

June 23, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

June 29, 2008

a.m. *"The Folly of Being Easily Satisfied"*

Scripture: Philippians 3:1-7

p.m: *Fifth Sunday Singing*

Heavenward Minded

Don Hatch

Upon accepting and being obedient to Jesus Christ and His commandments one is made to enjoy the newness of life (Rom 6:1-11; Eph 2:11-23; 2 Cor 5:17). Keeping, unremittingly, the heavenward goal sets the heart to realizing one's destiny of living forever with God requires faithful obedience. Reception of salvation from Christ reminds one that the world is but the vestibule of heaven. All are but pilgrims and sojourners here (1 Pet 2:11, 12). No one can continue to live in favor with Christ who does not remember that salvation is a journey to a final resort for the soul. Eternal life is granted to the redeemed but can be lost (1 Tim 1:18-20; 2 Tim 4:10; Gal 5:4). Assurance lies in walking in the light as Father and Son walk in the light (1 Jn 1:1-10; Jas 1:17). Light is metaphorical of holiness (1 Pet 1:13-25). Seeking things above depends upon setting the mind to live like God's child while upon the earth. No one seeks heaven who does not think about it.

The system of values is arranged when one's mind is on things above rather than earthly. We should be concerned about life that now is as well as that which is to come. A heavenly destiny interests and engages spiritually minded people. Pursuit of betterment and improvement is natural to man. Pursuing heavenly goals does not eliminate nor make one indifferent to progressive removal of evil in each generation. Some become indignant at spending time in heavenly pursuits as opposed to physical needs of mankind. Benevolence is a doctrine fully displayed in the gospel along side of spiritual activities. They are both important (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Cor 16:1, 2; 2 Cor 8 & 9; 1 Tim 5:1-16; 6:3-10). The work and worship of Christians is manifested in the New Testament. Christians must find employment for the inward and outward man (2 Cor 4:14-16). Christians are comforters as God is a Comforter (2 Cor 1:1-15). As we live in this world we seek to make life worth the living. Responsibilities as family members, workmen and other obligations must be cared for day by day (Eph 5:22-33; 6:1-4; 1 Cor 7). Innocent pleasures are enjoyed during one's earthly sojourn. Entanglement in the world is not innocence (2 Tim 2:1-13). Secular forces and materialism pose threats to spiritual living and welfare. Christians maintain their lives with a proper attitude toward heaven.

Jesus Christ is the perfect example for not losing sight of the heavenly kingdom. Jesus, for the joy set before Him, endured looking toward heaven (Heb 12:1-5). He never lost sight of why He was here, whom He served, what He was to accomplish, when He was to manifest His integrity and how it was to be completed. Jesus' parables would be valueless if He had not lived a spiritual life. Jesus demonstrated that individuals can proceed along the course of eating, merriment and joyful activities. Jesus demonstrated that even a lily of the field caught His attention (Mat 6:28). Christians must not maintain an attitude toward the world which contradicts a relationship with God. Jesus never lost sight of normal pursuits of family. At His

death He was concerned about His mother (Jn 19:25-27). However, Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10). Whatever involvements He had in this world were subservient to His mission.

Finding the mind of Christ is establishing a balance in relationship to the earth and heaven. The hither-world [this world] and other-world [heaven] were truly formed in Jesus' mind (Phil 2:1-12). Responsible followers of Christ realize the tragedies of life and glory of heaven. Their immediate business is serving and glorifying God by throwing their entire life into wholehearted efforts to please the Lord. Christians seek first things first (Mat 6:33). The paramount endeavor of a Christian is choosing the best for the soul (Lk 10:41, 42). Christians lay up treasures in heaven realizing eventually that all this world has will be consumed with fire (2 Pet 3:1-8). All will be lost but that which is done in Jesus' name. Christians have a common citizenship in heaven (Phil 3:20). It will make no difference if one is Jew, Gentile, male, female, free, bondsman, barbarian or Scythian when they are in Christ for all are one in Him (Gal 3:27; Eph 2:11-18). The Christian will receive a crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:1-5). A heavenly home is prepared for the saint who prepares himself while upon the earth. Confessing that we are strangers, pilgrims and sojourners, we like "just men made" holy, looking for a better country, a heavenly one where God will not be ashamed to call us His children (Heb 11:13-16; 2:12; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1).

The confession of a faithful Christian is that eternal citizenship is greater than all. They view themselves as marching to the new earth, Mt Zion and the New Jerusalem where they will spend eternity with Jesus who allowed them to be a part of the church of the Firstborn (Heb 12:22-29). They can never find themselves fully free from stress or anxiety, at home here on the earth. They rejoice with those who share their common faith, love, hope, joy, peace and expectation. They look for a city "foursquare" whose Maker and Builder is their God (Rev 21:16; Heb 11:10).

"Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet 2:11, 12).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Vacation Bible School this past week was a total success. Good attendance, good teachers and the Bible was taught. No better combination can be arranged, so our heart felt thanks to all who gave a helping hand. Working together accomplishes great things and this is what happened at Belt Line Road this past week.

In Psalms 18:1-2 "I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower". Whenever we are feeling troubled, alone, or helpless, it's nice to remember that Christians have a mighty, all powerful, source of strength in God. In this

world, we have to adjust to all different kinds of happenings and situations. We need to always remember that with God, we are safe and constantly under his protection. We don't have to understand why negative things happen around us; we just have to have a strong faith that this too will pass, and know that our Heavenly Father is always in control. We need to pray for courage, strength, and God's protection. When we share our burdens with others it will help us deal with our daily concerns.

