

November 9, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 15, 2009

a.m. "*The Hidden Life*"

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-4

p.m. "*The Strength of Joy*"

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:9-12

America Exports Freedom

Don Hatch

In his pamphlet "Crisis", Thomas Paine, well known writer in the American Revolutionary writer wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated... I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me, as to suppose that He has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils..." Jehovah rules the universe!

The **Declaration of Independence** says, "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to

institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed". The founding fathers who signed the **Declaration of Independence** knew that they were signing away their lives, fortunes, land and families if the American Revolution failed. The 56 signers suffered greatly. Five were captured and tortured before they died, twelve lost their homes, two lost sons, and two had sons captured, nine died of wounds and hardship, others watched businesses destroyed, some died broken, penniless and destitute, never cursing, but only blessings upon America.

I have a book about Philip Nolan who was tried for treason and condemned during the Revolutionary War. The book is called "**A Man Without A Country**" by Edward Everett Hale (1927). As a young lieutenant Nolan was influenced by Aaron Burr, who later had to flee America because of his treason. Philip Nolan was tried in a military court marshal. At the end of his trial he pronounced a **curse** upon America and said he never wished to hear of the United States of America again. He was sentenced to live aboard ships of the United States Navy for the rest of his life. He was denied any information of America because of his curse upon her. He died at sea never seeing her again, longing to know about her. It is one of the saddest stories I have ever read. If those who **curse** America were forced into exile, being persons without a country, would they still cast **expletives** upon her?

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this **Constitution for the United States of America**". The **Constitution and Flag** of the United States have been beacons for our fighting forces that are sworn to defend them unto death. Men, women and children have died to give us a land of the free and home of the brave. Audacious youths have given their last full measure allowing us to enjoy freedom. America has nothing for which to apologize. She has given more aid to more countries around the world than all others combined. From her shores has gone forth Christianity in its purist form. Our fellow Americans gave their all!

November 11th is a day to pause, give thanks for our fellow Americans who served and are serving in Armed Forces around the world to bring freedom. America has never sought to own a single foot of foreign soil. All she has ever asked for was a place to bury her honored dead who fell far from home. Repeated wars could have brought gains in lands like Communists [Stalin] in Europe, Chinese [Mao] in Asia and modern maniacs forcing nations to submit to tyranny. None of these tyrants are praiseworthy. America exports the light of goodness and freedom. She opposes tyranny and values virtue. Her basic values are praiseworthy.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Belt Line Road continues to be a blessed congregation and continues to be a shining light in this community and elsewhere. Thanks be to God for every member who pitches in and does many good things in his service. Mission Printing continues to be a well supported work with many participants. Our Bible Study teachers continue to do outstanding work. We have a wonderful group of Teachers that prepare interesting and needful lessons each week for all of us. We commend them for their outstanding love and effort to share with us more of God's true Word. We have ongoing love at Belt Line and continually hear from visitors that Belt Line is a very friendly congregation. This is a great compliment, and you have earned this impression by doing good.

The Gospel is truth: In the Ephesians epistle Paul said, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man "truth" with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). Christians are admonished to put away falsehood and speak that which is truth (real & complete). Paul also said, "to whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you" (Gal. 2:5). This Gospel (truth) is God's Word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The truth is God's word active which must be obeyed as first century Christians obeyed according to I Peter 1:22, where Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren". Jesus said if a man desires to enter the Kingdom of God, he must be born again" (John 3:5). James tells us that we are begotten (born again) by the word of God, "Of his own will begat he us with the Word of truth" (James 1:18). We are to walk in the truth as Gaius, "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth" (John 3:3).

We must remember the responsibility of not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25). When we do our part, we are obeying the Lord's commands. Mark 12:30-31 said, "and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is no other commandment greater than these".

