

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Pat McIntosh

It has been well-said that the Bible is its own best commentary. Passages that may be hard to explain by just looking at that context can be made clearer if that passage is addressed elsewhere in Scripture. That is the case with phrase under consideration here.

Joel was called to prophesy about 830 B.C. His message was one of both positive and negative concepts. Punishment was coming because of their sin, but brighter days were ahead. In the midst of that discussion, Joel prophesied about a time when God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28-32). That “day” would consist of prophesying, dreams and wonders. He further indicated that all those who “call upon the name of the Lord” will be saved.

If all we had was Joel’s words, we really wouldn’t be able to put our finger on any specifics as there are no “historical pegs” to help us, nor are there any definitive events for us to grasp the fulling meaning of what he wrote. However, we are helped in our understanding of what was intended to be understood by Joel as this passage and its phraseology are addressed elsewhere.

We will examine two such passages here. First, we look to Acts 2 and Peter’s sermon on Pentecost. That chapter begins with the outpouring of the Spirit evidenced by those men speaking in languages they had never studied before. Some mockingly said that those men were drunk. Peter responded by providing two explanations as to what was happening. First, he indicated that they could not be drunk because it was too early (third hour of the day or 9:00 a.m.). Then he said, “This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.” He then quoted Joel 2:28-32. Therefore, what Joel prophesied was the miraculous events in Acts 2.

The phrase “calling on the name of the Lord” deserves attention as well. Many in the religious world believe this phrase refers to verbally calling on Jesus for salvation. There are those who believe that all one must do is “confess Christ” or say what some refer to as “the sinner’s prayer.” That is not what the phrase used by Joel means. This is the case because of what is stated in Acts 22:16. There Paul was instructed to “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” The phrase “calling on the name of the Lord” is seen grammatically as a “modal participle.” It modifies “arise and be baptized and wash away your sins.” It might be put this way, “How do you call on the name of the Lord? You must arise, be baptized and wash away your sins.”

May we realize that the inspired word of God can be understood if we expend the effort and use the divine resources provided to us. May we be diligent students of God’s word and grow from our study of 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

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Reflections on Unity

Kevin W. Rhodes

Unity remains so elusive in today's world and, sadly, in today's church. Most all call for it. But few truly long for it—at least not the type of unity God offers. In actuality, the very people who often speak of unity act in ways completely contrary to it. Somehow, even among those who recognize the beauty unity offers allow their selfish desires to demand unity their way instead of reaching for unity God's way. Therefore, we must devote ourselves to understanding godly unity in its beauty and purity rather than following a pattern that only offers a temporary truce where people agree to disagree instead of uniting in agreement with God. The beautiful imagery of Psalm 133, ascribed to David, pictures the possibilities of unity within the context of ancient Israel, but its principles resound even to the church today.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psa. 133:1). The sentiment here expressed beckons to its hearers not only to accept its heart but to engage its spirit. Unity, fully appreciated and dearly loved, finds expression in the practical exercise of regular spiritual life—not the pretense typically presented citing general doctrinal agreement that belies the division apparent to all in practice. However, the words here reflect a society bound together by quality interaction (good), an enjoyable environment (pleasant), a family feel (brethren), enduring relationships (dwell), and close proximity rooted in thought that is expressed in behavior (together). Moreover, men did not bring about such harmony but God Himself, as the simile following demonstrates. “It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments” (Psa. 133:2). Harkening back to the anointing of Aaron as high priest (Lev. 9:12), the psalm evokes memories of how God sought a people who would please Him, belong to Him, serve Him, and be holy for Him, having been forgiven and consecrated by Him (Ex. 28:32; 29:7, 21; 30:23). As that original anointing oil, designed and purposed by God, ran down Aaron's beard to the collar of his ephod and upon the breastplate bearing the stones representative of all Israel, so God recognized His people as one coming before Him, even as the psalm considers the procession of Israel from all

over the land coming together to worship as one and enjoy the blessings God promised. Indeed, the second simile builds upon this thought further. “It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore” (Psa. 133:3). Mount Hermon in the north, known for its abundance of dew which, whether through rains or the Jordan, brought its benefits to Jerusalem, here adds a third “running down.” And yet all of these picture the people themselves descending upon Jerusalem to worship as one, as God has requested and as God has designed. The combined figures of the high priest and the return for a feast provide the context for God's people as a whole gathering, most likely for the Day of Atonement, when the high priest would enter the holy place on their behalf to offer a sacrifice that would ensure their forgiveness, their relationship with God, and thereby life forevermore.

