

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## Dynasty

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**he third chapter of 1 Chronicles records the lineage of David, an essential element in Israelite history, especially from the inspired chronicler's view after Babylonian captivity. The listing of David's family reminds the reader of the struggles David bore as a faithful soldier on the run from Saul, yet beginning a family and taking care of others, such as Abigail. It hearkens back to his time as king, ruling first in Hebron during a period of Civil War, and later in Jerusalem after uniting the kingdom once more. It recalls the adversity David faced as a father, from the lasciviousness of Amnon in raping his sister Tamar to Absalom's plotting to murder Amnon, from Absalom's rebellion to Adonijah's, and from his relationship with Bathsheba ultimately to having Solomon crowned as king. The genealogy of this royal line then continues to imply the sad decline, both of the kings and the people, offering only a few reminders of those leaders who sought to bring the people back to God, only to have their successors ignore these lessons and drag the people closer and closer to captivity due to their embracing of the pagan world around them. Yet, despite their decline and their ultimate captivity, the final section—containing the names of David's descendants, but not kings—offers a note of hope to a poor people regrouping after having their land and their pride stripped away. God's seed promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:3) and His kingdom promise to David (2 Sam. 7:14) stood firm—even in the difficult days of rebuilding.

Like Judah of old, we sometimes reflect on days gone by when the future of the church seemed so bright, when congregations were growing and the brotherhood was united. We compare our situation and grow glum. Some grow bitter or despondent. But what the Israelites failed to see, and what Christians today often fail to see, is that the future is always bright when you seek to please God, especially when you evaluate the future eternally. The power of the Davidic dynasty did not lie in politics and economic fortitude but in the simple promise of the Messiah. Likewise, the strength of the church today does not depend on impressive numbers, scholarly accolades, or receiving approval from a post-modern world. Today, just like then, the church will be strongest when living by faith, obeying without fail, and speaking the truth in love. And this we can do with confident hope when we remember and hold fast to God's promise to us—eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25). There will be ups and downs through the generations between now and Judgment Day. There will be triumphs and tragedies. But most of all, there will be God, keeping His promises, protecting the faithful, and preparing His people. "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
George Sowell

### 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

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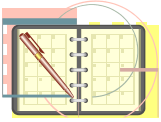
# Obedience Trusts Implicitly - Part Three

Kevin W. Rhodes

God created life. God is love. Therefore, disciples trust that God will show them the way to the best life possible. Even under the Old Covenant, Moses recorded the LORD's promise, "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God" (Deut. 12:28). Life as a disciple requires trust—not only in what God has done and what we must do to enjoy the beauties of salvation, but also trust in how to live life. Sometimes we can focus solely on a few specific moral choices inherent in discipleship while missing the broader landscape of learning to live with a spiritual focus and confident faith in every aspect of life. Many people succeed in keeping basic moral commitments but fail to embrace with faith the whole of living like Christ and for Christ. They attend worship, express belief, and believe themselves faithful, but their lives lack the commitment to the details of study, prayer, and selflessness. As a result, they spend their lives barely hanging on spiritually when they could have thrived. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10b); however, to enjoy this type of life, disciples must have a faith that obeys in every aspect of life. Such faith overcomes adversity, stays true through drudgery, and thrives in opportunity because it follows divine instruction.

Disciples' trust must work toward removing all doubt or their obedience will fall short of fulfilling God's will. Early in Jesus' earthly ministry, He took the opportunity to teach Si-

mon Peter an object lesson rooted in his profession as a fisherman. "When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, 'Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' But Simon answered and said to Him, 'Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.' And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men'" (Luke 5:4-10). Peter the fisherman responded with courtesy to Jesus the carpenter in agreeing to let down his fishing nets once more. But this encounter demonstrates an important distinction. Peter agreed to do what Jesus said, but he did so from general respect for Jesus—not personal faith in Jesus. Peter did not expect to be rewarded with the largest catch of his life. He expected nothing. His reaction was profound. In one statement he acknowledged the depth of his own weakness and expressed complete awe for Jesus Christ. He started with doubt; He ended with faith. Jesus' words in response then captured his emotion and pushed him toward greater purpose. Observing what God has done should not lead from doubt to fear, but from doubt to faithful obedience.



# News and Notes

## Among our sick

- Laura Bearden, Ryan Cowan's grandmother's cancer is back.
- Ken Boroughs had surgery on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Dallas Methodist Hospital.
- Jack Hewlett saw the doctors in Fort Worth on Tuesday that have been working with him to see what can be done for his heart and cancer.
- Deborah Lethinen will have cataract surgery on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Gayle Murphy had a milligram on Monday and shots in her back on Wednesday.
- Carol McGilvray will have surgery on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at Huguley.
- Joe Pinkerton had outpatient surgery to put another stint in last Tuesday.
- Gene Threadgill's sister, Linda Rice, had triple by-pass surgery last week at the Rowlett Hospital.
- Donna York's daughter, Kathy Chavez, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

## Please Note

- The Family Day Christmas party will take place on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cowan's home. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a wrapped ornament (\$5 maximum cost).
- Barbara Burnett will host a party for the younger children on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4:00 PM.
- The Ladies are invited to a brunch and a cookie exchange on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 in the annex. Bring your favorite cookies and recipe for the exchange. Information sheets are in the foyer.
- The Annual Christmas Dinner will be Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, after the evening worship service. Please bring side dishes and desserts to go along with the turkey and ham.
- Ladies Bible Class will meet for the last time this year on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Class will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fruit Baskets for the shut-ins will be delivered on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the building at 1:00 if you would like to help deliver the baskets.
- We are in the process of compiling a new cookbook. See Jeri Allen for details.
- We will have singing in the auditorium on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- We will have regular classes on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 12/8

### Front South

D. J. Stucky  
Gary Barger  
Steve Baze

### Front North

Andrew Collins  
Don Crecelius  
Jordan Collins

### Back South

Weldon York  
Larry Thompson  
Kyle Day

### Back North

Ken Boroughs  
Will Cammack  
Sid Carruth

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Ken Boroughs  
Perry Elkins

Sunday PM

Jeff Day  
Vince Grinnell

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Tim Norman

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

D. J. Stucky

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Barry Lehtinen

## Collection Counting

Don Crecelius / Johnny Walker

## Wed. PM Devotional (12/23)

Caleb Norman



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Keeping It Real  
Judges 3:1-11

PM

A Bible Study for the Ages  
Exodus 7:8-25



## Listen to the Gospel!

### Luis and Mike in the Mornings

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

### Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am  
[btradio.net](http://btradio.net)



## Our Records

Bible Class .....	140
AM Worship.....	236
PM Worship .....	149
Wednesday Bible Class 11/27.....	122
Contribution .....	\$7,272

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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