

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

What It Takes to Get Things Done

Kevin W. Rhodes

The rise of Cyrus and his conquering of Babylon created an opportunity for the previously conquered people of Judah. Contrary to Babylon's policy of forcing captured peoples to relocate and adapt to Babylonian culture, the Persians pursued a policy of tolerance, allowing people to live by their own traditions and culture as long as they paid tribute and accepted Persian suzerainty. In keeping with this policy, Cyrus, king of Persia, issued a decree authorizing Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4).

The royal decree removed the barriers set up by Nebuchadnezzar in response to Judah's resistance from his original incursion into the land around 605/6 B.C. to the destruction of the temple as punishment in 586/87 B.C. However, while the Persians stepped back and even encouraged Jewish efforts (from a polytheistic desire to have all gods on their side), the Jews had the responsibility—not only in Cyrus' eyes but God's eyes—to leave the modern conveniences available in Babylonia and return to the rubble that was their homeland. This was no easy task, and undertaking it would require a number of sacrifices. But family leaders, priests, and Levites stepped forward to volunteer to rebuild (Ezra 1:5), others gave to their efforts and encouraged them onward (Ezra 1:6), Cyrus returned items taken by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezra 1:7), and Sheshbazzar collected the offerings and guarded them to ensure they were used only in the project for which they were given (Ezra 1:8-11).

We rarely appreciate what it takes to get important efforts in the Lord's work started. It takes leadership, both in the congregation and in individual families, so committed to the success of the work that they will sacrifice, work long hours, and fuel it with sleepless nights because they know its ultimate value in the kingdom. It takes ongoing encouragement from others, including financial assistance, volunteering to help whenever possible, and just regular words of assurance for all involved. It takes a mindset that seizes an opportunity when it presents itself instead of relying on good luck and outside help to create church growth and spiritual maturity. Finally, it takes acting with integrity, exhibiting a sense of responsibility to God that makes doing His work for His people and His cause the focus of life rather than a hobby of the moment. The Lord's work does not go forward because we worship on Sunday; the Lord's work goes forward when that is our focus between Sundays.

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

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Till There Was No Remedy

Kevin W. Rhodes

Reading about the last days of Judah before Nebuchadnezzar took them into captivity pains the soul. While the warning of impending doom came during the reign of Manasseh, the brief respite during the days of Josiah could easily have caused the people to suppose the LORD had relented. However, subsequent events proved the necessity of this coming divine judgment. Pharaoh Necho dethroned Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, in favor of his brother Eliakim as a precursor to the inevitable sentence, having imposed tribute on the land as well (2 Chr. 36:1-4). Thus Eliakim, under the name Jehoiakim, reigned in Jerusalem when Nebuchadnezzar came through with the Babylonian army, pillaging Jerusalem and taking Jehoiakim to Babylon, leaving his eight year old son, Jehoiachin, behind to "rule," a decision the Babylonian king quickly changed in favor of Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother (2 Chr. 36:5-10). But Zedekiah learned nothing from all of this, ultimately rebelling against God and Babylon despite warnings from Jeremiah (2 Chr. 36:11-13) as the nation descended into committing abomination upon abomination (2 Chr. 36:14).

At this point in the narrative, the author, grieving in his soul for the next words he would write, penned, "And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His peo-

ple, till there was no remedy. (2 Chr. 36:15-16). "Till there was no remedy" is such a sad statement, simultaneously demonstrating both the extent of the long-suffering of God and the depth of Judah's depravity. Judah went into captivity—not because God would not save her, but because she refused to be saved. Indeed, the chronicler's description offers commentary on Jesus' words as He anticipates Jerusalem's later destruction by Rome, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Luke 13:34).

And so it is with so many today. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4), but many are not willing. Jesus died to be "the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2), but many are not willing. And just like Judah during the days of Zedekiah, many people ignore the scripture's warnings of coming judgment, thinking that any time for concern has passed. In this, like those Jews of old, they misinterpret the LORD's patience as if He has grown tolerant of their sin. However, Peter reminds us, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet 3:9). The gospel provides the remedy for sin (Rom. 1:16-17). Nevertheless, there is no remedy for a people are not willing to accept God's remedy.



News and Notes

Among our sick

- De Ann Ash is doing well following surgery.
- Shannon Barron went to the hospital on Thursday, October 29th. The doctors were afraid she might have to have a C-section.
- David Bowman, Carrie Holden and Cyndi Hughes' father, had a heart attack on Friday, October 23rd. He had a stent put in an artery that was 99% blocked and is home from the hospital doing well.
- Henry Homan is home from the hospital.
- Pam Jones has been having health problems.
- Gean McElroy is having problems with her hip.
- John and Carol McGilvray are still not feeling well.
- Oran Rhodes had surgery for skin cancers on Friday.

Please Note...

- Rohan and Sandra Jones will be with us on Sunday November 1st. We will have morning Bible class and AM worship, potluck lunch in the annex. Then 1:00 PM report on the mission in Africa.
- The next men's service project will be Saturday, November 7th.
- The teachers' appreciation banquet will be Monday, November 9th, at 7:00 PM. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you plan to attend.
- The next Ladies Service project will be card making. This class will take place Saturday, November 14th, from 9:30 AM-noon in the annex. Mother, daughters and all other ladies who are interested are welcome to attend. Please check the table in the foyer for a supply list.
- Senior game night will be Tuesday, November 10th, at 6:00 PM in the annex.
- CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE 2015 (NKJV)
Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 11/1

Front South

Doug Jones
Luke Norman
Michael Mora

Front North

Tim Norman
Robert Pennay
Clint Owens

Back South

Larry Owens
Melvin Owens
Matthew Parrish

Back North

Rob Stidolph
Mark Stubblefield
Braden Sweet

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Ryan Cowan
J. D. Allen

Sunday PM

Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Wednesday PM

Logan Frasier

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Andrew Collins

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Kyle Day / Andrew Collins

Wed. PM Devotional (11/4)

Russ Jones



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Rohan Jones speaks

PM

Rohan Jones reports on the work in South Africa



Listen to the Gospel!

Granbury Street's Worship

LIVE every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Luis and Mike in the Mornings

(Monday - Friday) from 7:00 am - 9:00 am cst on
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Monday - Friday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am
btradio.net



Our Records

Bible Class	130
AM Worship.....	196
PM Worship	130
Wednesday Bible Class 10/21.....	120
Contribution	\$6,772

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