

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## You Promised

Pat McIntosh

I can remember times when we were children that we might be disappointed when something we were promised didn't happen. In response we might have said, "But, you promised!" This might have been said when a friend let us down or our parents told us we were going to get something or get to go somewhere or other. With man, repeated broken promises will eventually lead to doubt or a lack of trust. Trust that is lost is hard to get back. Someone said, "You lose trust in buckets; you get it back in drops."

Though we struggle with this issue in our human relationships, we have no fear of this as it relates to God and His promises. In Hebrews 6:13-20 we read of the certainty of God. In other words, because of the nature of God as seen in His attributes, we have confidence regarding the things He has promised. In this text, God is shown to be "immutable" (vs. 6). That means that God doesn't change. This also means that God will not fail to follow through with something He has promised. He has given His word and will not go back on it.

The account of Abraham being told to sacrifice his son Isaac on an altar provides an excellent illustration (Gen. 22:2). Isaac was the "son of promise." God had promised Abraham that, through his seed, all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). Abraham so trusted in God's promise that he did not hesitate to offer his son on the altar. God intervened and provided a sacrifice, but Abraham knew before climbing the mountain that something would happen. He told the servants that both he and his son would go up and come down. That is not just bluster. He was convinced regarding what God had promised him.

Looking back to Heb. 13 we are provided a source for the same confidence that Abraham had. We are told that God cannot lie. His very character will not allow it. He has promised us numerous things. He has promised us a home with Him in heaven (Jno. 14: 1ff.). He has promised us that He will hear our prayers (Heb. 4:16). He has promised that we will never be tempted beyond what we are able to endure (Heb. 10:13). The Bible provides many more such promises.

In a day of uncertainty, we can be certain. In a day when people may let us down, God never will. We can walk through this life in confidence, focusing on our eternal reward because those responding in obedient faith will be rewarded.

May we have great confidence in these things.

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Jeff Day  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
Tim Norman

### Deacons

Gary Barger  
Ryan Cowan  
Vince Grinnell  
Justin Hewlett  
Bill Hughes

### Minister

Kevin Rhodes

### Associate

Pat McIntosh

### 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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# A Heritage from the LORD

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**hough familiar to the reader and often quoted by the preacher, the meaning of Psalm 127 plumbs greater depths than today's casual acquaintance typically assumes. While the uninspired inscription assigns this Song of Ascents to Solomon, it could just as easily imply an attempt to mimic his style due to an affiliation with his circumstances when the Jews returned from captivity to rebuild the temple, the city of Jerusalem, and the people of God. In fact, this latter formulation fits well the content of the psalm far better than a reference to the third and final king of the United Kingdom. Regardless of the time of the writing, the content itself challenges modern sensibilities as much as those in ancient Israel.

The opening verse establishes the theme. "Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain" (Psa. 127:1). No matter how desperately we may seek security in life—by building a house or trusting in the protection of the government—only the LORD can truly and consistently deliver. No matter how much effort you may put into it yourself—even working yourself to the bone—the comfort of putting your head down at night and sleeping peacefully depends upon the LORD (Psa. 127:2). And while the next section of the psalm appears so different on its face that some have suggested it as a separate and distinct poem, in truth it builds upon the theme of security by contrasting the typical ways men seek it—in building structures and creating alliances—and instead shows how God provides us with security in a way we seldom consider. "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Psa. 127:3). Rather than changing topics, the author provides a different perspective about security. As he previously emphasized that all efforts are vain unless the LORD provides it, here he draws attention to what the LORD has provided—children as a heritage. That security remains the focus becomes clear by the descriptions that

follow. "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psa. 127:4-5). Arrows in the hand of a warrior most certainly imply a means of protection from enemies. More than that, he also refers to "enemies in the gate" with whom those same children speak. Since the gate of the city was the place where the ancient Jews made important decisions and conducted negotiations, he places the children in leadership positions in the community and perhaps even nation as another means of protection.

