

**September 8, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**September 14, 2008**

a.m. *"A Light to the Gentiles"*

Scripture: Acts 15:7-11

p.m. *"Mystery of Godliness"*

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:14-16

**God Is Behind The Plan**

Don Hatch

God's scheme of redemption establishes His righteousness. When history has run its course and time is no more God will still be there arrayed in all His glorious power and authority (1 Cor 15:24-28). God was before the plan, relentlessly sustained His plan, providentially and miraculously worked out His plan. In the beginning God's mystery was slowly unfolded for man's redemption. Characteristically God was merciful. If He had not been merciful there would have been no plan of salvation. God's plan was for man to be the caretaker of the earth, God's creation, living in fellowship with Him. God is holy but man tragically was subtly beguiled into sin and it is not possible for a righteous God to continue in fellowship with sinful man (2 Cor 6:14-19). God had every reason to destroy man, but there was something in God's plan that caused Him to seek and save man. The plan of salvation was via God's mercy and grace. God has not dealt with man according to what was deserved. God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounds in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with mankind according to their sins and iniquities. God's immeasurable mercy is higher than the heavens, as far as the East is from the West. He is compassionate and mindful of man. Man is like a flower that flourishes and passes away. God is righteous and abideth forever (Psm 103:8-18). There is no merit in man which could call Jesus from glory to the earth and die for mankind. He came because man could not merit forgiveness on his own. Jesus gives a right standing with God to those who are faithfully obedient. The love of God is manifested to us in that He sent His only begotten Son that man might live through Him (1 Jn 4:9, 10). We know that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who though He was rich, for man's sake became poor, that man might have the riches of God bestowed upon them (2 Cor 8:8).

In mercy God granted all blessings unto man. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount He points out the Father's providential blessings. The list of blessings is great. These blessings are accrued to men who seek the favor of God, reaping the spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph 1:3). God gives the essentials of life to sinners in order that they might have opportunity to repent and thus be in favor with the Father. The blessing of being called "children of God" is because of obedient faith and Christ's sacrifice (1 Jn 3:1, 2). The scriptures urge men and women everywhere to present themselves before God as a living and holy sacrifice (Rom 12:1-5). God's mercy permits man to present himself to God. God delights in showing mercy to mankind. Who is like God? Who pardons iniquities? Who retains His anger and waits upon man to repent? Who is full of compassion and casts man's sins into the depths of the sea (Mal 7:18, 19). The call of God is for man to forsake his unrighteous ways and return to God and He will abundantly pardon (Isa 55:7). God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He would

rather that the wicked turn from their ways and lives (Ezek 33:11). God planned the scheme of redemption and is gracious to His creation.

The Bible exalts the wisdom of God and tells man to go to it for understanding. Wisdom's profit is greater than silver, fine gold and precious jewelry. In it is found long life, riches, honor, pleasant ways, peace and the hope of the tree of life (Prov 3:13-18). Acquisition of wisdom teaches man not to turn away from wisdom for it watches over the soul. It is to be embraced and worn like the victor's garland, as a crown of hope and beauty (Prov 4:5-10). Whatsoever God has given demonstrates wisdom. He founded the earth on wisdom and understanding. By God's knowledge the deep was broken up and the skies were filled with dew (Prov 3:19). Wisdom was in the creation and in God's perpetual providence. God's wisdom is beyond that of man. Man must admit that God's wisdom is supreme. God can search and try man. God can know man's goings and comings. God knows every language and tongue. God knows of death and where the spirit of man goes. Sheol is not the end of man. Man will take the wings of the morning to the realm of God (Psa 139:1-12). God devised the plan and worked His plan with perfection.

