, there is no time left to attend gospel meetings, no time left for additional study, no time left to serve those in need, no time left to reach out to the lost, and no time left to think about how poorly we are using our time. Outside of this minimal four-hour (maybe) commitment, we allow our minds to dwell on worldly things. Indeed, one might even question whether we fully leave those worldly things behind for those four hours. And so, out of one hundred sixty-eight hours per week, our four, we think, is sufficient. That is a whopping percentage just over 2% of our time. Now, it must be admitted that this includes the time spent eating and sleeping, activities necessary for our physical well-being. But what then does that say about how much time we spend on our spiritual well-being?

David wrote a powerful indictment of such a condition when he penned, "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (Psa. 10:4). We do not like the designation of "wicked" very much. But if worldliness and pride keep us from turning our attention to God, what description would be better? If he had said "the half-hearted" or "the partially committed" or "the spiritually disinterested" would that have been better? However, the context is even more telling. David further describes such a one in verse six: "He has said in his heart, 'I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity'" (Psa. 10:6). People do not seek God because they think everything will be all right without him. Then, when they run into trouble, they show up seeking help. All of the sudden, at least in the moment, they have time for God. If only this led to lasting commitment!

My friends, this is no way to live life! God has given us everything good (Jas. 1:17), including His own Son (Jn. 3:16). He deserves far more than four hours a week. Indeed, He expects more. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Please make room for God in your life, for He sent Jesus to make room for you in heaven (Jn. 14:1-6).

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

Cleburne,
Texas

Volume 13,
Number 15

April 17,
2016

Do You Think You Will Escape?

Kevin W. Rhodes

Practically overnight, the Persian kingdom had turned against one group of its subjects based on their religious character. Through a combination of the malice of some and the obtuseness of another, the law itself placed Jews in jeopardy. Mordecai's reaction began with a combination of sadness and outrage (Est. 4:1-2)—understandably so—and he was soon joined by his fellow Jews throughout the country (Est. 4:3). Esther, who remained ignorant of Haman's evil designs, attempted to comfort Mordecai, but he refused any comfort. To the contrary, he called on Esther to do something about it since she was the only one in a position to do so (Esth. 4:4-9). Esther replied honestly to his request by citing a different law, that anyone who enters the court of the king uninvited places his life in jeopardy (Est. 4:10-12). Mordecai's rejoinder was simple and to the point: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Est. 4:13-14). Esther's concern for her own safety within the palace because of one law kept her from truly feeling the danger posed to all Jews by another law.

For decades now Christians in the United States have witnessed their government acting in increasingly hostile ways toward the Bible and morality. Whereas in its infancy the movement slowly worked to push God out of the public square, and then promoted the doctrine of moral equivalence through the religiously accepted Trojan

Horse of pluralism, in its arrogance and zeal its adherents have now stepped into sufficient power to begin dictating terms to God's people that affect some people's jobs and everyday life. The next few steps for American paganism would naturally include heavy fines for refusing homosexuals the use of the church building for various purposes, the arrest of preachers for condemning immoral behavior such as homosexuality under some vague hate-crime statute, and the removal of tax-exempt status from churches who refuse the new code of morality revealed by the priests of paganism residing in Washington, D.C. If you think I am unreasonable or paranoid, I would submit to you that in the past you probably would have denied we would ever be in the position we are today. But we are here. And, like Esther, it is time for people to recognize the problem for the attack that it is.

No Christian can afford to sit this one out. You will not escape. Your choices are between selling your soul or taking a stand. There is no middle ground. Therefore, it is time for Christians to rise to the occasion and declare in heart, "if I perish, I perish!" (Est. 4:16). Several years ago, a number of younger people insisted that Christians should avoid moral questions when it came to politics. We have now seen what happens when you do. When you fail to emphasize the importance of morality in society and in government, you will end up with immorality in society and in government. Now, while it may be true that people standing up for God could not have made enough of a difference to prevent this entirely, it is certainly true that God knows who stood up for Him and who just stepped aside. Which will you be?



News and Notes

Among our sick

- Jeri Allen's father, Floyd Lee, has been diagnosed with kidney cancer.
- Gary Barger had an MRI Thursday to see what is wrong with his knee.
- John McGilvray had two injections in his spine on Monday.
- James and Helen Henslee have been sick.
- Don Kirby remains in Harris Heart Center, Room 204.
- Emma Hackler has an ear infection and a virus.
- Perry and Shirley Elkins' brother-in-law, Ken Reynolds, had a stroke Monday. His symptoms are mild, but the neurologist said that its occurring near his brain stem makes it very bad.
- Bess Yates' grandson, Schane (Shane) Simmons, is able to move his legs some. Doctors are optimistic that he will walk again.
- Donna York's sister, Joyce Ogden, has been in the hospital with pneumonia and heart trouble.
- Gary York, Weldon's brother, has an infection in his leg after the heart surgery.

Sympathy

- Our sympathy is extended to Beverly Carter in the passing of her cousin, Johnny Edwards. The funeral was Thursday in Stephenville.
- Sympathy is extended to Natasha and Casey Lehtinen and family in the passing of her grandfather, Clint Pruitt. Funeral services were Friday.
- A memorial service was held Saturday at Westhill church of Christ for Edith Reagan.

Jr/Sr Banquet

The Juniors and Seniors will be departing from the building at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April, 23rd, to enjoy dinner and a show in Dallas. There will be a short photo session in the auditorium beforehand. If you would like to come for the photo session and then see them off, please arrive at approximately 2:15 p.m. Thanks to everyone for your love and support of our young people.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2016 (NKJV)

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 4/17

Front South

Daniel Hughes
Doug Jones
Bill Hughes

Back South

Jason Hackler
Conner Hackler
Wesley Hackler

Front North

Mike Hight
Justin Hewlett
Jim Hudgins

Back North

Kenneth Helm
James Henslee
Cody Grinnell

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Clark Lehtinen

Sunday PM

Gavin McGilvray

Sid Carruth

Wednesday PM

Vince Grinnell

Logan Frasier

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Russ Jones

Wednesday

Cody Grinnell

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry

Wed. PM Devotional (4/20)

Ryan Cowan



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Immaturity Run Amok
Judges 15:1-20

PM

Superior Nature of Christ's Sacrifice
Hebrews 10:5-10

Calendar of Events



Calendar of Events

4/16 Ladies' Day Briar church of Christ

6/1 Summer Series: Learning to Love

8/12-14 Apologetics Seminar with Eric Lyons



Our Records

Bible Class 137

AM Worship..... 189

PM Worship 155

Wednesday Bible Class 102

Contribution \$6,843

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