

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Lot's Legacy

D. J. Stucky

Ours is a dangerous world. Every day stories of violence flood the evening news. We do not dare leave our houses unlocked lest thieves come in to steal. Even something less nefarious like driving on the highway can be full of danger. Danger is all around us. The same is true spiritually. The world is trying to influence us and our children at every turn. If we do not stand against this influence, and teach our children to do the same, the results can be disastrous. Lot discovered this firsthand in Genesis 19:30-38.

After the Lord had destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his two daughters went to live in the mountains. The daughters were concerned that their father would have no sons to carry on his name, and they themselves did not have men to be their husbands (Gen. 19:30-31). Their solution to the problem is horrifying. They would each trick Lot into getting drunk, and attempt to conceive children by their own father (19:32). Their wicked plan was successful, and the daughters each give birth to a son. The firstborn gave birth to Moab, father of the Moabites, while the younger gave birth to Ben-Ammi, father of the Ammonites (19:33-38).

Though the daughters of Lot may have had good intentions, their actions were abominable. They knew their father would never have approved their plan, so they deceived him, doing what they thought was best. What their father, or their God, would have wanted was irrelevant to them (c.f. Jdg. 17:6), which was precisely the attitude of the people God had just destroyed. The contact that Lot's daughters had with the world was so great that they picked up its immoral ideals and sinful habits (1 Cor. 15:33; 1 Cor. 5:6). This influence led them to commit a grievous sin with lasting consequences. Lot's daughters conceived their children through wickedness and worldly thinking. This left a precedent for ages to come, as the Ammonites and Moabites became constant enemies of God's people (Num. 25:1ff; Jdg. 10:6-9). As parents, this account should motivate us to create safe spiritual environments for our children to grow in. We must do everything to help our children grow up not under the influence of the world, but in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4 c.f. Prov. 22:6). If we do not do this, our children will grow up believing that the wicked ways of the world are acceptable. As a result, even the most heinous sins will seem normal to them. This attitude has eternal consequences (Rom. 6:23). Lot's children disregarded the laws of God and caused problems for many generations. May this statement never be true for our families.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

D. J. Stucky

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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Hope in God

Kevin W. Rhodes

Rampant immorality and anti-Christian hostility dominate the news media in America today, and sadly the culture in general as well. The promotion of the homosexual agenda—and other similar perversions—that in previous generations would have received practically universal censure now enjoy legal protection, while the rights ensuring the freedom to criticize and condemn such behavior has eroded before our very eyes. Christians in America now face circumstances similar to our brethren throughout the rest of the world. We are coming to understand and appreciate more each day Peter's description of God's people as "sojourners and pilgrims" (1 Pet. 2:11). Nevertheless, however sad America's moral decline might be, it has helped us more easily identify with godly people in past generations who found themselves overwhelmed by a wicked society.

When confronted with the bullying mob who wield the club of governmental power in the face of the godly, we should well understand the psalmist's request, "Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!" (Psa. 43:1). When Supreme Court decisions defy morality, history, and logic, and when voters seem intent on rewarding coarse and illegal behavior, we surely consider asking God, "Why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" (Psa.

43:2b). But just as we have every reason to recognize the psalmist's concern, so also should we align ourselves with his confidence in the request: "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth!" (Psa. 43:3a). We should long for our homeland and long for our God (Psa. 43:3b-4). Indeed, the trials of this life should remind us that we have a greater citizenship by far (Phil. 3:20)! And this is why we too must regain our strength and strengthen our faith to ask ourselves and answer in accordance with the psalmist's words, "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God" (Psa. 43:5).

The last several years have been a challenge to the heart. Satan's advances have seized much ground, but it can never seize the high ground. Therefore, I plead with you not to dwell on the din of the news or the venting found in other media. These too easily lead to dark places unbecoming for a child of God. Why, I ask you, should we hang our heads in despair when we serve the King of kings? No matter what choices others around us may make and no matter what circumstances we may ourselves face, we have every reason, always, to hope in God, to praise God, and turn to Him in faith, because—no matter what—He still reigns over all. Satan may have temporary victories in this world, but we have the hope of an eternal victory in heaven (1 Jn. 5:4).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Kristy Clonts, Linda & Don Manning's granddaughter, has been sick with an infection in her arm.
- Vernie Collins, Dollye's husband, has been in Huguley Hospital for tests on his heart.
- David Daugherty, Johnnie's son, has been diagnosed with leukemia. He is having tests.
- Darla Dill is having problems with her blood pressure.
- Diane Dill, Dallas and Darla's daughter, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Mike Harding has been having trouble with vertigo for three weeks. Grace is having problems with her back.
- Norman and Alice Hochdorf are sick with an upper respiratory infection.
- Doug Jones has three first cousins who have been hit hard by sickness. Two have had strokes, and one has a brain tumor.
- Casey Lehtinen will have chemo again starting January 23rd if his platelets level is high enough.
- Kidron Lehtinen will have an MRI around February 1st in Houston to check on the cyst on his spine.
- John and Carol McGilvray are having a lot of health problems. Carol has nearly lost her sight. John is having problems with high blood pressure and his heart.
- Bess Yates' grandson, Matt Bamora, has been having tests at Cooke Children's hospital for headaches.

Please keep in your prayers

Johnnie Daugherty, Darla Dill, Shirley Elkins, Helen Henslee, Betty Lane, Janice Redden, Darla Stubblefield, B. E. and Lois Thompson, Darlene Walker, Una York (Weldon York's mother)

Please note...

- Ladies Bible Class is meeting on Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM in room 107.
- There will be a meeting after the morning services in room 107 on Sunday, January 15th, for those who are interested in the Door Knocking program.
- The elders, preachers, and deacons will have breakfast at Sunrise Cafe at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 21st, with a meeting following at the building.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 1/15

Front South

Andrew Collins
Don Crecelius
Logan Frasier

Front North

Mike Hight
Russ Jones
Clint Owens

Back South

Royce Gorman
Jason Hackler
Conner Hackler

Back North

Vince Grinnell
Cody Grinnell
Wesley Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Sid Carruth

Paul Murphy

Sunday PM

Mark Stubblefield

Larry McWilliams

Wednesday PM

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Russ Jones

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Wayne Gentry



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Role and Qualifications of Deacons

PM

Impartial Faith
James 2:1-7

Calendar of Events



1/21

Elders, deacons, preachers meeting

1/29

5th Sunday

2/11

Caring for the Incarcerated

5/14-17

Gospel Meeting with Mike Bonner

9/15-17

Marriage Seminar with
John and Carla Moore



Our Records

Bible Class 122

AM Worship.....203

PM Worship 124

Wednesday Bible Class 124

Contribution\$9,727

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