The plan of salvation revealed to the prophets commends the wisdom of God. God chose to hide various things concerning salvation until the last dispensation (1 Cor 2:6-16; Eph 3:1-13; 1 Pet 1:3-12). The secret things belonged to God but in due season He revealed them (Deut 29:29). God has granted all things that pertain unto life by His knowledge and glory (2 Pet 1:3-11). Now the elements of God's plan are fully revealed and we see the wondrous glory of how God redeemed man by the Man, Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to take away the sins of the world when they respond to God in faithful obedience. Wisdom reflected in the plan of salvation is how God can be just and forgiving at the same time. Mercy which disregards justice would not be mercy. Scripture teaches that the only way God could be merciful in His dealings with sinful man was for Jesus to bear the sins of man upon the cross of Calvary (Isa 53:1-12; Rom 3:23-28). Jesus was publically displayed as the propitiation for mankind and demonstrated God's plan of salvation that He might justify those who have faith and are obedient to Christ. God is just and in His final judgment He will render to all according to their deeds (Rom 2:6; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim 4:1-5).

## **FAMILY CARE**

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

In about six weeks, we will be having our Gospel Meeting which has been planned for quite sometime. When the elders planned a Gospel Meeting, we had in mind for the entire congregation plus friends and visitors to be in attendance. It is going to take everyone participating to make this a success. If we only have those who attend on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings present, our goal will not be reached. Let us all plan and make this Gospel Meeting the success it can be. Prayerfully consider attending every service.

Who is a Christian? The Bible only makes the determination! A Christian is one that has been born again into the kingdom (John 3:3-5). When one is begotten by the spirit through the word (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18), and born of water (Ephesians 5:26), he is converted into the kingdom (Matthew 18:3), and is a Christian.

Christians are those who have had their past sins forgiven. Christ says that He forgives sins when one repents and is baptized (Acts 2:38; 3:19). Have you complied with these conditions that your sins might be washed away by the blood of Christ?

One is a Christian who has obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine (Romans 6:17-18). Doctrine or teaching is important for we must obey a certain form or pattern of doctrine to be saved. One must obey the truth to be saved (1 Peter 1:22), and if one obeys the wrong doctrine (error), he will be lost (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). We must study and make sure we have obeyed the true doctrine.

A Christian is one that is IN Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). One must be in Christ to have access to all the spiritual blessings, for all are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). One must be in Christ to be saved, for salvation is in Christ (2 Timothy 2:10). To be in the body of Christ is to be in the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, all Christians are in Christ's body, the church (Acts 2:47). The ONLY way one can get into Christ, where there is salvation, is by baptism (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27).

Remember, meeting together with fellow saints is a spiritual blessing that should be obeyed and practiced continually. Have a great week serving our true and living God and keeping His commandments. Pray for our sick and shut-ins!

~Dean Webb

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Cause Greater Than Yourself**

Christian character exemplifies intensity of thought and spiritual enthusiasm. Changes worked within Christians create an abiding love for God and His creation (Eph 2:11-23). They have a calm and levelheaded outlook on life knowing God is in charge (2 Tim 1:12-14). Their minds are busy on the good which can be accomplished in God's name (Gal 6:1-10). Wisdom adorns them and they seek to have a servant's heart and life (Jas 1:5-8; 3:13-38). Strength and faithfulness supplants doubts and fears while being active in a cause greater than themselves.

If you want to be around good people whose lives are committed to a cause greater than themselves work and worship with a faithful church of Christ which promotes Christ and His church. Develop your life into a spiritual commitment. Worship with us each Sunday and grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Pet 3:18).

~Don Hatch; article to appear in the September 11, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### *Every Member is Important*

Some of the Christians at Corinth had a poor self image. They were “ungifted” and felt inferior to those who possessed the showy miraculous gifts of speaking in foreign languages. They felt “left out” in the church and “unimportant”.

Paul used an analogy to deal with this problem. The church, he said, is the body of Christ. Every Christian is a member of this spiritual body; just as the arm and leg are members of our physical body. They are connected and interdependent. The poor self-perception of the “ungifted” is reflected in the text, *“Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body...because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body”* (1 Corinthians 12:15).

Paul affirmed that every member of the body is important. Every Christian has a place and is needed. To prove this, he asked three rhetorical questions: *“If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?...And if they were all one member, where would the body be?”* (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Every member was important at Corinth. It is the same today. Those members who perform “unglamorous” jobs are necessary. Those with physical and mental abilities are important. Paul said, *“The members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary”* (1 Corinthians 12:22).

