

February 1, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 7, 2010

a.m. *"The Supremacy of the Spiritual"*

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1-10

p.m. *"Spirit and Bride Say Come"*

Scripture: Revelation 22:16-21

God Is Real

Don Hatch

The destiny of man is not written in the stars but in the Lamb's book of life (Phil 4:3; Rev 20:11-15). The integral part of life, death and the resort of the soul demands investigation into the existence of God, creation of man and the nature of life after death. The Bible is here. It claims to be the mind of God in human language. It claims that God created the universe and man. It further claims to be inspired of God (2 Tim 3:16). Moses wrote the Genesis account and states God was the beginning of all things in heaven and on earth. When man seeks to find the answers for who am I, where am I going and what lies beyond, the Bible gives these answers. God is eternal. He has always been and will always be. True science is not in conflict with the Bible. It has never been and never will be. God is not seen or analyzed by scientific means. Honest, observant scientists see God in the entire universe. Only a "fool has said in his heart, there is no God" (Psm 14:1). God is set forth in the Bible as the One who formed and brought forth. He is Everlasting (Psm 90:1, 2). When the idea of God and an afterlife vanish, morals decay, immorality peaks and life itself is held in contempt. History is replete with illustrations of these sad states of mankind (Gen 5 & 6).

God is. Affirmations by Biblical writers abound. The heavens declare the handy work of God (Psm 19:1). The universe is not chaos. There is unity, order and harmony in the universe. What some call "randomness" has proven to be "order". The existence of a system with many other systems included within it demonstrates dependence, interdependence, symbiosis and other scientific laws. How did the universe begin? Was man there? How long has it existed? How long will it exist? Matter is not eternal. Matter began with God speaking it into existence. Man and his world had a beginning. Inspiration gave an account of creation to enable the faithful to have assurance and substantial reasons to believe (Heb 11:1, 2). The Bible affirms that there is a God and His word is inerrant. The Bible is here and claims to have come from the mind of God (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21). God is eternal and has always been, is now and will be forever. It is self-evident that something does not come from nothing. Therefore, there is a God. Truth is not in conflict with truth. God cannot be seen or analyzed but there is evidence in

the universe of a “first cause”, hence God. Historically mankind has known the God of the Bible and knows that He brought forth that which is seen (Rom 1:18-29). The laws which have been discovered refuse a “big bang” scenario because order does not come from chaos. We have order in our universe. God is the Creator, self-existing and the source of all other life (Jn 5:26; Psm 90:1-12). Life did not come from blind change.

God did not evolve from some infinitesimal form of life, nor has He allowed years of evolution to account for life. The Bible says He created all things full grown. Between brute beasts and man there is a difference. Between non-spirit and spirit there is a difference. Man has a spirit [image of God] within. Brutes do not have the image of God within. Those who deny this are obligated to demonstrate how life began, how it came from non-living matter and what is the soul and spirit of man. The basic laws of science attack the theory of evolution from all sides. Dead matter cannot bring forth life. Rejecting God requires a belief in spontaneous generation. Blind force cannot create life.

Matter did not create the mind of man, for nothing can be given to something else which it does not possess in the first place. It is unreasonable to think the worlds are eternal. All evidence points to the fact that the universe is dying. It is reasonable to say, “the universe is”. It cannot be self-existent. God is the uncaused cause of all things. Nothing exists without God. All things are sustained by God (Heb 1:1-5). If something is and something is not eternal there must be an eternal Being which caused something to exist. That which first existed had to have the potency and power to cause all other things to exist. This is the claim the Bible makes for God. Christians declare that God was in the beginning. He will always be. He alone is eternal. God is self-sufficient, underived and is the source of all things. The universe is not God. It is reasonable to believe in a self-existing Being (God) as the Creator. It is unreasonable to believe in self-existing non-living matter as the first cause (god). Creation cannot be identified as the Creator. God as Creator predates science. There are five things which are: **time, force, action, space** and **matter**. In the **beginning** – time; **God** - force; **created**- action; **heaven**- space and **earth**- matter. These five things prove existence. They also prove God (Gen 1:1, 2).

