

November 17, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 23, 2008

a.m. *"They Were Offended at Him"*

Scripture: Mark 6:1-6

p.m. *"Army of Martyrs"*

Scripture: Revelation 7:13-17

Christianity Will Survive

Don Hatch

It was 1st century A. D. and in the midst of those who hated Christianity it flourished. While many were trying to destroy it from within and without it thrived. During the time when the Judaic and Roman governments sought to remove it from the mainstream of social life the church increased. The brethren were oppressed and ruined but they bloomed like a flower in an arid land. When families were decaying, marriage was ridiculed, children rebelled against parents and the world was going after every known form of sin, Christianity lived on. All forms of depravity were pictured in the sins of the flesh as pagan influences prospered while being guarded by the Roman government. Wealth bought high offices and slavery extended itself into millions of men, women and children's lives. In an unparalleled dissolution of morals, debauchery and vile deed's Christianity began and grew. Women became as depraved as men and from the throne to the gutter the whole of society grew more and more evil. Marriage was nearly superseded by divorce when the slightest pretense gave reason for a separation. Abortion was not discouraged by law and extensively practiced. The unwanted child was exposed to an evil unparalleled in modern times when the girl child was sold into slavery and prostitution. Christianity opposed this and prospered. Religion in the Roman Empire was exceedingly vile. Christianity stood out because of its high moral inclinations.

Christianity is religion based on historical facts. False religion does not build a nation. The truth of Christianity is a solid foundation upon which any nation can build. The truth of Christianity does not rest upon philosophical presuppositions. The life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and continuous reign in heaven by Christ is the vitality of Christianity.

Christianity defines guilt because of sin and a means to remove it via obedience and the blood of Jesus Christ. Christianity teaches forgiveness of sin as the heart of the doctrine of salvation. All facts of Christianity are open for public investigation. Christianity builds a nation and never destroys.

There is a great difference between Christianity and other world religions. For that difference it makes no apologies and stands against other religions as a strong and adamant force. This exclusiveness brings persecution. False religion is readily adaptable to a weak national interest. Christianity reproves and manifests the need for purity in all strata of society.

Christianity is not an offspring of a false religion. She is uniquely individual and has her roots in the Old Testament with the fulfillment of prophecies given by God.

Christians are not unaware of the great difference between themselves and others and must stand against all other religions with uncompromising faith. Righteousness builds a nation and sin is a reproach unto all.

The history of Christianity manifests that its greatest resource is the teaching of doctrines and manifesting interest in the community in which they live. Christianity is a culmination of God's plan to save the world through Christ. It is no accident that Christianity is in the world. The foundation of peace, good and righteousness are in Christianity. When conditions are immoral, regard for life is almost non-existent woeful times are near. Once debasement of children and women is commonplace improvements can be made only by Christianity.

There are many reasons for nations to fail. The reasons are intertwined. When moral values are diminished to the degree that crime is commonplace, evil grows, luxury and waste among its infamous governing leaders is socially acceptable, nations decline. When popular amusements take the worshiper away from worship beware. Nations fail when family life is destroyed and children rebel against parents.

America has been strong. It was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, where family values, moral strength and wise were leadership commonplace. It thrived because of its social, economic and religious integrity. When that which made civilization to flourish begins to corrode a nation will fail.

A reason for failure is economic decay. When government acquires an expensive lifestyle and taxes its people unreasonably nations fail. In response to the torment of taxes, companies outsource work into lands where taxes are less. America's wealth is drained while trading with foreign nations. Our debts are staggering. Value of the currency has decreased. Huge corporations have become so corrupt and ostentatious that their routines are infamous around the world. Inequitable laws are favoring a few. The good news is that Christianity is the answer. Turning the heart of America to Christ is the church's only work.

By spending a few hours reading "[History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire](#)" by Edward Gibbon one will find that the citizens no longer displayed patriotism, only the rich ran for office, taxes impoverished, greed and wealth destroyed Greco-Roman civilization. The final reason for decline was deterioration in moral values. The fall was great. Societies come and go but Christianity is until Jesus comes. Christianity will survive if we do our part. America seek God, God bless America.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

"And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” I John 1:4-10.

John is telling us very plainly that we should always be ready to ask for forgiveness when we sin. In this day and time, some erring Christians feel that they are not always required to ask God and the congregation for forgiveness when they fail to assemble with the saints on a regular basis or commit other public sins.

