

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Open-Minded

Pat McIntosh

The concept of being “open-minded” here refers to one’s willingness to hear and consider information regarding a biblical doctrine. There are many different doctrinal positions held, even in our brotherhood, that are not in agreement with each other. No, I am not talking about baptism for remission of sins, the one church, the elements used in observing the Lord’s supper, whether or not instrumental music is authorized, or any another major doctrinal issue. The truth regarding these issues is clearly taught in Scripture and has been ably supported and defended with Scripture over the years. We should not be afraid to investigate our views on such biblical matters as “truth has nothing to fear from investigation.”

But there are other doctrinal matters that are not so clear cut. Our brethren have discussed various matters over the years, sometimes heatedly. These issues might include how the Holy Spirit indwells, the best biblical translation, Jephthah’s daughter, the identity of the author of Hebrews, and other issues that are not so clearly and universally understood. What should we do in regard to these issues (and others like them)?

Being open-minded, as it relates to these issues, allows us to hear the views of others and their understanding of such matters. It provides more information for us to consider in assuring that we have a proper understanding of these doctrinal matters. I do not believe those issues are “salvation issues.” However, that should not hinder us from continuing to search for truth, as there is one truth for each of those issues. “My position” may be correct, but I can be wrong. The same is true of the one with which I am studying. We can’t both be right. The Holy Spirit cannot dwell both literally and representatively indwell the child of God. Jephthah either ended his daughter’s life or he didn’t. Paul either wrote Hebrews or he did not.

We should all strive to gain a better understanding of any biblical doctrine. Our understanding of the information provided through God’s Word is the basis of our faith (Rom. 10:17). Over the years I have changed my position on the position of the authorship of the book of Hebrews. I used to believe, strongly, that it was Paul. I was convinced based on the information that I had considered to that point. However, someone provided a different viewpoint, providing information that was not available to me before. My willingness to listen to that information and consider it resulted in a changed position, based on that new evidence. If we do not open ourselves to the possibility that there is information that we have not considered before that may have bearing on the truth of a given matter, we will never grow in our understanding of such things. On a lighter side, someone has once said that, “We should not be so open-minded that our brains fall out.” May we always be those who are open to what the Bible has to say about matters and learn from our study it.

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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Great is the Glory of the LORD

Kevin W. Rhodes

Everyone enjoys receiving praise, whether a child hearing loving appreciation from a parent, a student responding to the encouraging words of a teacher, or a worker enjoying recognition from his employer. Praise generates energy, sustains emotion, and motivates the masses. But not all deserve praise. This fact has escaped the participation trophy crowd, along with those educational theorists who believe in rewarding wrong answers in the hopes that the right answers will appear magically at the next opportunity. However, the reality of our flaws, however varied in form and number, demonstrate how unworthy of praise we truly are. We respond to praise because we do not always deserve it. God, on the other hand, does not require praise to move Him to act or care, yet He deserves praise for everything He does and just for who He is. David recognize this and responded accordingly with the words we find recorded in Psalm 138.

Popular religion has reduced praising the LORD to a passing phrase and a casual fancy, but the pure praise of this psalm demonstrates deliberate dedication. For David, praising God rose deep within to express praise far removed from the generic overtures of those whose repeated phrases and volume masquerade for piety. Yahweh is the One Who is There for Us, and therefore He deserves personal praise. He deserves everything you have to offer from the depths of your soul—completely, distinctly, and personally devoted to Him and no other (Psa. 138:1). He deserves your personal worship, with a heart stirred within by His love and thus motivated to listen and submit to His will in praise, in worship, and in everything else (Psa. 138:2). He deserves your personal praise because He really answers prayer, because He really provides strength, and because He really is there for you (Psa. 138:3).

Moreover, the LORD deserves universal praise—not just the adoration of the holy, and not just the periodic praise some offer to

assuage their guilt—but the praise of all who can offer it. Indeed, we should exalt Yahweh like no other specifically because He has no equal. His authority and power exceeds that of the greatest dynasties upon the earth, and His wisdom surpasses the understanding of the whole of human history (Psa. 138:4). His ways deserve our full attention, awe, and consideration, for He has a very different character, carries out definitive actions, and maintains a distinct existence. Truly “great is the glory of the LORD” (Psa. 138:5). He is highly exalted but cares for those beneath Him. However, though He knows everything that all men have done, He remains unimpressed with those who exalt themselves, knowing their flaws far better than they (Psa. 138:6).