Christians accept creation by faith. Evolutionists also accept evolution by faith. Both have faith. Neither the Christians nor the evolutionists were there. It is more reasonable to believe in the Biblical evidence than to not believe. For centuries the Bible has been proven to be right in matters of God, man, sin, judgment, law, purpose for life and all matters pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of God who created us and guides us in all things virtuous (2 Pet 1:1-11).

The most reliable source for knowledge of God is the Bible. Sin will keep one from reading this book, but this book will keep one from sinning. “There is a God and He is alive” (Acts 17:22-31).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

This is a note from Dennis and Beth Johnson, Chennai, India. After you have read it, please look on the foyer bulletin board for the informational and professional looking report, Dennis references. He gives you and insight into the daily problems and challenges of a missionary.

Many good things are happening at the Chennai Teacher Training School as well as to the prior congregation that use to meet at the old building. Thank Don for keeping the bulletin board updated and orderly. Have a great week in the Lord! Richard Renfro

Recent Travels;

The congregation at South Wake North Carolina called us to hold a gospel meeting this past November, which was a great encouragement to us. There was a special request for all day classes on Saturday concerning the history of the English Bible with an emphasis on security that we have an accurate and faithful translation from the original manuscripts. Beth taught the ladies from "Noteworthy Wardrobes of the Bible" from nine to five while I taught classes for the men. The attendance was very good for all services and classes, and the overall spirit was high. Many of the members had us over to their homes for meals and general fellowship for all the members.

They are quite zealous for the gospel and the ways of Christ. While we were there in the States, we had several much-needed medical check-ups to be sure we are physically OK for another year. The reports were good. You know how long it takes to get in for doctors' appointments and ours were no exception. The time slipped by quickly and we are back with the students and teachers at Chennai Teacher Training School here in Chennai.

Because of predicted heavy rains during this year's monsoons, literally everything on the ground floor of our rent house had to be stored on the second floor while we were away. Neighbors told us that last year the floodwaters rose three feet inside every house on this street and threatened to do the same this year. Thankfully the water just covered most streets in our area and the houses were not flooded. Now comes the reorganization as everything is moved back into place and the mold caused by humidity is cleaned off.

There are still signs of the severe flooding that took place this year in other areas, but everything is slowly getting back to normal. The water destroyed many of the streets, which makes it rather difficult travelling anywhere except on the main roads. Matthew may have shown some of you a video of what the roads here are like, but they are far worse now. We live in hope that the local officials will resurface them soon!

Most of our students were able to arrive the day the semester started and, in spite of having travelled all night, they attended every class. No doubt they slept well Monday night! We have a total of 29 students for this semester and expect five new ones this week.

Brotherly, Dennis Johnson

Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions and Thanksgiving

"I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times; whereunto I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth, I lie not), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth" (1 Tim 2:1-7).

There are countless things to pray about. Paul expresses that Christians have four types of prayers. **Supplications** are humble requests and petitions. Supplications ask for benefits from the gracious hand of God to fulfill definite needs which are keenly felt. It manifests a complete

dependence upon God. It may ask for illness to be removed, over-ruling of current circumstances of distress and requests for help to make moral decisions. **Prayers** are general in nature. They are addresses directed to God wherein God engages in the personal affairs of a Christian's life by administering justice and mercy. **Intercessions** adopt the equivalent of conveying the needs of others to God and asking that He might intercede in the circumstances of the third party. It is rooted deeply in "love thy neighbor as thy self". **Thanksgiving** is the completed cycle of blessings received and honor to God from whom all blessings flow. These unbiased requests by a believer are more than random utterances. They manifest a consistent concern for all mankind. Let no one ever say that there is nothing to pray about or that he doesn't know how to pray for God's will to be accomplished. It is always in the will of God for Christians to pray for others! This is a great blessing which Christians can give at any time and in the most dire of circumstances. There are none who are unable to afford such a gift, nor can the affluent give a finer gift.