This eldership understands the Bible to be as relevant today as it was in the time it was written by the inspiration of God. It remains our only authority of God’s word. God will faithfully forgive us if we will confess our sins and continue to walk in the light. May your joy be full as we follow the way to heaven.

~ Richard Renfro

Indifference...The Thief in the Church

Someone has said, “The greatest challenge to faith is not intellectual at all, but rather shallow indifference.” As I see it, the greatest threat from within the church is not false doctrine, vile sins, or even the loss of faith, but rather simple indifference.

Indifference is “the thief in the church.” It robs the church of our time, our talents, and our support. Indifference kidnaps Christians out of Sunday School and worship, saps the enthusiasm of members, sabotages all kinds of good programs, and takes the pleasure out of serving Jesus.

Indifference is the most difficult of all problems in the church to deal with. Many in the church are not against what we are trying to do, nor are they really for it. They’re just indifferent!

“Trust a person little who praises everyone; trust a person less who criticizes everyone; trust a person least who is indifferent.”

People can change their minds. A man’s right to hold certain view does not mean that view is right. One can be led to a fuller knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. Christians can be “equipped” for fuller service and guided in fruitful ministries for the Lord. We can grow and mature as we correct our mistakes and become more like Jesus.

But not if we are indifferent.

~ Author Unknown



“And the angel of the church of the Laodiceans” write, “These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God. “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot, I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth”. Revelation 3: 14-16

When the state of the heart, mind and soul is in harmony with God's law it will lead to a godly life with pious activities. Faith, love, hope and endurance bear up under adversity. It is steadfastness which stays the course and has a full assurance in a future victory. The means for procuring victory is fleeing away from wickedness. Seeking righteousness, godliness, and purity are like visiting an oasis along the pathway of life. Freedom from sin is a precious gift and has immense responsibilities. Confidence in that which is morally and spiritually right leads to the ways of excellence. Overcome evil with good. Enjoy freedom in Christ by letting Him be the Captain of your soul. Practice self-denial rather than self-indulgence. Love heads the list of virtues. A true Christian is loyal to God, gentle with others and has himself under control. You will learn how these can be yours in a study of the Bible. Enroll in one of our Bible Correspondence Courses.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the November 20, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

SINGING SESSION

The Sunday afternoon singing session will be held at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

NEXT WEDNESDAY EVENING

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, all classes will be suspended next Wednesday evening (11/26) to meet in the main auditorium for devotional time.

LADIES

The **Sunday afternoon** Ladies' Class will not meet next week. The class will be postponed until the first of the year.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will not on November 25th due to the Holiday.

IT'S A BOY!

Tom & Linda Head welcomed their 9th great grandchild into the world last Tuesday, 11/11/08 weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces. His name is Kailen Ryan Robins.

Oops, I've Done It Again

My apologies to the Seidmeyers; they've been married 64 years.

WITH SYMPATHY

Don Hanlon (Laquita Baker's brother) passed away last Tuesday (11/11) from a heart attack. Services were last Thursday in Mesquite & interment was at the Nat'l Cemetery.

PRAYER CONCERNS

•**Bob Bingham** was taken to the ER last week with a reaction to the radiation; he's home resting now.

•**Everett Newton** is in Baylor/Irving, room #461 following surgery on his toe; he might be released tomorrow.

•**Jackie Aechternacht** (Laquita Baker's sister) is on dialysis.

•**Kent Lashley** (Donna Meyer's son-in-law) has been diagnosed with cancer.

•**The Mayers** (John's parents) are both struggling; his mom had knee surgery & his dad has a heart problem.

•**Wayne Ruyle** (Ilene Ashworth's son-in-law) was released into Ilene's custody; he & Ralene will stay with her for awhile.

·**George Ryon** (Ann's son) could possibly be moved to a regular room soon, but he had a rough day today (11/17).

·**Jeffrey Winiford** (Kim Mayer's dad) is suffering with congestive heart failure.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Joann Hatch, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Tom Prince, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Nov 23: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15p.m.
- Nov 26: All classes are to meet in the main auditorium for a devotional time.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Shellie Pearce

Sunday evening:

- Melissa Allen

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Stan Selby
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Rob Farmer
- James Gilliam

SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Mark 6:1-6

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Brandon Thomason

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	103	99	95	125
A.M. Worship	171	156	165	210
P.M. Worship	92	90	95	112
Wed. Class	97	94	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	20	21	22	35
Contribution	\$5311	\$4907	\$5401	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st Century Global Missions
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India
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 – Stephenille, TX
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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India