



Put Your Banner On Display

Kevin W. Rhodes

After the horrific events of September 11, 2001, a tremendous change came over the nation as a whole, if only for a time. In a show of commemoration and patriotism, millions began displaying the American flag daily and sometimes more prominently outside their homes, wearing flag lapel pins, and placing flags and other similar accoutrements on their vehicles. People bought patriotic apparel like never before. For that brief time, showing a love for America became fashionable again. However, for some this proved short-lived. At the first sign of trouble in the war against terrorism, criticism returned and flags began disappearing. When the next election cycle rolled around, such obvious displays became a dividing point once more rather than a gesture of unity. Today, as memories fade and a new generation appears, the motivations for that quick wave of patriotism, and the courage and comfort it provoked, have been forgotten and treated as relics of a bygone era.

During David's reign in Israel, a people who had once shared in great victories were showing signs of doubt. Thus, when David reflected on

this time in his country, he recognized that the people had lost faith and thus were suffering from not having God with them (Psa. 60:1-3). He then followed this statement of sadness with a statement of faith. He spoke to God, saying, "You have given a banner to those who fear You, That it may be displayed because of the truth" (Psa. 60:4). A banner, you might have guessed, refers to a flag, a symbol of identity, unity, and understanding. Therefore, while David saw Israel's problems in terms of their neglect of God and His subsequent allowing of consequences to set in, he also recognized that the answer was found in displaying greater faith in God and His truth. God then indeed answered his cry and delivered Israel in tremendous fashion (Psa. 60:5-12), as the preface to the psalm bears witness.

However, the application for today is not political but spiritual. In the same sense that, over time, Americans lost their original fervor for displaying their flag, many Christians have lost their original fervor for putting their own banner on display. Rather than openly living and speaking of their faith in Christ and the truth of the gospel, many have been reduced to silently creeping about, admitting their

allegiance only when necessary due to the climate created by political correctness and the promotion of immorality through the courts. Nevertheless, whatever the climate and whatever the situation, as God's people we should put the banner of the cross on display unashamed (Rom. 1:16). We should never allow the world to reduce our faith to quiet attendance in worship and a few odd symbols of faith here and there. Instead, we must become like David and realize that a return to boldness is the path to victory and greater days ahead. This may not be easy. Indeed, persecution may follow. But the more we put the truth on display, the more souls can be saved, and the more God can be glorified. We have forgotten what it means to let our light shine and have hidden it under a bushel for too long (Matt. 5:14-16). So, let us gain courage from David, and put our banner on display for all to see. There is no reason to be ashamed of the gospel and every reason to proclaim it. We are all to be flag-bearers, leading the way into battle and gladly declaring our identity and the rightness of our cause. This is what our culture needs. And, interestingly enough, it is what we need as well.

Schedule of Services :

Sunday:

9:30 AM (Bible Study)
10:30 AM (Worship)
5:00 PM (Worship)

Wednesday:

7:00 PM (Bible Study)

Servants :

Shepherds:

Don Cheek (325) 277-0397
Rick Popejoy (405) 428-2440
Dennis Reed (325) 949-2215

Preacher:

Mike Bonner (325) 320-6866

Deacons:

Chad Schaertl (325) 200-1166
Randy Scott (325) 716-7655
Jerry Williams (325) 234-3118

Secretary:

Mona Popejoy (405) 428-1073
Office (325) 653-4642

Worship Service :

Sunday: May 21, 2017

Morning Worship:

Announcements: Randy Scott
Song Leader: Chad Schaertl
Prayer: Rafael Ramirez
Lord's Table:
Southside: Rick Popejoy
Northside: Garrett Barnum
Contribution: Mike Ferguson
Server: Mark Whitsett
Scripture Reader: Michael Bonner
(Exo. 12:43-51)
Closing Prayer: Bryan Braswell

Evening Worship:

Song Leader: Rafael Ramirez
Opening Prayer: Chad Schaertl
Closing Prayer: Rick Popejoy

Sermons :

AM: Becoming a Member of the
Congregation of Israel
(Rafael Ramirez)
PM: Benefits of Reading the Bible
(Rafael Ramirez)

News, Notes & Information

This information covered to protect
our family members.

Our Reading Tree: Let's keep reading so that we might be able to give a biblical answer to those who ask! Challenge ourselves this week, again.

H.O.T. Camp Forms: Camp forms are available on the back table. If you have any questions, please see Rick or Randy Scott.
Junior Camp, completed grades 4-7, (June 25-29)
Senior Camp, completed grades 8-12, (July 16-21)

Vacation Bible School: June 5-9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Flyers are now available to send to your friends and family. Teachers, if you need any supplies for VBS please remember to check with Randy. Nona will also be needing cookies, small snack crackers and fruit.

Sympathy Extended: We received word that Benny Rogers passed away. His service was on 5/16 in Robert Lee. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Baby Boy Shower: We will honor Anna & Victor Arreola this Saturday, 5/20 from 2-4 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Please see Lindsey with any questions.

We are building for eternity by speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent, by calling Bible things by Bible names and doing Bible things in Bible ways.



Sunday Programs:
10:00 AM RENEW
10:30 AM Preaching the Gospel