In many passages of New Testament Scriptures the church is commanded to pray (1 Thes 5:16-18). Praying for brethren and beseeching God to help them is the most humble of prayers. Yet it is the greatest prayer that can be uttered, "with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Eph 6:18). Praying for the lost and their salvation reminds us of our role in spreading the "Good New". The harvest remains great but the laborers are few. Praying for the laborers and harvest is of great benefit (Lk 10:2).

Praying for the sick has a time honored proof that God answers. "Pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (Jas 5:16). Those who are harmful to Christianity receive our prayers, "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you" (Lk 6:28). Those who sin a sin that is not unto death we can ask on their behalf (1 Jn 5:16). We are encouraged to find time to pray for those in high places that the Church might have a quiet and tranquil existence. The will of God is that we pray and offer these aspects of prayer to God through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Jamie & Megan Little

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

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 will meet on **February 9th** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Jan Smithson on Perseverance/Patience.

LECTURESHIP

Don't forget about the Shenandoah Lectureship February 12-15.

OPERATION TEDDY BEAR

Bear work in the Annex will take place every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month immediately following Ladies' Bible class.

THANK YOU

We love our Belt Line family so much. Thanks for the calls, visits, and especially the prayers. It's so very good to be back among you. Love, Melvin & Evelyn

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please change **Tom & Linda Head's** address in your book: 1306 N. Rogers Rd.; Irving, TX 75061.

RESPONSE

Julie Roses responded to the Lord's invitation last week for prayers to be a better example to her children and to live the way God wants her to.

39'er BREAKFAST

Our teens have invited us to the annual breakfast that they provide in the Annex on **Saturday, March 6th** at 8:00 a.m.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

Just a reminder that the Christ's Haven van will be by to pick up our groceries on **Tuesday, February 16th**.

THOSE TO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

Lord's Table (front): Mike Batot, James Gilliam, Denzil Myer, Stan Selby, Jerry Baker, Marvin Brown, Grady Fowler, Rob Farmer (**back:** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Derrol Allen, Bill Paschall, Brandon Howard

p.m. Marvin Brown, Glen Kelly

Card pickup: a.m. Cole & Toby Howard; **p.m.** Nathan & Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly; Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparers: Brenda Bryant

WITH SYMPATHY

Carolyn Montgomery's aunt passed away yesterday morning; arrangements are not known at this time.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Debra Alonzo** was released from the hospital last Friday.
- Evelyn Armstrong** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- Grady Fowler** underwent successful surgery last Friday.
- Elizabeth Garrison** had a procedure on her back on Monday that needed 22 stitches.
- Jamie Little** will undergo surgery tomorrow (2/2) at noon at Harris Methodist Hospital/Southlake.
- Lyda McAlister** requests prayer for an ongoing infection in hopes that new medication will do the trick.
- Kati Mimms** is still undergoing tests; she has now developed pain in other areas.
- Everett Newton** may be going back to Houston for treatment; he has now had more than 40 units of blood.
- Doris Selby** has been ill at home.
- Alyssa Alcala** (the Henry's great granddaughter) was taken to the ER with severe stomach pain.
- Tom Gierling** (the Renfro's son-in-law) was hit in a car accident.
- Amy Harris** (the Henry's neighbor) has been diagnosed with a severe heart problem.
- Wadena McAlister** (Lyda's sister-in-law) underwent heart bypass surgery in Temple on Monday

Continuous Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), John Williams (Bobbie Williams' son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- February 7: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- February 7: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 9: Ladies' Bible class at 9:30 a.m.
- February 12: Shenandoah Lectureship
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Jerry Baker
- Marvin Brown
- Grady Fowler
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Brandon Howard

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Garl Latham

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
Zechariah 4:1-10

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Dean Webb

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Richard Renfro
- Revelation 22:16-21

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Garl Latham

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Marvin Brown
- Glen Kelly

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	98	88	87	125
A.M. Worship	159	151	144	210
P.M. Worship	86	86	80	112
Wed. Class	79	79	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	24	27	19	35
Contribution	\$4755	\$5823	\$5589	\$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
- 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