

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Choosing to Suffer

D.J. Stucky

We are faced with multitudes of choices every day. Most of these choices have little impact in the grand scope. Some, however, are eternally important. There are times when we will be forced to choose between a comfortable existence in the world or a life of hardship in kingdom of God. If we want to be counted among the faithful, we must be prepared to choose God, even if that means that we will suffer. Moses made this choice in Exodus 2:11-15.

Moses, though an Israelite, had the privilege of growing up in the household of Pharaoh. Unfortunately, this did nothing to improve the situation of his brethren who were forced into hard labor (Ex. 1:8-14). Moses came across an Egyptian who was violently beating a Hebrew man. When Moses saw that no others were around, he chose to defend his Hebrew brother, killing the Egyptian and hiding him in the sand (Ex. 2:11-12). When Moses discovered that his actions were known by the Pharaoh, he fled to Midian for protection (2:13-15). In Midian, Moses' honorable behavior earned him a dwelling place in the house of Reuel, where he began a family of his own (2:16-22).

The moment that Moses decided to save his Hebrew brother is the moment he chose the people of God over the people of Egypt. It says in Hebrews 11:24-26, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward." From a worldly perspective, Moses' actions were foolish. He was the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He may have even assumed a position of power in Egypt. He could have ignored Israel's suffering and lived comfortably amongst the Egyptians who oppressed his people. But deliverance from discomfort meant nothing if he would be estranged from God. He may have grown up in the palace in Egypt, but his place was with God's people. Christians have been called out of the world to be the people of God (1 Pet. 2:9-10). The world will hate us, revile us, and implore us to return to our worldly ways (Jn. 15:18-19; 1 Pet. 4:1-4). In some respects, this is the easy option. Going through life without worrying about being persecuted for righteousness may sound appealing. However, the easy way is not the best way (Matt. 7:13-14). Giving up will not lead to blessing (Matt. 5:11-12). When the world is calling us back, will we give in, or we will choose to suffer with the people of God?

### 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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# The Confession of Sin is Good for the Soul

Kevin W. Rhodes

Please forgive us of all of our sins. It is such a simple phrase—uttered time and time again. Those who do so likely mean it sincerely; however, it unquestionable lacks the expression of contrition and appreciation that God deserves. In the closing psalm of Book Four, a section highlighting man's relationship with God, the psalmist details the rebellious history of Israel as part of a confession on behalf of the nation, a confession that the people would then themselves sing as they reminded one another of the joint spiritual failures of their fathers—a powerful spiritual exercise, to be sure, and one God's people today would do well to consider. Our confession of sins should take place within the context of God's own character, a reflection on the goodness and mercy that gives any meaning to confession (Psa. 106:1). Confession ought to focus on what God has done to make salvation possible (Psa. 106:2) and on the righteousness He expects of His people—and on how we have failed Him (Psa. 106:3). Confession remains incomplete without meditation on the grace that offers the opportunity (Psa. 106:4) and that makes hope still possible (Psa. 106:5). Indeed, any request for forgiveness removed from the context of God's character and personal introspection lacks the spiritual heart God Himself intended. "We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly" (Psa. 106:6). Moreover, the psalmist's subsequent listing of the sins of the nation demonstrates how important it is for man to reflect on the whole of his existence and failures rather than on just the most recent occurrence, because this helps us see the patterns of rebellion that plague us and the longsuffering of God that makes it possible for Him to forgive us again.

Israel rebelled even before they left Egypt because they failed to appreciate the deliverance God was making possible (Psa. 106:7), but God demonstrated His own character in responding to their sin with an opportunity they did not deserve, which they, in the moment, embraced

