

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## A Temple for God

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**he temple dominated the Jewish mind set, from its original conception in the heart of David to the destruction of the second temple by Titus in 70 A.D. The construction of the first temple under Solomon's leadership fills several pages of scripture, and the rebuilding of the temple under Zerubbabel and Ezra add even more to the record. The beauty of the first temple surely dazzled the eyes based upon its description, and the second was grander in scale due to the ongoing efforts of Herod the Great. The Jews treated the temple with great reverence, excluding Gentiles under penalty of death and making it a major part of their identity during the first century—most likely in compensation for how they had abandoned and abused temple worship so clearly prior to the destruction of the first temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. However, considering all of this history, the words of the LORD to Nathan the prophet in response to David's plan to build the temple astound. "But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 'Go and tell My servant David, "Thus says the LORD: 'You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"'"'"' (1 Chr. 17:3-6).

While the LORD allowed Solomon to build a temple, the LORD's question here focused on something significant. He did not want or need an earthly temple. His question demonstrated that the idea came from man rather than from God and therefore stood on the authority of man due to the LORD's previous silence on the matter. Stephen would later emphasize this point in his sermon before the council, quoting the prophet Isaiah (Acts 7:48-50; cf. Isa. 66:1-2). Indeed, as the words that followed to Nathan showed, the LORD did promise to build a house, but by this He meant something other than a physical structure; He meant instead a kingdom ruled by a descendent of David who would be His own Son" (1 Chr. 17:7-14), which He fulfilled when Jesus built the church through His death, burial, and resurrection, and the proclamation of it that followed (Mt. 16:16-19; Mk. 9:1; Acts 2:14-47; Col. 1:13-14). Israel had concentrated on the physical and ignored the spiritual. They gave great effort to build something God did not want but then rejected what God actually offered. Many have followed their pattern since that day but without the ignorance that God allowed during their days (Acts 17:30). God wants a people, His people, choosing to love Him, choosing to serve Him, choosing to obey Him. He does not want a lavish building. He wants you (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:18-20).

### 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

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# No Greater Challenge - Part One

Kevin W. Rhodes

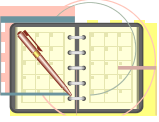
**D**isciples therefore accept the challenge of helping others build a relationship with Deity. The gospel message, properly presented, does precisely that. Paul emphasizes this in his epistle to the Galatians, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:26-29). That describes a relationship. It speaks of putting Jesus on as a garment, a metaphor for making the life and character of Jesus what people see in your life as well. That, my friends, is a relationship—a special relationship. However, the role of disciple requires far more than an introduction. It includes cultivating that relationship, helping others grow closer to their Savior and building them up along the way as they tear down the walls of sin erected through Satan’s work over the years. It means helping them learn and encouraging them to put their newfound faith into action. John later uses relationship wording in his first epistle with similar effect, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 Jn. 2:3).

Whatever else you do in life, what you do for Jesus will always matter more. It will be your greatest challenge, and it will be your greatest triumph—if it is also where you show your greatest dedication. Discipleship takes work, it takes time, it takes

focus, it takes heart. But before all these things, dedication to spiritual work, that goes hand in hand with discipleship, requires a heart for the spiritual and a heart for souls in imitation of the heart of God.

Those who see the call of discipleship as an easy path do not sufficiently consider what Jesus did and what Jesus Himself requires. God did not send Jesus to die on the cross because there was no need but because there was a desperate need; and His disciples still have a role in meeting that need. Jesus did not come to this earth to take on a simple task, nor does He call His disciples to one. Jesus understood that His responsibility was great, and He calls on His disciples to accept great responsibility as well. But all this has made possible the greatest fulfillment imaginable. Jesus overcame sin and death. Jesus returned to His Father’s side in heaven. Jesus established His church. Jesus made it possible for all mankind to be saved. Jesus saw the potential in all that He did, and because of His dedication, He not only experienced great fulfillment but is able to offer it to us as well. But Jesus requires us to show dedication to more than just the cause of our own salvation; He expects us to be dedicated to helping save others as well. Will this take work? Yes! Will this take time? Yes! But most of all, this will take heart. Dedication to spiritual work requires the heart of a disciple—a heart that not only welcomes the opportunity of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life but also embraces the work of a disciple in following the work of his Master.

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# News and Notes

## **Among our sick**

- Lonnie Burk, Laurie McPherson's father, is having problems with the circulation in both legs.
- Gean McElroy had cataract eye surgery on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Don Manning will have another shot in his back Thursday.
- Matthew Parrish is home from the hospital feeling better.
- Janice Redden had to go to the ER last week because she fell. She didn't break anything. She had cataract surgery on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Please Note...**

- Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Fifth Wednesday Singing in the Annex. No classes will meet.
- Ladies Day will be Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for ladies who are willing to help with preparing the food for Ladies Day.
- The Jr/Sr fun day will Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Jr/Sr banquet will be Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. If you can help with the cost, please give your money to the Hughes, the Normans or one of the elders.
- Cherokee Home for Children's annual food drive will be Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have a special contribution after the regular one on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, so the home can purchase food in bulk.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 4/27

### Front South

Casey Lehtinen  
Doug Jones  
Dennis Lane

### Front North

Clark Lehtinen  
Russ Jones  
Jay Lehtinen

### Back South

Barry Lehtinen  
Michael Mora  
Paul Murphy

### Back North

Jackie Mayden  
John McGilvray  
Jeff McPherson

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Bill Hughes  
Rob Stidolph

Sunday PM

Gary Barger  
Doug Jones

Wednesday PM

Luke Norman

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Wednesday PM

Singing in the annex

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Barry Lehtinen

## Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Ken Boroughs / Wayne Gentry

## Wed. PM Devotional (4/30)

Will Cammack



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Turning Your Life Around  
Hosea 10:1-15

PM

Properly Evaluating Elders  
1 Timothy 5:17-20



## 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 .....	145
AM Worship.....	237
PM Worship .....	151
Wednesday Bible Class 4/16.....	138
Contribution .....	\$6,871

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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