

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## God Over Government

D.J. Stucky

We live in a culture that is constantly shifting away from morality and religion. Thankfully we are still able to worship as we choose without the fear of persecution. Our government is content to let us believe as we want, and in many cases protects our right to do so. However, what would happen if our government demanded that we sin against God? This was exactly the situation that God's people faced in Exodus 1.

For a time, the children of Israel grew and multiplied in the land of Egypt (Ex. 1:1-7). Then a new king arose in Egypt who did not know Joseph or all the things he had done for Egypt. This new king looked at the Hebrews dwelling in his land, and he was not pleased, fearing that the Hebrews would fight against Egypt if the opportunity arose (1:8-10). Before, the Hebrews were a small group of people given privilege for the sake of Joseph. Now they were a large clan who had their own cultural identity and worshipped the Lord rather than the false gods of Egypt. This made them a threat that needed to be dealt with. Pharaoh made them work in oppressive conditions, but the Lord was with His people, and they continued to grow (1:11-14). Finally, Pharaoh commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all the newborn sons as they were born. "But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded, but saved the male children alive" (1:17). Because of their faith and courage, God dealt well with them.

We must be willing to stand strong against the world when it tells us to do wrong (Rom. 12:2; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). The world may want us to conform to its low standards of morality. We cannot. We must instead be transformed by our relationship with God. That is not to say that we should neglect our responsibility to obey the laws of the land (Rom. 13:1-7). Rather, we must obey God, especially when man's laws contradict God's laws (Acts 5:29). Our government may demand that we stop doing what is right, or that we participate in something that is wrong. But we are not merely citizens of our nation, but citizens of heaven (Phil. 3:20). That means we listen to the Lord. Government and culture condone many forms of wickedness. All manner of sexual deviancy is accepted and pushed as normal. The government allows the unborn to be slain in the womb. Our top politicians lie, cheat, and behave rudely towards their fellow man. Thankfully, government does not provide a model for proper behavior. God does (1 Tim. 3:16). These women refused to do evil, even when their government demanded it. May we refuse evil, whether it comes from around us, or from the White House itself.

### 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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# Providence at Work

Kevin W. Rhodes

Psalm 104 opens with the same phrase that began the previous psalm, “Bless the LORD, O my soul!” In fact, the same phrase appears in the final verse of both psalms as well. Thus, they are linked not only by their proximity but also by their form. However, the connection grows even stronger when we examine their contents. A quick comparison of the wording found in Psalm 103:20-21 and Psalm 104:4 is sufficient to demonstrate that the latter psalm picks up the same theme introduced in Psalm 103:19-22 as if it were too grand a thought to treat so sparsely. And I must agree. In a world that worships at the altar of scientific arrogance coupled with philosophical nonsense, Psalm 104 offers a gentle reminder that a majestic Creator not only made the heavens and the earth but also provided a means to sustain it for as long as needed to fulfill its purpose as the home of those made in the image of God.

The psalmist presents creation as the royal robe of the King of kings (Psa. 104:1-2), a fitting metaphor signifying the grandeur of the One who reigns, and then proceeds to describe creation in all its glory. Nature did not work itself out through millennia, but the LORD established the interaction of heat from the sun, air in the atmosphere, and water throughout to create the phenomena we see displayed in the weather, all carried on through God’s providence, as the role of angels makes clear (Psa. 104:2-4). While the LORD created the earth as the ideal environment for man, the subsequent flood of Noah changed its landscape and atmosphere tremendously. Nevertheless, the LORD’s care continued, causing the floodwaters to abate, the storms to retreat, and the rainbow to come as a reminder of the finality of that form of judgment as well as His promised future care (Psa. 104:5-9)—providence. The LORD ensured that water now would nourish the ground and quench the thirst of all His creation (Psa. 104:10-13). Through the LORD’s providence, He provided

