

November 15, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 21, 2010

a.m. "*Fountains of Living Water*"

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:9-13

p.m. "*Yea and Amen*"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:15-22

Keys Given To 1st Century Apostles Only

Don Hatch

"Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of man is? And they said, some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the **keys of the kingdom** [bold dh] of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he the disciples that they should tell no man that he was the Christ" (Mat 16:18-20).

Keys usually denote the ability to unlock an item in a narrow sense, the right to open what has been prohibited to others. The symbolism of a key is seen when someone is given authority to unlock that which has been locked away (Rev 3:7). Jesus is King over His realm. He has rights of admission or removal from consideration information about His kingdom. Jesus solemnly instructed Peter and the other Apostles that they would have the keys to the kingdom. He invested in them the right to open the information about the kingdom of heaven. This involved the founding of the Church of Christ by the preaching of forgiveness of sins (Lk 24:47; Acts 2:38). The gospel is the "good news" of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

The Apostles of Christ never exercised authority so as to commission or initiate "new teachings". God bore witness to the commission of Jesus as Lord and the Apostles as witnesses of Jesus' great salvation (Heb 2:1-4). The Apostles assured the disciples that in Jesus was redemption and remission of sin (Col 1:9-23; 1 Cor 1:18-31). All evidence that others received such authority, or that the church received it, is wanting. The Apostles of Christ were given the power to "bind and loose" that which Jesus bound or loosed (Mat 16:13-20). It was not conferred upon the entire church to make such a declaration. The teachings of the Apostles became the "permission or forbidding" as revealed by the Holy Spirit. Once confirmed it was not to be revoked or mitigated. According to the grace of God power was given to the

Apostles to establish Jesus as the foundation upon which the church would be built (1 Cor 3:10-15). Anything built upon this foundation was to be carefully considered because it would be manifest in the judgment (2 Cor 5:1-10). It is clear there are disciplinary injunctions inferred. The church was to act in accord with that which was supported by Scripture (2 Tim 3:16, 17). Contrary doctrines were subjected to scrutiny and denied as invented, pretentious or counterfeit (1 Tim 1:18-20; Gal 1:6-11; Col 2:20-23). The Apostolic writings do not allude to any other agency in history which can assume any higher authority than Jesus as the head of the Church (Eph 1:21-23). Thus, Jesus had the keys to the kingdom and gave them to His witnesses (Acts 2:17-47).

The doctrine of “church fathers” having the authority to change doctrine or ability to bind and loose is a misrepresentation of scripture (Acts 15). The evidence is that when the doctrine was delivered to the church it was complete and non-negotiable for change (Jude 3). The insinuation that any power was given to others than those designated by God and any allusion to post-apostolic leaders having equality with the Apostles is felonious. The authority vested in the Church of the Bible was to come from the Apostles only. This meant that congregations could refer to Apostolic teachings concerning all matters and did not have to seek further guidance (Rom 16:17-20; 1 Thes 5:12-22; 2 Thes 3:6-15; Eph 5:3-15).

The keys given to the Apostles were taken to be comprehensive and complete for all privileges of church actions, government and jurisdiction. There were no inheritors of Apostolic Authority. No one, after they died, was to exercise such a prerogative. The power of the keys rests in scriptural authority for all practices to be allowed or declined. The condition of admittance into the church, fellowship with her and declining fellowship with her does not arise from a doctrine of absolution or formula for a medium of penance not found in the scriptures. Pronouncing a “priest” to have such a right so as to absolve one of sin and having controls over “sacraments” is a contradiction to the Bible’s teaching.

