

April 6, 2009

## SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

**April 12, 2009**

a.m. *"Secret of an Untroubled Heart"*

Scripture: John 14:1-14

p.m. *"A World for a Life"*

Scripture: Luke 8:32-38

### **There Is A God, He Is Alive**

Don Hatch

**The Bible affirms God and His existence.** Atheists deny this existence and claim that it is inconceivable that an eternal Being exists. They overlook the fact that everyone must accept a beginning. The atheist believes in something being there in the beginning. How it got there or who put it there is to them, beyond the question. An axiom is "out of nothing comes nothing". If at one time in the past something did not exist, nothing would exist today. Something now is, therefore something has been and will be.

**The choice is not between** non-eternal reality and eternal reality, but the nature of an eternal reality. The eternal reality is either dead matter or a living Spirit. It is only rational and reasonable to choose between them. However, there is life and life does not come from dead matter. Dead matter stays dead eternally. Therefore something living gave life to matter. It matters how that matter became man. The Bible says unequivocally that God breathed life into the dust of the earth which He had formed into man (Gen 1; 2).

**Life in all its manifold forms** has not always existed. It is a decision between believing in a Creator or nothing. No argument can be made that nothing begets something. The decision between faith in a Creator and unbelief in this Creator is the separation line of reasoning. The existence of God is sustained by reason and evidence. By undermining reason, meanings and hope, all credulity is destroyed. Nothing meaningful can be found in atheism. Where do the atheists obtain morals? Are morals better or worse because of atheism? If morals come from matter which has no conscience how can an atheist claim or explain ethics or morals if man came from mere matter. The atheist claims that matter existed and is eternal. That non-living matter created life and the order of a universe (not chaos) came from non-thinking, non-conscious, non-rational, non-living matter. They claim order came from random or disorder. Can it be that non-speaking, non-thinking, non-reasoning matter gave us man who can speak, reason, act and has morals? Does non-moral matter create morals? From whence is the moral law, silver law, golden rule and other ethical ideas arisen? If matter created man where did the urge to worship and religious aspirations come from?

**Although the Bible constitutes proof** of the existence of divinity and the divine mind it is not enough to know that God exists. We can learn of a creative power beyond the Bible (Rom 1:18-20). However, only in the Bible is the mind of God revealed. This revelation of God's will for man involves a disclosure of the nature, duty and destiny of man. Without the Bible man is

incomplete. The Bible affirms monotheism [one God] with all the attributes of Godhood. It denies the pagan belief of polytheism [many gods]. The universe is not God but a creation of God. Everything is not a divine being and the divine being is not everything. All that exists is at God's command (Jn 1:1, 2). The creation is not an eternal emanation of God. It had a beginning and will have an end (2 Pet 3:8-11). It is obvious that the universe and man have laws by which they are guided. Who is the eternal law giver? Throughout history God has exercised His authority. No moral inclination or mechanism developed by man equals God's moral and ethical values. If God is the lawgiver it flows out of this fact that He will be the judge of all (2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim 4:1, 2).

**God conceived and made man.** God revealed His concern, love and care for man in the Holy Writ. It should be noted that all provisions physical and spiritual are manifested in the Garden of Eden. God took the initiative and sought man. He provided a mate who was the completer for man. Hearing that Adam named the animals gives evidence that man was a thinking being and able to articulate his thoughts from the beginning. He was not as the atheists portray him as a brute who grunted. This could not have arisen from dead matter. Man and woman could reason. God gave them choices to make which identifies the ability to make moral choices.

**God's providence** for man is seen in the fact that God cared for man physically and spiritually making laws wherein man could trust them. The seasons of growth, harvest, renewal and spring perennially identify God's providence. God is always behind the scenes and in certain cases provides for man in spectacular ways abundantly above and beyond their desires or expectations (Eph 3:20, 21). God is unseen but clearly has His presence in the affairs of mankind. The confirmation of promises and covenants in both the Old and New Testaments is a major evidence of His presence.

**God is righteous.** God will always do that which is right (Gen 18:23-32). Man may not fully understand the righteousness of God but can have confidence in it. Righteousness is demonstrated in a social order. Without God as the origin of righteousness we have chaos. There must be moral sanctions and consequences for all actions. The Bible set forth a social order derived from a righteous God. God placed in man an ability to structure a social order. Man must have a social order greater than himself. Hence, the righteousness of God is the platform upon which mankind builds society. The failure to obey God's revealed order results in chaos. Is it obvious that when God is left out chaos follows? God still is! God is alive! We can live, move and have our being in Him.

