

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Procrastination

Pat McIntosh

I was just as guilty as anyone when I was in school. As an instructor I have seen it all too often regarding my students. For a “procrastinator” knowing that a deadline is ten weeks away means that the assignment does not become urgent until sometime about the end of week eight or the beginning of week nine. For those truly suffering from procrastination, the night before the assignment is due is when a sense of urgency kicks in.

Those who are guilty of procrastination can rationalize with the best of them. Some rationalize that they can’t work unless they are under pressure. Others, with the additional problem of thinking that “good enough” will suffice, have no problem throwing something together at the last minute. The “late work” is not necessarily the best, but it is good enough for the time being.

I have seen these students come and go and am sure that I will see more. This is a problem that has existed for some time and will no doubt continue.

However, there is a situation in which a lack of urgency and the perception that something is “good enough” will spell the spiritual doom of many. I am talking about our common future appointment of judgment.

The Bible provides an excellent illustration for what I am dealing with here. Matthew 25:1-13 contains the Parable of the Ten Virgins. The gist of the parable is that there were five virgins considered “wise” and five considered as “fools.” That which set the two groups apart was a lack of preparation for a great event. From what I can remember about archaeological information here is that the lamps were small, necessitating taking an ample amount of oil with you to insure one’s ability to use it over a long period of time. When the bridegroom came the five foolishness were not prepared as they had not brought a sufficient amount of oil with them, resulting in their missing the wedding.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins immediately follows the account of Jesus’ teaching about the destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming. They were given signs to show when the destruction of Jerusalem would come. However, no signs were provided for Jesus’ second coming. We have no idea when that is going to occur. Therefore, we must begin to prepare today for that unknown future event (Matt. 25:13).

Why, then, am I addressing the topic of procrastination? Surely, we don’t have those who would knowingly fail to prepare for the judgment? Look around us. We see it all around us. For the young, they have their whole lives in front of them. They can put off such preparation when they become adults. Those trying to build a business or a career can think about those things more in their “golden years.” In reality, none of us know what is going to happen in the future (James 4:13-15). We must all, therefore, begin to prepare today and do our best to remain in that prepared state.

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

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Texas

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His Mercy Endures Forever

Kevin W. Rhodes

When you are in the midst of a crisis, feeling the burden of sorrow, overwhelmed by tragedy, or wondering how to carry on during a challenging time of life, fear and doubt often charge forward to tempt your faith as they catch you in a moment of weakness. We have all been there, allowing our circumstances to dictate our heart—and such an approach to life leads quickly to despair, guilt, blame, and resentment. It begins by asking questions but leads to no answers, and so people become weary, give up, and grow selfish, justifying every act of defiance by pointing to personal pain. In this we forget the essential nature of triumph—that enduring hardship and overcoming obstacles define the heart of great victories. We forget that adversity and injustice build character—not because they have some moral power themselves but because they force us to develop moral strength within. However, many lack the faith to turn to God in difficult times and so fail to develop moral strength, capitulating to the devil's decree and turning their face away from all the good around them.

The Jews who returned from captivity could reflect on their existence from a vastly different viewpoint than their predecessors. Their ancestors lived as if the blessings they enjoyed in the land of Canaan came by right rather than by divine privilege, and so they saw those blessings gradually slip away until war and captivity removed them completely. Returning from Babylon, the Jews could see their history from a far better perspective—one centered on God's role, God's blessings, and God's provision. By this time, they had lived through war, the destruction of their capital and most prized national symbol, the obliteration of any political prominence as a people, captivity as a nation, and an attempted ethnic cleansing. Finally, despite such a sad history, they found reason to smile once more because they rediscovered their faith and their God, as Psalm 136 itself testifies, beginning with the opening words: "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures

forever" (Psa. 136:1). That final phrase, "For His mercy endures forever," repeated verse after verse after verse, captures the essence of the psalm and so the heart of a people recapturing the essence of their true identity. The good that Israel experienced came from the LORD's goodness—not their own. And the fact that they had survived, they finally realized, found its roots not in their survival skills but in the enduring mercy of the LORD.