Instead of being envious or feeling inferior because of our own limitations, we should rejoice that we are all a part of the body of Christ. Our concern should be **to do what we can with what we have where we are.**

~ Jimmy Jividen; Gospel Preacher in Abilene, TX

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, September 14, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

#### **Sunday, September 21, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Nancy Pond, Roberta Price, Thomas Rathbun, Max Melton

**Back foyer:** Jamie & Megan Little

## 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 begin again this **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

### FOSTERS' HOME

We received notice that we have extra time to fill the green coin cans; please now return them to the building by **September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks!

### TEACHER APPRECIATION BANQUET

A Teacher Appreciation Banquet is being planned for all Bible Class Teachers. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm** in the Annex. More details to come...

### LADIES

The **Sunday afternoon** Ladies' Class will meet in newly refurbished room #107 from now on at 4:45 p.m.

Beverly McKey will speak at the Keller Church of Christ Ladies' 'Intreat' this **Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 9 a.m. If you'd like to caravan, meet at the building at 8:30 a.m.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **September 16<sup>th</sup>** in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.

We have been invited to the Birdville Church of Christ Ladies' Day and Luncheon on **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 a.m. 'til 1 p.m. Sarah Fallis will speak on "Recipes of the Heart". See the invitation posted on the back bulletin board for more information.

Christ's Haven is conducting a Fall Women's Event for "Haven's Heroes" on **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Cacharel Grand Ballroom in Arlington. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

### GOSPEL MEETING

**Pray for the success of our upcoming Gospel Meeting with Robert Dodson, October 26-29. Mark your calendar & bring a friend!**

## UPCOMING NEIGHBORING EVENTS

Christ's Haven for Children will host an annual Open House on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** from 10a.m. 'til 2 p.m. Many activities are planned & a complimentary BBQ lunch will be provided. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Bob Bingham** is scheduled for a procedure & exam on 9/9, then a CAT scan on 9/11 & another procedure to follow.
- **Billie Gilliam** will have an injection in her back today (9/8) & therapy on Wednesday.
- **Jeanene Heilman** fell yesterday & spent some time in the ER. She's back at work today.
- **Jack & Frances LaFerney** struggle with back & other health problems.
- **Elsie Nanney** is also having back & hip problems & is scheduled for treatments.
- **Maxine Prude** fell & required 6 stitches over her left eye.
- **Ester Fowler** (Bob Bingham's sister) is in the hospital in Odessa.
- **Tim Fowler** (Grady & BC's son) is in Baylor/Irving, rm. #303 on oxygen.
- **The Mohsen's** (missionaries in France) request prayers. Rose is doctoring a skin condition & Roland is preparing for a trip to Africa.
- **Hope Moore** (Joy Webb's cousin) is hospitalized in Georgia with spinal meningitis.
- **JB Paul** (missionary in India) is very weak & ill; they almost lost him until they did a balloon procedure on his heart which saved him.
- **Earl Scott** (Mary's son) is undergoing surgery today (9/8) in Conroe for an aortic aneurysm.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- Sept 13: Ladies' 'Intreat' at Keller Church of Christ; speaker, Beverly McKey
- Sept 14: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Sept 16: Ladies Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- Sept. 23: Work on bears in the Annex after LBC
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Samantha Harvey

### **Sunday evening:**

- Sandy Hall

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Stan Selby
- Robert Ruckman
- Marvin Brown
- John Mayer
- Denzil Meyers

**Rear Table**

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

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Dean Webb
- Rob Farmer
- Jeremy Hardegree

**SCRIPTURE READING**

- Mike Batot
- Acts 15:7-11

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Melvin Armstrong
- Tom Prince

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Bill Matthews
- Brandon Thomason

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Ty Harvey

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

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	76	98	94	125
A.M. Worship	150	165	166	210
P.M. Worship	85	90	94	112
Wed. Class	106	100	96	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$5467	\$5265	\$5382	\$5400

***MISSIONS***

- 21<sup>st</sup> 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