

June 28, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

July 4, 2010

a.m. "*Right Use of Time*"

Scripture: Psalm 90:11-17

p.m. "*Sowing in Tears, Reaping in Joy*"

Scripture: Psalm 126:1-6

Eternity

Don Hatch

The Greek word *aionios* is translated in the Bible as eternal, everlasting and eternity. It is applied to eternal life, eternal glory and God. It includes the Christian's highest reward. Judgment of the deeds done in the body is final unto eternal punishment or eternal bliss (2 Cor 5:1-10; 2 Tim 4:1-10). Christians have no dread of this judgment knowing that they have passed out of death into life with Christ (Rom 6:1-11). The life time of a Christian is his sojourn on earth (1 Pet 2:11, 12) while marching to an appointment with "eternity" where there is promised an "incorruptible body" that is "immortal" or eternal (1 Cor 15:50-58). This Greek word allows the Christian to see that the present age is bound by time, while eternity is timeless.

When the Greeks spoke of time derivations of *aionios* [eternity, unchangeableness] they often bid a king or ruler to "live forever" thus defining his power. Roman power was to last forever as a state which had a "horizon not yet in view". It was to be an "everlasting" nation that would transcend time. "Where is Rome?" manifests that the notion was not well stated. The kingdom of Christ is an everlasting kingdom which will not be shaken (Heb 12:28) hence, the true view of an "eternal kingdom". Christ's Kingdom had a beginning but will never end. He will, at an appointed time, deliver the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall abolish all rule and all authority and power (1 Cor 15:23-25). This kingdom has a definite constancy which is above and beyond time. There is neither change nor decay for it is eternal. The state of a Christian sharing in eternity begins while upon the earth and remains as the Christian pursues the goal of the high calling in Christ (Phil 2:14). Paul said, he counted the things of this world as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ (Phil 2:8). To be found in Christ and sharing in the various circumstances of the Christian life was the fellowship which made Paul ready to press on to the goal with a defined mind and way of walking (Phil 2:9-16). Christians do not faint at the ordeal of the Christian life, even knowing that the outward man is decaying, they are assured that the inward man is renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16-18). The "light afflictions work a more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory". The outward being is temporal but the inward, which is not seen, is eternal.

God created the worlds. They are never spoken of as eternal. The earth was made to be a habitation for mankind while in his mortal body. God could not attach “eternal” to a temporal world; such was impossible. Eternity is always the same and always indivisible. It does not become older or younger; there is not past or future. It is eternal and neither a “was or will be”. Obviously there is no state like that in the created world with its limitations. It is but an image of eternity. The essence of an eternal order (Heavenly) is contrasted with a mortal order (earthbound). Essentially it can be applied to no other than God which describes nothing less or more than the being of God. Eternal distinctively and precisely describes essentially belonging to and befitting God. God willingly made an eternal covenant with mankind through Christ as Mediator (Heb 13:20). Mankind enters into this agreement with God that is as eternal as God. The Christian will enter into an eternal habitation (Lk 16:9; 2 Cor 5:1-10). The ultimate destiny of the Christian is a life which is none other than life with God Himself. The eternal redemption and inheritance was worked by Christ (Heb 9:5). Eternal is used of “glory” into which the faithful Christian will enter (1 Pet 5:10; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Tim 2:10). There awaits God’s own glory wherein nothing impairs, is destructible or vague concerning the hope of a Christian (Jn 17). Even another world cannot change the hope of a child of God. The Gospel is not merely one of many revelations; it is the guide unto eternal life. Those who obey it will be blessed with eternal life (2 Thes 1:4-11).