Israel endured because the LORD's mercy endured. The goodness of the LORD's character and His being true to the covenant—even when they were not—provided the key to their return (Psa. 136:1). They returned from a pagan land because Jehovah alone is truly God (Psa. 136:2) and because His authority is unparalleled (Psa. 136:3) and His power unsurpassed (Psa. 136:4). The same God who created the universe in six days (Psa. 136:5-9; Gen. 1; Ex. 20:11), the same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage (Psa. 136:10-15), the same God who led them through the wilderness and gave them military victories while they lacked military might (Psa. 136:16-20), and the same God who gave them their homeland (Psa. 136:21-22), remembered His covenant and His people when they were in the midst of captivity at the mercy of their captors (Psa. 136:23-24) and brought them back home to provide for them in their poverty (Psa. 136:25). They had not deserved their blessings originally, but they fully deserved their punishment eventually. However, as they returned from captivity a defeated people, they finally saw what they had as blessings they did not deserve.

Living with wealth, convenience, and opportunity, we have every reason to feel blessed. But do we? We can look through history and see God providing for us every step of the way (Jas. 1:17)—especially in Jesus (Eph. 1:3). But do we think that way? Do we live that way? Let it not take tragedy to bring us to our knees before our God. Instead, let us bow before Him now. "Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever" (Psa. 136:26).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Gary Barger had tests on his legs to check for blood clots on Wednesday.
- Amy Hackler has two cracked ribs and has been diagnosed with osteoporosis.
- Michael Hughes is doing better and was released from the hospital last week.
- Mary Ann Jackson is having problems with her heart. She saw the cardiologist.
- Doug Kilcrease had tests on Tuesday.
- Dee Lockett, Sherry Carruth's mother, has been in the hospital for tests on her heart.
- Gwen Martin asks for prayers for Yolonda Richwood who has been diagnosed with cancer of the brain, lungs and liver. Her husband is the minister in Scurry, TX.
- Janice Redden had shots in her neck last Monday.
- John Sian had surgery on his eye last Tuesday.
- Pat Thompson had surgery on her neck last Thursday.
- Nell Wilson, Sandra Bachhofer and Janice Redden's sister, has been in the hospital with congestive heart failure.

New Members

Jack and Gladys Langford placed membership Sunday morning. Their address is 1103 N. Nolan River Rd. Apt. A; Cleburne 76033; 817-360-3905. We welcome them to our family.

Please note...

- The Philippi Group—Clark Lehtinen will meet Sunday, November 18th, in the annex after the morning Worship. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- The Youth Devotional will be Saturday, December 1st, at the Cowan's home starting at 4:00 PM.
- The Smyrna Group—Tim Norman will meet Sunday, November 25th, in the annex after the morning Worship. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- The combined community singing will be at Westhill church of Christ on Tuesday, November 20th, at 7:00 PM.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Titus 2:7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, **8** sound speech that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 11/18

Front South

Tim Norman
Caleb Norman
Luke Norman

Front North

Paul Murphy
Robert Pennay
Rob Stidolph

Back South

Michael Mora
Larry Owens
Melvin Owens

Back North

Howard Newberry
Clint Owens
Weldon York

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Kenneth Helm

Sunday PM

Mike Hight

Sid Carruth

Wednesday PM

Caleb Norman

No Service

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

No Service

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Jeff McPherson

Wednesday PM

No Service

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday J. D. Allen

Colton Allen & James Hunt

Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes

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

Following Jesus in My Worship

PM

The Necessity of Unity

Calendar of Events



11/20 Combined singing for Thanksgiving at Westhill congregation

12/09 Congregational Christmas Dinner following evening services



Our Records

Bible Class.....	109
AM Worship.....	170
PM Worship.....	117
Wednesday Bible Class.....	102
Contribution.....	\$8,312

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