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

This is the extreme dedication to the cause of Christ that we have in our missionaries. Charlie and Mary need your prayers and emails to cheer them and encourage them in this time of great trial and serious health problems. Here is the latest news from Kangayam, India.

Dear brethren,

It is with sadness that I must inform you that we had to make the decision to send Mary back to Malaysia one month earlier than planned for health reasons. Please allow me to explain.

During the last trip here, Mary had 3 1/2 months of pure misery because of respiratory problems. There are about 150 rice mills in this small town that are spewing out thick black smoke at different hours of the day. In addition, the people around the church building and our small apartment adjoining the Bible school are burning things regularly.

Mark Lim, our brother in Christ in Kuala Lumpur (KL) who is a medical doctor, said that there was one more medicine that we could use to try to make it possible for Mary to cope with the terrible air pollution here. He has donated all of his time and medicine to do all he can to help take care of our health, including this medicine, which is not cheap.

So, when we came this time, we had hopes that the medicine would enable Mary to work here for the entire time we were scheduled to be here. She was okay for the first six days. But when we went to the first Thursday evening Bible class for the church, we could smell smoke in the air. Although Mary did not stay long at all, she had an allergic reaction to the smoke. Thankfully, we did not have to take her to the nearest hospital that we can trust, which is about 1 1/2 hours away.

From that time on, Mary had respiratory problems each day, with some days worse than others. She courageously pressed on in spite of these attacks that sap her strength. She had a lot of coughing, difficulty breathing, weakness, dizziness, and lethargy.

We have taken every precaution we know how to take, including keeping her in the apartment almost all the time, keeping the door and windows shut, keeping the air conditioners on, and taking her inhaler twice per day in addition to the medicine as prescribed by Mark.

Despite all these precautions and the prayers of the saints in many places, she still suffered immensely. I had several phone conversations with Mark and we exchanged many e-mails. It is his professional assessment that Mary is extremely sensitive to the pollution in the air here and that no matter how much medicine she takes, it will not be possible for her to stay here for long periods of time. He says that if she does, her health will continue to deteriorate. In one e-mail, he said the only cure for the situation is avoidance of the air pollution.

Mary and I hate the thought of being separated from each other for any length of time. We are a team. We depend upon each other to do our work for the Lord. We discuss almost everything about the work. However, I believe I must do everything possible to protect her health. She has endured these challenges for over 7 years in Chennai and here and I am extremely concerned about the long-term effects on her health.

Thus, I made arrangements to send her back to Malaysia on Friday night, 27 March. We thank God that she arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday morning. The apartment we rent there is in a safe environment and we know very well that our beloved brethren there will take excellent care of her until I can return to KL. Mary loves them very much and feels very comfortable with them.

Because of our ten-year commitment to the Lord, brethren here, and those in the US like y'all who support the work in India and Malaysia, Mary and I decided that I should stay here and work until 26 April as originally scheduled. We believe that we cannot desert the brethren and the work.

She is doing better since returning to Malaysia, but is still weak and doing some coughing, although not as much as the last time after we had been here for 3 1/2 months.

Mark had to give her a nebulizer treatment on Thursday night to try to clear her lungs out some. He said that her lungs are inflamed from the irritants here. He told her that, at this point, his strong request is for her not to come back to India. She cried! Yes, that news is a challenge, but we will try our best to work around it.

I had to make a quick trip to Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai (about 3 ½ hours from Kangayam) on Friday because of a problem with my left eye (newer transplant). The Singapore surgeon recommended a doctor there if I have any problems.

They discovered that the continuous suture around my cornea finally broke and a piece of thread was sticking up. They cut the thread and the irritation is less today, thanks be to God.

Never a dull moment! However, we are determined to keep focused upon Jesus and to strive to glorify Him!

Please continue praying for Mary's health, for me as I remain behind, and for all the brethren with whom we are working here and in Malaysia. Also, please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

In brotherly love,

Charlie

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, April 12, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

### **Sunday, April 19 2009**

**Front foyer:** Megan & Jamie Little; Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

## 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 meet at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

### LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **April 14<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m.

