

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Who's in Charge?

Pat McIntosh

I love watching crime dramas on television. Often, when the FBI or BAU comes on to a scene, the first question they ask is “Who’s in charge?”. That is a question asked regarding who has the authority in a given situation. At that point, the local authority is either cooperated with or told that the other group had taken authority at that point.

The concept of authority is a “hot button” today in a spiritual sense. On the one hand, there is a generation that feels free to do almost anything they desire to do, as long as they do it “in the name of the Lord.” Others, usually an older generation, reject what is done by a younger generation, using the reasoning that they are “uncomfortable” with it or by indicating that they “have never done it that way before.” Both of these are subjective approaches that sees man as the one who is “in charge.” Man’s personal desires have become the standard by which something is either practiced or rejected.

We need to see that the answer to the question “Who’s in Charge?” as it relates to all matters is God. As you read through the Old Testament there are various phrases that emphasize the truth that the message delivered had God at its source. This is seen in the fact that God revealed His will to man through various means (Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). The phrase “thus says the Lord” (and several variations of that phrase) show that God is in control and that the message delivered is His, not the prophet’s.

The New Testament portrays the same thought. Numerous passages show that God, His Son and the Holy Spirit provided the authoritative messages delivered by His servants. Christ claimed authority (Jno. 12:48-50) but indicated that it was given to Him by God (Jno. 5:30; 8:28). Some sense of authority was delegated to Peter and the other apostles (Matt. 16:19; 18:18). Paul indicated that, even though he was an apostle, he did not have the right to alter God’s authoritative message (Gal. 1:6-9).

These are lessons that many need to study and learn today. As it relates to matters of worship, morality, or terms of pardon in salvation, man does not have the right to set his own parameters or choose what he wants to do in these matters. The Bible is still our only standard in these and other doctrinal matters. Whatever man may “like” or “feel” has no bearing as to what God has authorized in a given matter. As God is “in charge” we must simply align our wills with His in humble submission to His authority.

If man would submit his will to the will of God in all matters, the religious division of today would disappear. The unity called for by God (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-6) would no longer merely be a dream, it would be a reality.

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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Known

Kevin W. Rhodes

The information age and the rise of social media have created a new layer of identity for individuals. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and online gaming have all made it possible for people to build a persona online that sometimes has little to no resemblance to real life. The deception that once fell within the purview of online dating websites has gone mainstream—so much so that creating completely fictional characters for the purpose of fooling others has turned into sport. However, the practice of maintaining separate identities did not originate with the internet. Ordinary people on a daily basis—for years on end—have sought to project a certain image to others while hiding their true selves. Some project confidence to mask their insecurity. Others project a friendly demeanor to hide the malice in their heart. Indeed, some people have become so adept at disguising their character that one wonders whether they themselves know who they truly are. Nevertheless, the reality remains. And this is what God sees and knows. David's reflection on the LORD's omniscience in Psalm 139 offers a needed reminder of just how transparent we truly are to our God.

The opening words of David's poem offer a challenge to the soul: "O LORD, You have searched me and known me" (Psa. 139:1). God knows about every aspect of our lives, from the biggest event to the smallest detail. The Lord is aware of what we do daily. Heaven then holds a record of our regular routine (Psa. 139:2a). No thought escapes His notice (Psa. 139:2b), and no activity of purpose or habit lies beyond His sight (Psa. 139:3). Every word spoken—harshly, vainly, angrily, carelessly, or purposefully—appears before Him for consideration (Psa. 139:4). Indeed, the LORD knows every individual of His creation to a degree far beyond our meager comprehension (Psa. 139:5-6). To the careless soul, this thought alone provokes fear. Instinct seeks refuge and shelter from the threatening thought of being known so thoroughly. And yet, we cannot escape God's presence nor remove ourselves from His knowledge (Psa. 139:7). Whether high or low, whether east or

west, God knows where we are and what we are doing (Psa. 139:8-9). This frightens the sinner—and rightfully so—but it should serve as comfort to the saint, as David also recognized.

Our God watches, and sees, and knows—not simply to catch us in our folly but to lead us out of darkness into light (Psa. 139:10). He remains always near to help (Psa. 139:11), seeing all regardless of what remains hidden from us in our ignorance and weakness (Psa. 139:12). Therefore, He should have our full and complete trust. He knows us better than we know ourselves, having knowledge of our existence and individuality in the womb before we could sense it ourselves (Psa. 139:13-16). Such personal interest continues through life. The God of heaven watches and waits, wanting a relationship with each of us. What an amazing thought it is to be known and loved by the One who is love and knows all (Psa. 139:17-18)! He knows the hurt and heartache caused by sinful men. He knows their wickedness and is ready to judge them (Psa. 139:19-20). Thus, He knows how we feel and respond to wickedness as well, whether we sidle up to sinners or shun evil companions (Psa. 139:21-22).

The LORD knows us—fully, completely, deeply. And for this we should be thankful. Indeed, we should cry out to Him, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting" (Psa. 139:23-24). The LORD knows us in every way, but only by opening ourselves up to the LORD do we gain the benefit of knowing Him too. By opening up to God and baring the soul, we can hand over our worries and cares to find peace (Phil. 4:6-7). By opening up to honest evaluation we discover our flaws, our shortcomings, and our sins so that we can correct them and grow (2 Cor. 13:5). By opening ourselves up to our LORD and trusting Him, we can begin to know and understand life and eternity (2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18). We can hide nothing from the LORD, nor should we try. Indeed, we should be thankful that He knows us so well—and thankful that such a God wants us to know Him too.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Dolye Collins will start therapy soon.
- Janie Duffield fell last week. She had X-rays done nothing broken. She is bruised up and hurts to move around. She has not been feeling well for some time.
- Amy Hackler was released from the hospital on Tuesday.
- Sandra Jones is doing a little better. All tests have come back negative with the exception of a few minor issues.
- Charles Melton had a skin cancer biopsy removed.
- Pat Thompson is having iron infusions on Wednesday for two more weeks.
- Joe Warlick remains in room 210 at Huguley Rehab.

New Members

Barry Lewis placed membership with our congregation Sunday morning. His information will be posted at a later date. We welcome him to our family.

New Minister

John Haffner will be starting as the new minister on January 1st.

Please note...

- The Philippi Group—Clark Lehtinen will meet Sunday, December 16th, in the annex after the morning Worship. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- Sunday, December 16th, we will be delivering a holiday gift to the shut-ins. If you would like to help, please meet at the building at 1:00 PM.
- Ladies Bible Class will meet for the first time in 2019 on Wednesday, January 9th.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

1 John 2:15, 16 NKJV

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/16

Front South

Justin Hewlett
Don Crecelius
Luke Norman

Front North

Clark Lehtinen
Jeff Day
Bill Cashion

Back South

Jason Hackler
Wesley Hackler
Conner Hackler

Back North

Royce Gorman
Cody Grinnell
Mike Harding

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

J. D. Allen

Sunday PM

Kenneth Helm

Sid Carruth

Wednesday PM

Kyle Norman

Clint Owens

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

DeWayne Henegar

Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Jeff McPherson

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

Mike Hight & 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 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

Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

PM

God's Voice Loud and Clear

Calendar of Events



12/16 Gifts for the shut-ins.

12/24 Thru 1/1 The office will be closed.

12/30 5th Sunday. Lunch & 1:00 PM Q & A.

12/31 New Year's Eve Party.



Our Records

Bible Class.....	126
AM Worship.....	167
PM Worship.....	138
Wednesday Bible Class.....	101
Contribution.....	\$6,493

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