

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Decently and in Order

Kevin W. Rhodes

The book of 1 Chronicles contains numerous lists of names. As a chronicle, it details not only meaningful events in the transfer of power from one king to another and the major accomplishments of those kings but also the official acts designed to establish precedent within the kingdom. Thus, the record of priests and Levites contained in 1 Chronicles 24 exists not solely as an acknowledgement of the lineage of Aaron and other descendants of Levi but also to chronicle the institution of a particular practice as David set up the tabernacle in Jerusalem and prepared for the permanent home of the ark of the covenant in the building of the temple. Thus, after recounting the descendants of Aaron (1 Chr. 24:1-18), the author says, “This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him” (1 Chr. 24:19), a sentiment echoed in the verses that follow regarding the Levites (1 Chr. 24:20-31).

The purpose of these verses is very practical. Considering the demands of the Old Covenant regarding the offering of both incense and sacrifices, one priest could not perform the duties alone, both because of the number of people involved offering sacrifices and the ongoing nature of the divine ordinance. Therefore, the priests would need to take turns. The Levites, serving in support of the priests, would need to do the same. Thus, this decision had the practical effect of providing for the ongoing leadership in worship as well as for the work behind the scenes necessary to prepare for the worship.

In the church today, I do not know how many people think about what it takes to prepare for worship. It depends, of course, on the size and culture of the congregation, but to produce an assembly that is both decent and orderly (1 Cor. 14:40), someone must make preparation. Men must be willing to serve in various capacities—leading songs, leading prayers, serving at the Lord’s table, giving a lesson—or the Lord’s will cannot be fulfilled (Jn. 4:24). Moreover, there must be some means by which to decide who will do what and when. Prayer leaders may be left up to the song leader’s discretion. In some congregations, the same men may do the same thing practically every week. In larger congregations someone may produce a schedule, but the purpose always is to have a necessary level of preparation so as not to distract from the worship of our God. I realize that some feel drawn to a more casual approach. That has happened at various points in the history of both this country and the church, but this is to mistake spontaneity for spirituality. Even in our text the purpose of the schedule meant that the people would change but that the worship would remain the same. Therefore, even in a passage filled with names for a purpose long since past, an important principle still shines through, if we are only willing to see it.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen

Deacons

Gary Barger
Jeff Day
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Tim Norman

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

Cleburne,
Texas

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Practice Telling Yourself No - Part One

Kevin W. Rhodes

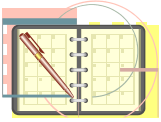
In some respects, the religious world has so cheapened the idea of self-denial that it appears to some as a sad cliché. After all, if someone believes that giving up chocolate for a few weeks expresses true devotion to Jesus Christ, then we definitely have a problem. When Jesus said, “let him deny himself,” He did not offer disciples options of what they could give up and what they could keep. He did not qualify His statement by any time limitation nor did he indicate He expected only symbolic sacrifices. When Jesus preached self-denial, He did so in the context of the lifestyle He Himself lived and the sacrifice He was committed to offer. Jesus lived for God, He lived the character of God, and He lived the will of God. That remains the model for His disciples, and it requires spiritual vigilance with attention to denying yourself what feels good or seems right in order to do what God says is good and is right. You must practice telling yourself “No.” Paul himself told the Corinthians, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Cor. 9:27).

When Jesus spoke of His coming death at the hands of Jewish leaders, Peter would have none of it. He likely thought that a recent occurrence had Jesus somewhat down at the moment. “And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!’” (Mt. 16:22). However, Jesus’ statement came not from a sense of gloom and despair but from commitment and self-denial. So “He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men’” (Mt. 16:23). Jesus’ disciples therefore must renounce what men—including moral and religious men—say about Christianity and life and instead accept a life built solely around what

God says about Christianity and life. Self-denial therefore will sometimes require intentional separation and distance from friends and even family. It may require separating ourselves from a given workplace where we are well paid or sacrificing a hobby we have come to enjoy. The only thing that matters in discipleship is fulfilling God’s will. Anything that falls short of that must be sacrificed. Anything that would attempt to compete with that for primacy in our hearts must be cast aside. Anything that would keep us from following Jesus—even to the cross—must be denied. We tend to make our way through life telling ourselves “Yes” and God “No.” That has to change to be a disciple of Jesus. And it will take a lot of practice.

We have quite a bit of experience saying “No” for selfish reasons as we go through life. Many children, for example, often know how to say “No” even if they do not seem to hear their parents say it. We also have no problem rejecting ridiculous requests others make on us, such as someone calling at supper time, reading a script, and then asking for a donation. We quickly will deny it when we are accused of something wrong—sometimes even when we are guilty. When Elisha sent word to Naaman to immerse himself in the Jordan river seven times, Naaman had no problem saying “No.” To the contrary, “Naaman became furious, and went away and said, ‘Indeed, I said to myself, “He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.” Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?’ So he turned and went away in a rage” (2 Kings 5:11–12). Naaman had no trouble with denial; he had a problem with self-denial—a problem that he later overcame, and so must we.





News and Notes

Among our sick

- Jan Hewlett, Elizabeth's sister-in-law, had a spontaneous break of the femur bone in the leg. She is in Rehab in Lexington Park Maryland.
- Wayne Holly, former member, had two procedures on his back on Monday, October 13th, at Harris downtown.
- Tracie Jones has asked for no visitors. Please keep her and the family in prayers.
- Janell Rainey had gall bladder out patient surgery on Thursday, October 16th.
- Mary Reynolds continuous to need our prayers.
- Betty Rutledge is home from rehab.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Glenda and Kenneth Helm and family in the passing of Glenda's brother, Don Bryan.

Congratulations

Garrett and Jessica McGilvray are proud to announce the arrival of their third daughter Alice Mae. She was born Friday, October 10th. She weighed 4 lbs, 6 ozs and was 18 inches long. Proud grandparents are Bryan and Wendy McGilvray. Proud great grandparents are John and Carol. Sisters are Chaeli and Chloe and of course Uncle Gavin.

50th Wedding Anniversary

You're invited to Celebrate the 50th Wedding anniversary of Wayne and Sidney Ann Birchfield on October 25th from 2:00-4:30 PM at the Westhill Church of Christ Family Life Center; 1100 Westhill Dr. Cards only please.

Please Note...

- Ladies Bible Class will meet October 22nd. Kerista Cowan will be the teacher.
- Family Day will be Saturday, October 25th, in the annex.
- Bible Search Training will be Sunday, October 26th.
- Wednesday, October 29th, we will have singing in the annex for everyone. There will be no classes.
- Save the Date! There will be a Ladies Devotional on Saturday, November 8th, at 10:00 AM at the home of Jeri Allen.

Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 10/19

Front South

Will Cammack
Bill Cashion
Sid Carruth

Front North

Don Crecelius
Andrew Collins
Logan Frasier

Back South

Larry Thompson
Royce Gorman
Perry Elkins

Back North

Steve Baze
Jeff Day
Kyle Day

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Barry Lehtinen

Sunday PM

John McGilvray

Sid Carruth

Wednesday PM

Russ Jones

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Doug Jones

Wednesday

Paul Murphy

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Ken Boroughs / Wayne Gentry

Wed. PM Devotional (10/22)

Ryan Cowan



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Guest Speaker

PM

Guest Speaker



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

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am

btradio.net



Our Records

Bible Class 136

AM Worship..... 188

PM Worship 131

Wednesday Bible Class 10/8..... 129

Contribution\$7,589

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