When the keys were given to the Apostles, they unlocked all mysteries of the New Testament (Mt 13:11). The Apostles learned the undisclosed divine plan and preached it (Phil 4:12). Those things which were beyond unassisted natural apprehension were made known by inspiration. In the ordinary sense “mystery” implies knowledge withheld. In the New Testament it signifies truth revealed. It is associated with words such as manifested, revealed, preached and is best illustrated as things hidden were revealed (Col 1:26; Heb 2:1-5; 1 Cor 13:2; 14:2; 15:53; 2:1; 4:3; Eph 2:2; 6:19). The New Testament initiated an era of understanding when the Apostles presented the gospel with Christ as the head of the church (Eph 1:21-23). The life, death, resurrection, ascension of Christ and commencement of the church, with accompanying doctrines for all matters, has been given and none can rewrite them.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." We find much comfort in this verse as we do in many others. Especially when having it on our minds pertaining to living our lives and losing a loved one. We extend our deepest sympathy to Brother Jerry and Sister Beverly McKey, Larry McKey and their families over the loss of their mother Sister Ruth Graham. Ruth was a faithful member, always in attendance when possible. We will all sorely miss having Sister Ruth at the Belt Line services.

Does John 3:16 contain all that is necessary for salvation? Quite often we see this verse on signs along the road, and many times at sporting events, etc. Some people turn to John 3:16 and say that it is all we need to be saved. If this is true, why did God give the other verses that deal with salvation? There is nothing said in John 3:16 about repentance. Does this mean that because it is not found in John 3:16 that it is excluded from salvation? No, because other verses teach that man must repent to be saved (Lk. 12:3). Why not accept the entire Gospel?

Jesus also said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). Was Jesus telling the truth in this verse? In John 3 we see that verse 14 and 15 precedes verse 16. The same type faith that looked on the serpent is the same type faith that saves in John 3:16. The last verse in John 3 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." So we see that one must believe and obey Jesus. This shows that the faith that saved in John 3:16 is the faith that obeys, and is not faith only. Jesus is author of salvation unto all those that obey him (Heb. 5:8-9). In the same discourse in John 3, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). In John 3:5 water is mentioned and faith is not! Therefore, belief only is not the new birth, and John 3:16 is not all needed to be saved.

Why seek to elevate and exalt one passage to the exclusion of all other passages on salvation? John 3:16 is true. It stresses that faith is necessary for salvation. But notice it does not mention repentance, confession, baptism or the blood of Christ. One will have to learn about these from other passages. Therefore John 3:16 does not contain all that is necessary for salvation. We need the whole council of God (Acts 20:2). One must believe, repent, confess Christ and be baptized in order to be saved (Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, Rom. 10:9-10).

Pray for our sick and shut-ins and encourage those who have not been attending on a regular basis to do so when possible.

~Dean Webb

"...And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mat 28:18-20).

PROGRESS

If a foundation is good and built on “solid rock” it will stand (Mat 7:24-27). The church is built on the “rock of ages”, Jesus Christ (1Cor 3:10-15). From a baby, who desires the “sincere milk of the word” to the mature Christian seeking to demonstrate a Christian’s life God’s word is a sufficient guide. A fortified faith trusts that Jesus Christ will enable us to live a life that leads to eternal life (1 Jn 5:13; Jn 3:16; 1 Cor 15:50-58). For morals some rely on a form of “herd instincts” [whatever feels right, or go along with the crowd]. Impulses to help or suppress help can be called “feelings or instincts”. Deciding which “instinct” will be followed will often be directed by the notion of “self-preservation” or “seeking the greater good”. Such is like a dangling participial [careless use of modifiers]. Decisions cannot be in conflict with each other. Giving into “instincts” often lets the strongest rule, howbeit, right or wrong! But if there are **clear standards** for the right impulse implanted in the heart, mind and soul it will be the stronger. Thus, being grounded and rooted in the love of Christ is imperative (Eph 3:14-20). As a practical consequence of not training our will to yield to God there will be vacillation and misdirection. God’s ways are not “human inventions”, but rather divine purpose for our lives which ultimately led to a higher moral and spiritual living. A desire to change our lives must be a change for the better. Measuring lives by a standard admits that there is a “standard”. Being moral and spiritual are not independent of God’s approval.

