

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Selfishness

D.J. Stucky

In Genesis 38, Judah married and had three sons. His oldest son married Tamar, but was slain because of his wickedness. Onan was told to marry Tamar and provide an heir for his brother. He married Tamar, but refused to provide an heir, and he was slain by God (Gen. 38:1-11). Judah asked Tamar to stay so she could marry his youngest son, Shelah. When the time came, Judah did not uphold the deal. After Judah's wife died, Tamar dressed as a harlot to seduce Judah. She conceived as a result. (Gen. 38:11-19). When her pregnancy was discovered, Judah was quick to condemn until Tamar provided evidence that he was the father (Gen. 38:20-26). Though this family was in turmoil, we can learn from their mistakes.

First, we must fulfill our responsibilities to others, even at personal cost. Onan wanted the benefits of being married to Tamar without the responsibility. He knew that any children she bore would not be his but would carry on the name of his brother (Deut. 25:5). This meant that Onan's inheritance would not belong to his family alone, but would have to be shared. Lust and selfishness motivated Onan's actions, and that is why he was destroyed. We must set aside personal desires and be concerned with helping others, because our responsibility is to do good to all (Gal. 6:10, Phil. 2:4).

We also learn we cannot make allowances for sin, even in distress. Judah yearned for comfort after losing his wife. However, that did not give him the right to seek a harlot. When we are emotional, it becomes more difficult to think clearly. Recovering addicts often lapse when they are under high stress. When we are emotionally compromised, our pet sins become even more enticing. Sin is like a drug. We do it because it feels good in the moment, but in the long term it is deadly (Rom. 6:23, 1 Jn. 2:15-17). Satan knows this tendency and will exploit it (1 Pet. 5:8), just like Tamar exploited Judah in his mourning. Instead of running to the false comfort of sin when we are emotionally distressed, we must run to the Lord, because He truly cares for us (1 Pet. 5:6-7).

Finally, we must be consistent in judgment. Judah was quick to condemn Tamar, though he was guilty of the same sin. We may look down on Judah, but how often do we act the same? How often do we apply the scriptures to denominations and non-Christians but fail to apply them to ourselves? There are many things we can condemn in our society, but if we too are participating in them, we are just as guilty as they (Rom. 1:32, Gal. 5:19-21).

Judah's family was a mess because of sinful behavior. If we want our families to experience a better life, then we must learn from the mistakes of our predecessors, striving to obey the will 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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2017

Concern about the Covenant

Kevin W. Rhodes

The LORD's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7, with all its dynastic implications, dominated Israel's interpretation of their status and their understanding of the future of the kingdom, for there it records the LORD's commitment to the king, "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men" (2 Sam. 7:12-14). In this they rightly discerned the promise of an enduring dynasty built on a unique relationship; however, like their interpretation of the seed promise, they focused so much on the physical that the spiritual import of the promise escaped them. Therefore, when a descendant of Ethan the Ezrahite penned Psalm 89, he struggled to comprehend the meaning of this promise of an eternal throne (Psa. 89:1-37) with the events in Israel's history that led to the seeming end of dynastic rule (Psa. 89:38-52). And yet, through it all, confidence in the faithfulness of God reigns supreme. An answer and resolution to the quandary existed. Of that the psalmist had no doubt. However, we have the benefit of reading the psalm from hindsight, but in doing so, we can see the beauty of God's faithfulness as it unfolded in Israel's history to extend even to us.

The LORD made a covenant with David on that day, and the faithfulness of God Himself secured it (Psa. 89:1-4). From the beginning, God had cared for His people and provided for their well-being, thus His record of faithfulness deserves praise and should build confidence (Psa. 89:5-7). Through His might He delivered Israel when no one else could, parting the Red Sea and defeating the might of Egypt, ultimately leading Israel to the promised land in proof of His character (Psa. 89:8-14). Throughout their early days, the LORD consistently rose