food for all creation, both for animals and men, as well the means for shelter (Psa. 104:14-18). His providence gave night, with the moon for light and opportunity for nocturnal animals to find their food (Psa. 104:19-21), and then gave day so man can see to do his work (Psa. 104:22-23). The oceans and seas are home to countless other creatures, but the LORD cares for them as well (Psa. 104:24-29). Indeed, His providence ensures their ongoing life (Psa. 104:30). Then, in earnest, the psalmist, building to a crescendo, moves His focus to man, just as God did the week of creation when He declared finally with the creation of both man and woman that it was very good (Psa. 104:31). But man needs guidance, prompting the psalmist’s allusion to the giving of the Law on Sinai (Psa. 104:32), and for this attention and care—a care that extends beyond the realm of nature to embrace the soul and eternity—we should respond with reverent worship in praise to the God (Psa. 104:33) and fill our minds with His will so that our lives might please Him, bring us joy, and avoid the judgment of those who ignore the One to Whom they owe so much (Psa. 104:34-35).

“Bless the LORD, O my soul!” This simple phrase declares the adoration due to the One who made us—a love born out of dependence, nurtured through life, and matured into an eternal relationship, a relationship that extends to the depths of the soul. The realization that only God could be responsible for the existence of man and the entire universe demands the conclusion and exclamation, “O LORD my God, You are very great.” But He deserves so much more, because He has done so much more. The LORD is not simply our Creator, but also our Provider. He not only provides for our bodies but also for our spirits. Our God sees in us the possibilities of eternity, and for this we should respond with adoration, “Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!” (Psa. 104:35b).

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# News and Notes

## Prayer request...

- Bruce Eversole's wife, Jennie, has been diagnosed with stage 3 chronic kidney disease. If it gets to stage 5 she will have to have dialysis.
- Rylee Hatch (Ruth Collins' 17 years old great-niece), is healing after eye surgery, but she still can't see well. They said it may take several months. She has to wear a patch right now.
- Cindy Hudgins has been in the hospital with a kidney infection. Jim is suffering with shingles.
- Tracie Jones had surgery on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Sandy Pennay will have cataract surgery on her other eye on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Janice Redden will have several tests in April and will get the results in May.
- Jose Saldaña, Stephanie and Saida's great uncle, is in very poor health.
- Laura Stephens has moved back home at Chisholm Trails.
- Larry Thompson will have tests run next week.
- Helen Threadgill had laser surgery on her eye last Friday.

## *Congratulations*

Clark and Deborah Lehtinen are proud to announce the arrival of their new granddaughter, Ansa Kaci. She was born Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and weighed 7 lbs, 13 ozs; 20 1/2 inches. Proud parents are Jay and Jennifer. Ian is a very proud big brother.

Michael and Caroline Mora are proud to announce the birth of their nephew, Roman Zane Escalera born Tuesday.

## **Please note...**

- Game night will be at 6:00 PM Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, in the annex.
- The elders, deacons and preachers will meet at Sunrise Grill at 8:00 AM for breakfast Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, with a meeting at the building following breakfast.
- 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.
- 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 for the home to purchase food in bulk.

## **Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)**

### **Philippians 2:14,15**

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmuring and disputing,

<sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 4/8

### Front South

Will Cammack  
Bill Cashion  
Steve Baze

### Front North

Andrew Collins  
Don Crecelius  
Dale Ash

### Back South

Colton Allen  
Gavin McGilvray  
Perry Elkins

### Back North

J. D. Allen  
Cody Grinnell  
Gary Barger

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Tom Collins

Sunday PM

Colton Allen  
Kenneth Helm  
Robert Pennay  
Ryan Cowan

Wednesday PM

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Doug Jones

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Sunday PM

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt  
DeWayne Henegar

## 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



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Making Better Decisions  
Proverbs 2:10-22

PM

Fellowship of the Faithful  
Hebrews 12:18-24

## 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.....	126
AM Worship.....	183
PM Worship.....	124
Wednesday Bible Class.....	103
Contribution.....	\$6,870

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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