Christianity is different from all other distinguishable moral guidelines. Christianity is not haunted by vague or distorted ideas of fair play, decency or moral laws which grow old and outdated. She does not need “fixing” or “adjustments” for the times in which one lives. No one can affix blame to her Head and His New Covenant. Mankind may say, “wrong morals or bad design”, but in the final analysis Christianity is not a failure. What human beings have done in the name of Christianity may have fallen short of her goals, but God has never changed (Heb 6:13-20). Knowing what we “ought” to do takes diligent study of God’s word (2 Tim 2:14-20). Those who hold a straight course in the word of the Lord are never ashamed of God and words of truth. Men have spent years in trying to find the “laws of science” by works of experimentation. Christianity is not an experiment wherein mankind is trying to see if it will prove to be useful. Ending in a half-baked failure was not God’s purpose or plan (Eph 1:3-15). God, as a great builder and sustainer of Christianity, who sent forth His word, will not see it return to Him void (Isa 56:6-13). What seems hard of interpretation to mankind is merely “dullness of hearing”, “eyes which do not see”, “ears that will not hear” and “hearts which will not received” (Heb 5:11-14; 1 Cor 2:6-15). Surely a suspicion ought to arise when mankind defies the Living God. All is not well in our world! What changes must be made? It is not what is taught in the Bible! Repeatedly the truth of the Scriptures has been borne out and the evidence of Christianities moral and spiritual superiority cannot be mocked.

We have cause to be uneasy. “**Progress**” may mean returning to **ancient moorings and landmarks**. Christianity makes sense if we practice the truth of the gospel of salvation. It is senseless to the unbeliever. Believe and do!

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 21, 2010

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, November 28, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

Also, all men are invited to "Breakfast with the Preacher" on **Saturday, December 4th** at 8a.m. in the Annex. Don will be cooking!

THANK YOU

A special thanks to all of the teens who helped with chores during work day; we truly appreciate you!

OPEN HOUSE

The congregation is invited to Don & Joann's on **Sunday, December 12th** from 4p.m. - 5:30p.m. for refreshments & fellowship.

LADIES

Ladies' class will not meet Tuesday, November 23rd due to the Holiday.

We will be compiling information for a calendar for Ladies' Half Day. Please submit Bible verses or devotional thoughts that you would like to be included; you may leave them in the secretary's box located in either foyer. Deadline for submission is December 31st.

The ladies are invited to attend a baby shower honoring Sandy Hall on **Sunday, December 5th** from 2p.m.-4p.m. in the Annex. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, please see Beverly McKey. P.S. It's a boy!

THANK YOU

Grady & I want to thank you for the many cards & calls we received after the passing of Grady's beloved mother. It is a great comfort to be a part of our family at Belt Line. In Christian love, Grady, BC & Fowler Family

RESPONSE

Serena Jacobs requested prayers last evening (11/14) & placed her membership.

Lautricia Williams responded to the Lord's invitation for prayers.

WITH SYMPATHY

Ruth Graham passed away late Saturday night. Visitation will be at Donnelly's from 6pm-8pm tomorrow (11/16) & services will be here at the building on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; interment will be at 2p.m. at the Hamilton Beemon Cemetery in Corsicana.

Raymond Crosby (former member) passed away last week; interment was at DFW Nat'l Cemetery with full military honors.

Bryce Massingale (friend of Dana Hodgkins & the Granthams) passed away last week.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Ilene Ashworth** had an MRI on her ears last week.

•**Frances LaFerney** is now home.

•**Dessie Ross** spent a night in the hospital but is now home doing better.

•**Ira Wolfe** is awaiting results from tests.

•**Beverly Sweat** is ill at home.

•**Mac Dwyer** (Elizabeth Garrison's son) was in a motorcycle accident & suffers with 2 sprained ankles, a broken wrist which will require surgery, & multiple scrapes & bruises.

•**Elizabeth Rosenbalm** (Jan Smithson's great grandbaby) had successful surgery last week & is now home.

•**Linda Woodruff** (the Webb's neighbor) requests prayers as she is closer to being put on a heart transplant list.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- November 14: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- November 14: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- November 16: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Brandon Howard
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Darrell Allen

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Glen Kelly
- Jeremiah 2:9-13

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Marvin Brown
- 2 Corinthians 1:15-22

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Darrell Allen

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	77	79	83	125
A.M. Worship	140	139	148	210
P.M. Worship	95	76	78	112
Wed. Class	85	77	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	26	22	29	30
Contribution	\$5865	\$5026	\$5262	\$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

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