Above all, the LORD deserves meaningful praise, devotion expressed from a knowing heart and a thankful soul. Far too often we allow our praise to come from habit and routine rather than reflection and soul. Praising Yahweh should carry great meaning because He helps with our most desperate needs (Psa. 138:7). Praising Yahweh has greater meaning because He is interested in our spiritual progress—not just our present. He has responded to our most desperate need. Therefore, praising Him does not originate from what we have to offer Him, but what He has to offer us (Psa. 138:8a). Praising Yahweh has the greatest meaning possible because we have seen the enduring love and mercy of the LORD in all that He does for us and we realize how very much we need Him in our lives (Psa. 138:8b).

God does not, of course, need our praise. It adds nothing to Him, nor does our failure take away from His glory. Nevertheless, we do indeed need to praise Him because the Creator and Redeemer of mankind deserves the recognition of the created and the redeemed. To praise is simply to recognize and then acknowledge verbally what someone else has done. God has done everything for us, and therefore we should praise Him with everything we can muster.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Gary Barger saw the vascular surgeon Tuesday. He will have further tests in February.
- Dollye Collins will start therapy soon. The doctor saw some bone growth, so she will not need surgery.
- Larry Corum, Tracy Rhodes' cousin, saw a cardiologist This week. All his arteries are 100% blocked, but they are going to have him do therapy because the doctors consider that safer than surgery.
- Amy Hackler has to stay in the hospital until Dec. 11th. The doctor said it is to life threatening at this point. She can have visitors if they have not been sick. They will have to wear a gown because her immune system is low. Please send all cards to P. O. Box 2521 Whitney, TX. 76692.
- Sandra Jones is doing a little better. All tests have come back negative with the exception of a few minor issues.
- Gail Kilcrease had a spell when she was out shopping. They did tests at Huguley.
- Gary Kilcrease, Doug and Gail's son, had back surgery on Tuesday.
- Mike Lehrman, son-in-law of Gwen Martin, has been in the hospital of a week now with heart problems and they cannot get his heart rate stabilized.
- Charles Melton had a skin cancer biopsy on his head today.
- Janice Redden had a shot in her neck on today.
- Jessica Weight, Tracy's cousin, is doing better and plans to go back to work this week.

Baptism

Steven Richards obeyed the gospel last Sunday afternoon. We rejoice with him in his decision!

Please note...

- Jeff Day's team will meet next Sunday after the evening services. They will sign cards before the Christmas dinner. Any questions ask Rhonda.
- This Sunday evening, December 9th, will be our Congregational Christmas Dinner after the evening worship service. The meat, dressing and drinks will be provided. Please bring side dishes and desserts. If you would like to help with the cost of the meat give your money to Darla Grinnell.
- We will go door knocking on Saturday, December the 15th. Everyone is welcome to come. We will meet in the annex at 10:00 AM.
- 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.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Romans 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 12/09

Front South

Larry McWilliams
Michael Mora
Paul Murphy

Front North

Mike Hight
Robert Pennay
Rob Stidolph

Back South

Dennis Lane
Melvin Owens
Larry Owens

Back North

Doug Kilcrease
Sid Carruth
Gene Threadgill

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Vince Grinnell

Sunday PM

Andrew Collins
DeWayne Henegar

Wednesday PM

Bill Hughes
Kyle Day

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Jeff Day

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday J. D. Allen

Colton Allen & Jim Hudgins

Collection Counting

Dennis 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

Dare to Be a Daniel!

Daniel 1:8-16

PM

The Path to Divine Reconciliation
Exposition of Micah

Calendar of Events



12/09 Congregational Christmas Dinner
following evening services

12/16 Gifts for the shut-ins.

12/24—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.....	115
AM Worship.....	170
PM Worship.....	104
Wednesday Bible Class.....	106
Contribution.....	\$7,211

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