(Psa. 106:8-12; Rom. 5:8-9). In the wilderness they thought only of themselves and not God and thus tested Him (Psa. 106:13-14), and yet He proved Himself and His care once again (Psa. 106:15). They rebelled against the leadership He established (Psa. 106:16) and were judged as a result (Psa. 106:17-18). At the foot of Sinai they turned away from the God who delivered them and turned back to the idolatry of Egypt (Psa. 106:19-22); only Moses' pleading kept them from destruction (Psa. 106:23). Faith failed them when they spied out the land (Psa. 106:24-25), so the first generation died in the wilderness (Psa. 106:26-27). They fell into paganism and immorality with the Midianites (Psa. 106:28) and suffered a plague as a result (Psa. 106:29) until Phinehas rose to oppose the sin (Psa. 106:30-31). Their grumbling at the lack of water grew so virulent that a frustrated Moses responded rashly and was thus kept out of Canaan (Psa. 106:32-33). They failed to destroy the Canaanites but instead compromised their identity with them (Psa. 106:34-38), and God responded by letting them feel the consequences of their own decision (Psa. 106:39-40)—time and time again until ultimately sending them into captivity (Psa. 106:41-46). Their history of rebellion was all too real, and they needed to acknowledge it—just like we do.

However, in the closing verses, the true beauty of the psalm shines forth. As we turn to God for salvation, He still will listen (Psa. 106:47a). As we offer our thanks and our praise once more, He hears our cries (Psa. 106:47b). All of this—the character of God, our history of sinfulness, and divine longsuffering—should teach us to grow in appreciation for our God more and more everyday. For He alone deserves our allegiance, because He alone is truly faithful. Therefore, He deserves for us to recognize all that He has done and praise Him with all our heart (Psa. 106:48). It is hard to capture all of this in one easy throwaway phrase. And we should not try.

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# News and Notes

## Prayer request...

- Tracy Durham, Helen Threadgill and Johnnye Parrish's niece, had surgery on Monday.
- Amy Hackler was admitted to Walls Hospital on Wednesday with sepsis and pneumonia.
- Sharon and Jim Rich's daughter, Jill Galbraith, had her appendix removed Monday at Harris SW.
- Mark Lindsey has a leaky heart valve. He will see the cardiologist on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Brody Nelson, 9 years old grandson of Keith and Carla Crowell, has been excepted to St. Jude Hospital. He will be leaving next week for tests. He was also baptized Sunday at Westhill.
- Chuck Ramseyer, Tracy Rhodes' father, was released from the hospital on Wednesday.
- Melisa Reed is having to have some of her fingernails and toenails removed because of the chemo that she is taking for breast cancer.
- Laura Stephens is in room 4435 at Huguley Hospital following surgery to remove another toe.
- Pat Thompson had biopsies on Monday. She should get the results soon.
- Malachi Briseno (Jerry Briseno's son), had surgery last week to remove his appendix.

## Please note...

Angel Grinnell, Rylee Hatch (Ruth Collins' 17 years old great-niece), Pam Jones, Tracie Jones, Janice Redden, Darryl Rutledge (Ginger Owens' father) Jose Saldaña

### *Congratulations*

DeWayne and Virginia Henegar announce the birth of their granddaughter, Paisley Raye. She weighed 6 lbs. 7 ozs. She is their 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild. Donna Perry's 9<sup>th</sup> great grandchild.

## Please note...

- Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be April 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have our regular morning worship services, lunch in the annex, and 1:00 PM Question & Answer service.
- There will be a Teachers' workroom interactive training session on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, after the afternoon worship around 2:30 in the workroom. Any Questions see Deb Stidolph.
- Cherokee Home for Children's annual food drive will be Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The BBQ lunch will start at 12:00 noon. We will be taking up money on April 29<sup>th</sup> after the regular contribution, so the home can purchase food in bulk.

## Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

### Deuteronomy 10:12-13

<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the LORD Your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

<sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 4/22

### Front South

Mike Hight  
Clark Lehtinen  
Bill Hughes

### Front North

Joshua Haynes  
Doug Jones  
Daniel Hughes

### Back South

Rob Stidolph  
Dennis Lane  
Jim Hudgins

### Back North

Michael Mora  
Doug Kilcrease  
James Henslee

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Don Crecelius

Sunday PM

Rob Stidolph  
Gary Barger  
Doug Jones

Wednesday PM

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

D.J. Stucky

Sunday PM

D.J. Stucky

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen  
Tom Collins

## Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

**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

Poor Reception  
Matthew 11:16-27

PM

The Ultimate Planner  
Zechariah 6:1-15

## 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.....	120
AM Worship.....	193
PM Worship.....	146
Wednesday Bible Class.....	117
Contribution.....	\$6,750

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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