We must keep in remembrance and share with others that in order for us to receive God's spiritual blessings, we must be in Christ, and keep God's commandments. In our article last week we went to great length with scriptures explaining that "in Christ" is our only hope of eternal salvation. Therefore, we must follow the instructions to be in Christ. In order for us to be fed with the Sheep means we must be among the Sheep at feeding time. Our God is understanding and only those physically able are expected at every assembly time. Regular attendance is very important and we must never forget that.

Belt Line is a blessed congregation! With good faithful teachers, we ought to strive to hear their lessons. Read Proverbs 2:1-9.

Have a great week serving God! Remember and pray for our sick and shut-ins!

~Dean Webb

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Silence Is Compromise

It is cowardly not to stand for truth. Knowing what is true and right is not enough. There must be a commitment to truth. We can know the truth and the truth will make us free (Jn 8:32). Worshiping God must be in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23). Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6). The work of the Holy Spirit was to make mankind know the truth and guide them into all religious truth. Everyone who hears Jesus hears truth. Jesus came to allow mankind to know the truth about discipleship. Some change the truth for a lie (Rom 1:25). Love rejoices in truth and not iniquity (1 Cor 13:6).

Silence is a compromise when one knows the truth and will not speak out concerning it. All it takes for error to prevail is for those who know the truth to say nothing. Fear of disapproval is the first step in the downward path of compromise. Fear not, God will not forsake His own (Heb 13:5).

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the June 27, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Vacation Bible School 2008

We want to thank the congregation for your great support of the Vacation Bible School 2008. Everything was a great success. Those who were at the heart of the effort worked as teachers, leaders and in refreshments, registration, song leading and photography. These who seem to never grow weary in well doing showed their loving attention to details and compelled the

children to return each evening. From the smallest to the most senior the trustworthiness of the Bible was stressed.

The study was a compelling overview of the creation week. Each heard of God and His work. The class rooms were a delight to enter and study in. The children had countless illustrations of God and creation. Everyone worked hard to encourage the students to believe in God as the Creator. The classes allowed students to investigate and approach the Bible with a clear mind divorced from prejudice or preconceptions. The Bible was presented as a reliable resource of God and His creation.

Enthusiasm mounted each evening and climaxed with the presentation of two books to the children who brought the most guests. The adult class grew as well. We had 97 students and workers on Monday, 104 on Tuesday and 114 on Wednesday.

We thank each for their part in the Vacation Bible School and are looking forward to Vacation Bible School, 2009.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, June 29, 2008

Front foyer: Paul & Bernice Guisinger; Jamie & Megan Little

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, June 29, 2008

Front foyer: Grady & BC Fowler; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

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.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Summer Youth Series will be held on **Tuesday, July 1st** at the Birdville Church of Christ in Haltom City. Please meet at the building at 5:30 p.m. & see Beverly McKey or Melissa Allen with questions.

THANK YOU

Thank you to my brothers & sisters in Christ for the calls, cards, & prayers during the time of my accident & recovery. Jane Easter

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Our theme this year is “**Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining**”. Next week’s Wednesday evening worship, **July 2nd**, will be a lesson entitled “There Is One Hope” brought to us by Brother Bob Stapleton. The scripture reference is 2 Peter 1:1-11.

WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower honoring Justin Hardegree & his bride-elect, Annelise Garner on **Sunday, July 13th** from 2pm-4pm in the Annex. Their chosen colors are green & yellow; they are registered at Target & Bed, Bath, & Beyond. If you are interested in contributing to a group gift, please see Beverly McKey.

WEDDING BELLS

Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Garner request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Annelise Kathleen to Justin Paul Hardegree son of Mr. and Mrs. Derrol Allen Saturday, the nineteenth of July Two thousand and eight at two o’clock in the afternoon Plymouth Park Church of Christ.

BULLETIN BOARD

Be sure to check out the bulletin board closest to the front foyer in the hallway for pictures of last week’s Vacation Bible School! A huge thanks to ALL involved; children & adults alike benefited from this blessed time!

CHRIST’S HAVEN

Twenty-eight bags of groceries were picked up for the children at Christ’s Haven; they always comment on how generous we are...THANK YOU!

Also, a set of keys were found in a bag while they were unloading at the home, but they do not know from which congregation. If you’re missing some, please call the office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- √**Bob Bingham** tires out easily now; he’s home resting.
- √**Fauna Garrett** is now home in the nursing home.
- √**Mary Lou Tibbetts** is in Baylor/Irving, room #419 for tests.
- √**The Mohsens** (missionaries in France) are undergoing tests & various other health issues.
- √**Linda Nichols** (Tim McAlister’s mother-in-law) is not doing well.
- √**Brother Paul** (missionary in India) is still weak.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bradley, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Jimmy & Betty Douglass (relatives of Billie Prince & Linda Head), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Bette Yearwood (Becky Henry's sister), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- July 1: Summer Youth Series; Birdville, Haltom City
- July 2: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching, Bob Stapleton
- July 6: Cisco Junior Youth Camp
- July 13: Wedding shower for Hardegree/Garner in Annex, 2-4pm
- July 19: Hardegree & Garner wedding; Plymouth Park Church of Christ

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Mary Bowen

Sunday evening:

- Debra Alonzo

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Ty Harvey
- Dorris Walker
- Garl Latham
- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Bill Matthews
- Darrell Allen

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bill Paschall
- Virgil LaFerney
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Garl Latham

SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
Philippians 3:1-7

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Melvin Armstrong

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Stan Selby

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	91	91	96	125
A.M. Worship	160	147	168	210
P.M. Worship	83	104	93	112
Wed. Class	100	83	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$4704	\$6408	\$5411	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st 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