The beauty of this kind of unity depends upon embracing the sacrifice that makes unity possible, for Jesus has now entered the holiest place of all, as High Priest, to make atonement possible and eternal life obtainable (Heb. 7:26-27; 9:26-28). However, like the Jews of old, people today must make the journey to have unity. Too many wish to stand apart and stay in their own land, stand firm in their own opinions and doctrines, wallow still in their own problems, and defend their own sin rather than letting go of these barriers to unity so that they can approach God with all those who have abandoned self for their love of the Lord.

The beauty of unity has not changed. The blessings of unity have not been altered. But neither has its principle in practice. If we truly want unity, we will not only preach unity; we will also practice unity. We will not simply come together in person; we will come together in spirit. But these demand more of us than a temporary commitment to the emotion of the moment; they require a perpetual commitment to the truth in practice. To desire unity while practicing diversity is spiritual mockery. To proclaim unity depends upon our first practicing it—in worship, in doctrine, in salvation, in everything. If you really want unity, let go of selfish practices and embrace biblical practices. Properly done, this will lead only to one place—God's church doing God's things in God's way.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Dollye Collins has an infection around her eye. She also fell and is bruised up.
- Gary Day, Jeff's brother, is suffering with several health issues. He is staying with their sister in Hurst.
- Grace Harding's brother, Joe Chamberlin, is very ill with pneumonia in Harris.
- Georgia Haynes has asked for prayers for her Aunt Sandy and family who were hit by hurricane Michael.
- Morris Jewett's sister, Joyce Rogers, was released from the hospital. She didn't have a heart attack
- Sandra Jones, (Rohan's wife) had more tests on Monday. She is waiting on the results.
- Sandy Geuea (Gow-ee) Ginger Owens' sister, had tests on Monday.
- Bess Yates fell off the porch and broke her shoulder. The doctor will X-ray it again in two weeks to see if it is healing on its own.

Sympathy is extended to ...

Jay and Jennifer Lehtinen family in the passing of Jennifer's grandmother, Ursula Ellis.
Kenneth and Glenda Helm in the passing of Glenda's niece, Sabrina Bryan-Beasley.

Please note...

- Wednesday, October 31st, we will have singing in the auditorium. No Classes.
- The Smyrna Group—Tim Norman will meet Sunday, October 28th, in the annex after the morning worship services. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for food.
- Ladies Retreat will be November 3rd from 9-12 at the McWilliams' home. There are flyers in the foyer with more information.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance, not bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Mark 11:25

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 10/28

Front South

Larry McWilliams
Michael Mora
Vince Grinnell

Front North

Robert Pennay
Ryan Cowan
Will Cammack

Back South

Sid Carruth
Joshua Haynes
Joe Warlick

Back North

Dennis Lane
Rob Stidolph
Paul Murphy

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Bill Hughes

Sunday PM

Ryan Cowan

Bill Cashion

Wednesday PM

Clint Owens

J. D. Hopkins

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Will Cammack

Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Singing auditorium

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

DeWayne Henegar

Mike Hight

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Paul Murphy

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

Essentials of Faithfulness
Hebrews 13:18-25

PM

Preservation with Purpose
Zechariah 12:1-14

Calendar of Events



12/9/18 Congregational Christmas Dinner
following evening services



Our Records

Bible Class.....105
AM Worship.....157
PM Worship.....117
Wednesday Bible Class.....90
Contribution.....\$5,608

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