### LADIES' DAY

Ladies' ½ day is just around the corner. We are excited to have such a special speaker. Her lessons on "Holiness In An Unholy World" captures the essence of the Christian woman who wants to be to God "Holy Thine" and "Wholly Thine". **Cards are in the foyers** for each to take and invite someone. Polly Cline will encourage and excite those who attend to serve God in a holy manner life.

The Johnson Street Church of Christ in Greenville will hold their Ladies' Day on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>; registration is at 9:30 a.m. & Mary Alice Wilhelm will be the speaker. See the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

### GOSPEL MEETING

The Birdville Church of Christ will host a gospel meeting & seminar entitled "In Troublesome Times" on April 24-26. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School Bible School is planned for **June 15-17** (Monday-Wednesday 7:00-8:15 pm). Our study will be "Worshiping in Spirit and Truth". A meeting with all teachers and leaders is planned for Sunday **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm** in the auditorium. This will be a planning time where we will schedule and pass out information. Please meet with us at 4:30 pm in the Auditorium.

### NEW SONG BOOKS

We are planning to buy new song books for the congregation. If you would like to have one for your own personal library we can purchase it at the same time we buy for the congregation. The cost per book is \$10.55 for hard back and \$35.00 for leather bound. There will be a **signup page** in the front foyer **for two weeks**. Please sign this to get your personal book at this discounted price. The **order will be sent** in on Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### IN APPRECIATION

I want to thank our Christian family at Belt Line Road for the many times you remembered my brother Percy in your prayers. Without a doubt prayer was the reason Percy's calm & peace at his death the day after he & his wife celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thank you also for the prayers for our safe trip to & from Louisiana, for strength & courage, for the many cards

of sympathy, & for the beautiful Peace Lily you sent us. We appreciate your love, prayers, & words of comfort. God bless each one of you. In Christian love, Hank & Becky Henry.

To my Belt Line Family, thank you for all your prayers & cards in the last three years. I am getting better but I still need your prayers. In Christian love, Mary Lou Tibbetts.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- **Gwen Bingham** is now at her home with her daughter, who will stay until Friday.
- **Charlene Carroll** has not been feeling well.
- **Billie Gilliam** will undergo a procedure this Friday (4/10).
- **Linda Matthews** has an appointment on 4/15 with a doctor at MD Anderson for treatment. .
- **Everett Newton** is at MD Anderson today (4/6).
- **Roy Thomas** is undergoing treatment.
- **Kathy Bennett** (Marjorie's daughter) has an infection to be cleared up before she can undergo surgery.
- **Charlie & Mary DiPalma** (missionaries) are enduring severe health problems.
- **Louise Gierling** (former member Tom Gierling's mother) is in North Hills Hospital with stage 4 liver & colon cancer.
- **Charlotte Terry** (Nancy Pond's friend) is now at home.
- **Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie's son) saw a doctor last week to find out what's to happen next.

### **Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), James Barnes (Gladys' son), Nancy Bauer (Scott Watson' mother), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Mildred Pennington, Ronnie Vaughn (Dessie's son), (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- April 11-15: Southwest Lectures in Austin
- April 12: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- April 12: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- April 14: Ladies' Bible Class in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.
- April 25: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 3: Summertime Preaching
- June 15-17: Vacation Bible School
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Mary Bowen

### **Sunday evening:**

- Julie Roses

## **LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Glen Kelly
- Stan Selby

### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derroll Allen

## **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Denzil Myers
- Ty Harvey

## **P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Dean Webb
- Luke 8:31-38

## **P.M. SONG LEADER**

- Jerry Baker

## **LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Darrell Allen
- Robert Ruckman

## **COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Darrell Allen

## **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Richard Renfro
- Marvin Brown
- Harold Head

## **A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jeremy Hardegree
- John 14:1-14

## **A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Garl Latham

## **FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<b><u>Last Week</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Avg.</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>
Sun. Class	104	97	93	125
A.M. Worship	160	150	154	210
P.M. Worship	89	87	89	112
Wed. Class	83	89	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	22	26	35	35
Contribution	\$5381	\$6776	\$5568	\$5474

## **MISSIONS**

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India  
Willie 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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching  
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India