All of this may seem rather disconcerting considering how people generally use this passage. However, in the flow of the context, the psalm points out that as a man grows older, nothing can protect his interest, his livelihood, and his person like his own offspring, who out of love, relationship, and bond will consider his interests as their own while moving into the ranks of the army and leadership of the community. In New Testament terms, children have the role of taking care of their parents as they age (1 Tim. 5:8) from the depth of appreciation they have for their upbringing, from their respect for what they have provided them in life, and from a love that continues to grow as the children progress from the needy to the needed (Eph. 6:2-3).

Parents, as we raise our children, everything we do should be designed around the type of adults our children will become. And the type of adults we should most want them to be are those who are a true heritage from the LORD, people who place their faith in God, grow to become productive citizens, and love their parents deeply—enough to care for them, protect them, and provide for them if need be. We have come to trust in retirement, social security, and all kinds of programs to take care of us as we age. As a society, we should begin by raising children who are more than willing to care for us, because no security is better than the love of your children built on faith in God.

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# News and Notes

## **Prayer request...**

- Perry Elkins has been sick with a cold.
- Henry Homan is still not able to be up much.
- Bill Hughes will have a stem cell treatment for his back on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Gwen Martin's son-in-law, Mike Lehrman, became ill on a trip to Washington DC and had to be hospitalized there.
- Charles Melton is having tests to get ready for knee replacement surgery.
- TJ Moxon, JC's twin brother, has been in Harris downtown. He was released on Thursday.
- Nan Oliver will have a cyst removed from her spine on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Cody Grinnell was kept in Walls Hospital overnight after suffering dehydration due to the stomach virus.
- Several people have had that stomach virus since last weekend. We hope that everyone is over it and feeling much better.

## **Remember in prayers...**

Debbie Boroughs, Deanie Denning, Amy Hackler, Henry Homan, Michael Hughes, Mary Reynolds, Don Walker.

## **Please note...**

- Ladies Bible Class has started back on Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the annex. We are studying in chapter 2 of James.
- We will be posting the initial groups for the 99 Program soon!
- The Cherokee Home for Children Auction will be Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Please bring anything you would like to donate to the building by September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is also when we cook and sell hamburgers for lunch. If you would like to give money to buy the meat and fixings, please give it to Clark or Deborah Lehtinen. If you can help with preparing the hamburgers, let Clark and Deborah know.
- We will meet at 9:00 am on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the annex to go door knocking.

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

### **Proverbs 23:17, 18**

<sup>17</sup> Do not let your heart envy sinners, But in the fear of the LORD continue all day long;

<sup>18</sup> For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.

# Those who Serve

## Lords' Supper: 9/16

### Front South

Clark Lehtinen  
Cody Grinnell  
Bill Cashion

### Front North

Bill Hughes  
Daniel Hughes  
Mike Harding

### Back South

Weldon York  
Jim Hudgins  
James Hunt

### Back North

Jason Hackler  
Wesley Hackler  
Conner Hackler

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Tom Collins

Sunday PM

Paul Murphy  
Joshua Haynes  
Sid Carruth  
Daniel Hughes

Wednesday PM

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Jeff Day

Wednesday

Justin Hopkins

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Jeff McPherson

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Will Cammack & DeWayne Henegar

## Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry

**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 Monday nights at 7:30 pm, Thursday mornings at 10:30 am, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm, and Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm.



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Keeping Your Balance  
Hebrews 13:7-9

PM

Rejected!  
Zechariah 11:1-17

## Calendar of Events



10/21-24

Gospel Meeting  
with Todd Clippard

12/9/18

Congregational Christmas Dinner  
following evening services



## Our Records

Bible Class.....	118
AM Worship.....	167
PM Worship.....	138
Wednesday Bible Class.....	114
Contribution.....	\$5,123

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

1211 N. Granbury Street  
Cleburne, TX 76033

817-517-7713 (Local) or 817-517-6515 (Metro)

FAX: 817-556-3822

granburystreet@aol.com

www.granburystreetchurchofchrist.com