Eternal life is a promise of God (Tit 1:2; 1 Jn 2:25). God promised to share His own blessedness and He cannot break a promise (Heb 6:13-20). Eternal life is a gift from God (Rom 6:23; 1 Jn 5:11). It is not without conditions, but the fact remains that eternal life is something God, out of His mercy and grace, gives to mankind. If it was something earned or deserved it would not be grace (Eph 2:8-10). Eternal life is bound up in Christ. He is the One who brought life eternal to mankind (Jn 6:68; 17:2, 3; 1 Jn 5:20). Eternal life comes through the New Testament calling mankind to believe in Jesus Christ (Jn 3:15, 16, 36; 6:40-47; 1 Tim 1:16). It is more than an intellectual belief. Belief means an individual absolutely and implicitly believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37). God’s offer of eternal life demands knowledge of God, as the only true God (Jn 17:3). This eternal life demands obedience to God (Jn 12:50; Heb 5:9). It is the reward for persistent, loyal lives (1 Tim 6:12) and comes only to those who hear and follow (Jn 10:27, 28). There is an ethical demand in eternal life (Rom 6:22).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

We all want to take control of our lives. I would like to share with you an article written by Keith M. Olbricht on this subject.

“It does not matter where we are in our lives, we each have goals and ambitions, as well as difficulties and problems to face each and every day. To obtain our goals, we must confront and conquer these difficulties. Perhaps one of the hardest confrontations we have is within our own selves. We all have within us strength, courage, fears, lusts, and desires far beyond what we normally reveal, and we tend to keep these things buried deeply. Yet in times of crisis, it is frequently these inner characteristics which boil to the surface, and then what is truly inside is seen. Jesus, who knows the hearts of all men, told the impetuous apostle Peter that he would

deny him on the evening of his crucifixion. The Scriptures tell us that Peter "*wept bitterly*" when he realized what he had done (Matthew 26:75). In all aspects of our lives, and, therefore, our service to God, self-control and submission to God are needed.

In order for us to be able to maintain control and discipline, it is an absolute necessity that we be willing to confront ourselves. It should be evident to all who examine the Holy Scriptures "with all readiness of mind" that we indeed have the power to choose between serving God and serving Satan. James wrote, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7). But are we willing to make that choice? Are we willing to say as did Paul, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27)?

It should be the desire of each child of God that every bit of our heart, soul, mind, and strength be dedicated to Him (Mark 12:30; John 14:15). If this is to be achieved, control of our lives must be obtained. Here are some suggestions for reaching this goal:

Take control of your thoughts. It must never be forgotten that the Lord knows the thoughts of man, and by them we shall be judged. (See 1 Corinthians 3:20; Psalm 94:11, Hebrews 4:12, and Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Take control of your words. As with our thoughts, our words are important to God, and by them we shall be judged (Matthew 12:36-37).

Take control of your actions. Man is in control of his own eternal destiny. Satan only has power over us if we allow him to. (Read James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Matthew 10:28, and Matthew 6:24).

Take control of your time. No one has more minutes in a day than anyone else. What we do with that time is up to us. Paul declares that "now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Whatever our goals in life might be, including leading ourselves and others to Christ, we must "*submit ourselves therefore to God.*" Who is in charge in your life? Let us not let Satan reign, but let us prayerfully resist, and love and serve God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

~Jerry McKey

THE TRUTH

"I charge thee in the sight of God, and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables. But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry. For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing" (2 Tim 4:1-8).

Paul uses the word “truth” many times in his epistles. The “body of truth” is general and specific in nature. The importance of being truthful and knowing the truth is vital to being made free by the truth (Jn 8:32). Jesus promised His apostles that they would be guided into all truth (Jn 14:17). Christians are “sanctified by the truth” and God’s word is truth (Jn 17:17). The truth must be held in righteousness (Rom 1:18). Changing of truth into a lie is confronted and denied by God’s word (Rom 1:25). Biblical love rejoices in truth (1 Cor 13:6). Christians renounce hidden things of shame, do not walk craftily, nor handle the word of God deceitfully but manifest that truth commends them to every man’s conscience (2 Cor 4:1, 2). The gospel is the truth of God unto salvation. Christians live and walk according to truth (Gal 2:14). Paul’s concern was that some had begun to “run well” in the truth but others had hindered them by persuading them to be otherwise minded (Gal 5:1-12). The truth must be obeyed. Those who are to receive the spiritual blessing in Christ hear “the truth” and obey it (Eph 1:3-14). God’s purpose from the foundation of the world was to freely bestow upon mankind redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ wherein is found the truth of the gospel of salvation. The contrast between works of the flesh and spiritual living knows of a surety that carnal minded individuals do not inherit the kingdom of God. Those who walk in the light of the truth are filled with fruits of righteousness, goodness and truth (Eph 5:3-14). Part of the armor of Christian is being “girded” with truth (Eph 6:14). Christians have a hope laid up for them in heaven because they heard the truth of the gospel (Col 1:5).