to protect Israel when they called out to Him (Psa. 89:15-18). Amidst the failures of Saul, the LORD selected David as the new monarch to lead his people, having him anointed on the basis of his character and promising to be with him because of the relationship they shared (Psa. 89:19-23). He would prove victorious and rise in power because God made it possible (Psa. 89:24-27). And then came the moment of the covenant—those enduring words spoken provoking hope of an eternal reign (Psa. 89:28-29). Even if David's sons should fail to follow in their father's footsteps, the LORD's covenant would remain firm (Psa. 89:30-37). Therefore, when the LORD's wrath against Judah boiled over, sending them into Babylonian captivity (Psa. 89:38), Israel, who had relied on the covenant with pride, assuming it protected them from such a fate, had trouble reconciling the LORD's promise to David with the capture of their king and the destruction of his capital (Psa. 89:39-40). Rather than the envy of nations, they had become a reproach (Psa. 89:41). Instead of protecting them from their enemies, the LORD had supported the cause against them (Psa. 89:42-43). Thus, despite the covenant with David, God Himself had brought that dynasty to its knees in punishment for their transgressions (Psa. 89:44-45). However, knowing the nature of divine faithfulness, the psalmist asks, "How long, LORD?" with confidence that their punishment was temporary and the promise endured (Psa. 89:46). The psalmist's expressed uncertainty focused on his concern on whether he would live to see the LORD's wrath subside and evidence of that covenant renewed (Psa. 89:47-51). Regardless, the covenant would endure, and for this the psalmist could confidently declare, "Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen" (Psa. 89:52). Whether he lived to see the end of captivity, we do not know, but his confidence in the covenant was well-placed, because the seed of David does indeed now sit on an exalted throne, and His name is Jesus (Col. 3:1-2).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Betty Hight fell and hit her head.
- Henry & Nan Homan have both been very sick.
- Doug and Pam Jones have been very sick and not able to be out.
- Betty Lane had surgery on her hand.
- Larry McWilliams' mother, Hester, has been in the hospital.
- Charles Melton will have the nerves burnt in his back on Wednesday, December 13th.
- Mary Reynolds is having problems with her heart. She may have to have a pacemaker.
- Laura Stephens has been in Walls Hospital because of being dizzy.
- Larry Thompson had cataract surgery on Thursday, December 7th. He will have the other cataract addressed on Thursday, December 21st.
- Tommy Thompson had a colonoscopy on Friday, December 8th.
- Mittie Wiginton had a stroke and is in room 108 at Heritage Trails.
- Weldon York had surgery to remove a kidney stone at USMD in Arlington.

Congratulations

B. E. & Lois Thompson will celebrate their 80th wedding anniversary Monday, December 11th. What a blessing it is to wish them both God's blessing on the example that they have set for their family.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Nan & Henry Homan in the passing of their nephew, Danny Lee, and to Lou Baker in the passing of her niece, Donna Pogue.

Please note...

- The Christmas dinner will be Sunday, December 10th. The meat will be provided. If you would like to help with the cost give your money to Vince and Darla Grinnell.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

2 Peter 1:5-7

Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/10

Front South

Colton Allen
J. D. Allen
Tim Norman

Front North

Mike Hight
Bill Cashion
Perry Elkins

Back South

Royce Gorman
Tom Collins
Larry McWilliams

Back North

Jason Hackler
Conner Hackler
Wesley Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM	Vince Grinnell
	DeWayne Henegar
Sunday PM	Jeff Day
	Cody Grinnell
Wednesday PM	Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:	Andrew Collins
Wednesday	Dale Ash

Song leaders:

Sunday AM	Dale Ash
Sunday PM	Dale Ash
Wednesday PM	Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday	James Hunt
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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 and then re-airs on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM	Embracing the Future Zechariah 2:1-13
PM	Providential Care Psalm 121:1-8

Calendar of Events



12/10	Congregational Dinner
12/24	1 PM Assembly with Q&A
12/31	New Year's Eve Fish Fry after 5:00 PM worship
1/19-20	Evangelism Seminar with Rob Whitacre



Our Records

Bible Class.....	134
AM Worship.....	192
PM Worship.....	130
Tuesday Bible Class.....	96
Contribution.....	\$8,012

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