Have a great week serving God! We want to remember our sick and shut-ins in our prayers. Some have gotten better while others are being added to the list. Pray for all of them!
Dean Webb

"I thank my God upon all my remembrance of you, always in every supplication of mine on behalf of you all making my supplication with joy, for your fellowship in furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:3-7)

KNOWING AND TRUSTING

"I will give thanks unto Jehovah with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and exult in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High. When mine enemies turn back, They stumble and perish at thy presence. For thou hast maintained my

right and my cause; Thou sittest in the throne judging righteously. Thou hast rebuked the nations, thou hast destroyed the wicked; Thou hast blotted out their name for ever and ever. The enemy are come to an end, they are desolate for ever; And the cities which thou hast overthrown, The very remembrance of them is perished. But Jehovah sitteth as king for ever: He hath prepared his throne for judgment; And he will judge the world in righteousness, He will minister judgment to the peoples in uprightness. Jehovah also will be a high tower for the oppressed, A high tower in times of trouble; And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; For thou, Jehovah, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (Psm 9:1-10).

Trust is intense and personal. To trust is to have confidence in another. Trust has uniqueness wherein one party believes that another is trustworthy. Often both parties depend on the other's fidelity. Honesty is foremost in trust. Trust is the firm reliance in the integrity, ability or character of another. Those who trust are willing to put their life in the care and custody of another. By committing this care, the one who is responsible for it must exhibit integrity. The conditions and stipulations of someone having confidence are that there has been no violation of public trust on the part of the one being trusted. Trust in another is for both present circumstances and future hope. It is intentionally beneficial to both parties. Placing trust in another asserts that there is dependence and confidence that the eventual outcome will be good. Those who are benevolent and compassionate manifest a trust that their good works are beneficial.

By really knowing the Lord one will surely trust in Him for He cannot lie, change or be untrustworthy. God has proved repeatedly that His promises are dependable. Many persons in the Bible put their trust in God and were amply rewarded for their confidence. Those who placed their souls in His trust were assured that He is able to keep this faith. Paul states, "For which cause I suffer also these things: yet I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim 1:12). He continues, "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 4:6-8). Paul's trust was rewarded and hope was not put to shame (Rom 5:1-11). God is a rewarder of those who believe that He is and seek Him (Heb 11:6).

God is trustworthy and glorious. His promises are astonishing and wonderful. He fulfills all He pledges. Trust in God, lean upon His promises, practice His principles and obey Him for He will bless abundantly beyond what we ask.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

Sunday, November 22, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

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 **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet 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.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class for **Tuesday, November 17th** is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Roberta Price on "Staying in the Circle: Safety & Protection"..

BOOKS

There are two copies left of the Lubbock Lectureship book entitled **Philosophy and Vain Deceit;** the price is \$15.21. Please see Don Hatch if you are interested.

More of Perry Cotham's book **Beyond the Sunset** are also available for \$5.00.

GOSPEL MEETING TAPES & CD'S

Requested sets of tapes and CD's of the Gospel Meeting are now available in the sound room. One tape set (3 tapes) is \$3.00; one CD set (6 CD's) is \$6.00.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Grady Fowler** will have another procedure & biopsy within a month.
- **Glen Kelly** will undergo surgery today (11/9) at Las Colinas Medical. **Jean** will be staying at Northgate Plaza.
- **Bill Matthews** is ill at home with a cold.
- **Max Melton** underwent a stress test last Friday.
- **Dessie Ross** spent some time in Baylor/Irving, but is now home resting.
- **Myrtle Wade** underwent a second leg procedure last Friday.
- **Louise Gierling** (former member Tom Gierling's mother) is under 24-hour hospice care,
- **Audrey Price** (Roberta's granddaughter) is back in school after suffering with the flu.
- **The Henry's** twin great-grandbabies are doing better; Maddox may be able to go home today (11/9).
- **Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie Ross' son) underwent a procedure for a defibrillator last week.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Ilene Ashworth, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom & Billie Prince, Frances Seidmeyer, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), (Elizabeth Garrison's great nephew).

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another" (Gal 6:1-5).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- November 15 Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- November 15: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

- November 17: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30a.m. in the Annex

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin
- Bobby Bowen
- Brandon Howard

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Mike Batot
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
- Colossians 3:1-4

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Mike Garrison

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- John Mayer
- Nehemiah 8:9-12

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Ty Harvey (last song: Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- 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	101		92	125
A.M. Worship	173		156	210
P.M. Worship	94	76	85	112
Wed. Class	105		82	110
Ladies Bible Class	22	18	22	35
Contribution	\$7322	\$4667	\$5381	\$5474

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- 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 – Stephenille, TX
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
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