The knowledge of the truth as required for salvation. It is the “truth of Christ” as the Son of God (1 Tim 2:4; Act 10:34-43). The church of Christ is built upon the knowledge of how individuals should behave themselves as the house of God. This is the ground and pillar of truth (1 Tim 3:14-16). Seductive spirits, doctrines of demons, lies of hypocritical men are a constant threat (1 Tim 4:1-5). If any man teach a different doctrine and consents not to sound words, even the words of Christ, which is according to godliness he is to be opposed (Eph 6:3-10; Gal 1:6-10). Turning the ear away from the truth leads to not enduring in the sound doctrine. We can know the truth and it will set us free (Jn 8:32).

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, July 4, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby; Max Melton

Back foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Sunday, July 11, 2010

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews; Carol Swinney

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Jeff Jenkins will be speaking on "Is Death an Annihilation?" on **July 7th**. Bring a friend!

COOKBOOKS

If you have not received your cookbook or you would like more, please see Beverly McKey.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Summer Youth Series on **July 6th** will be at the White Rock Church of Christ. Meet at the McKey's house at 5:30 p.m. for a ride.

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Please delete Mary Jackson from your phone directory.

OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed on **Monday, July 5th** in observance of the July 4th holiday. Please contact Don or one of the elders if you have a need that day.

Also, to remain in compliance with the Post Office, there will not be a bulletin published for the first two weeks in July. Please call the office or leave a note in the Secretary's box if you have an announcement.

THANK YOU

Sarah Fallis sent a note expressing how much she appreciated & enjoyed her time with us at Ladies' 1/2 Day.

THOSE TO SERVE IN JULY

Lord's table (front); Purman Cofer, Bill Matthews, John Mayer, Jerry Baker, Henry Seidmeyer, Brandon Howard, Mike Garrison, Dorris Walker **(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Derrol Allen, Bill Paschall, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Roy Martin, Bobby England

p.m. Thomas Rathbun, Robert Ruckman

Card Pickup: a.m. Cole Howard, Curtis Vaughan; p.m. Nathan & Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: John Mayer, Bobby England

Communion Preparer: Brenda Bryant

WITH SYMPATHY

Claude Holmes (Elizabeth Garrison's cousin) passed away last Friday in Levelland; services will be held today. Please also pray for the Garrison's safe trip.

Steve Newton (Everett's son) passed away last Thursday; services will be held in Mansfield on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

NEWS OF THE SICK

·**Billie Gilliam** went home last Friday morning.

·**Garldean Latham** is in need of our prayers.

·**Everett Newton** made another trip to Houston last week.

·**Nancy Pond** requests prayers for herself & her family & their health issues.

·**Leo Townsend** will have a CT scan on June 29th.

·**Perry Cotham** now lives at (Christian Care Center) Lakewood Villiage; 5100 Old Randal Mill Rd.; room #124; Ft. Worth, TX 76112

·**Ray Forbes** (Debra Alonzo's dad) is in ICU in an Oklahoma hospital.

·**Glenda Hearne** (Fowler relative) is in critical condition in an Alabama hospital.

·**Elaine Prude** (Maxine's sister-in-law) suffers with stage 4 cancer.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Hank Henry, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Mark Curtis (Lotah Franklin's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- July 4: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- July 6: Summer Youth Series, Grandview
- July 7: Jeff Jenkins: "Is Death an Annihilation?"

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker
- Brandon Howard

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Garl Latham
- Stan Selby

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
Ecclesiastes 11:1-8

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Richard Renfro
Psalm 17:13-15

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Garl Latham

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Mike Batot

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	82	85	82	125
A.M. Worship	147	138	147	210
P.M. Worship	78	75	78	112
Wed. Class	77	63	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	30
Contribution	\$5367	\$4636	\$5339	\$5433

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
- Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia
- Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions

Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India