

March 23, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

March 29, 2009

a.m. "Cost of Discipleship"

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28

p.m. *Fifth Sunday Singing*

The Danger of Satan's Lies

Don Hatch

Satan has made it his employment to ravage Adam's race. The apparatuses of Satan's are varied implements in order that he might maintain his nefarious activities. Ignorance is a mainstay, for if Satan can keep mankind from acknowledging the truth they are useless in the service of God. Satan uses scripture to appeal to mankind, but changes them to suit his despicable end. God said to Adam and Eve "...but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen 3:3). Satan simply inserted the words "Ye shall not surely die". Changing the truth has served Satan well (Gal 1:3-10). He has been a liar from the beginning. The warning that Satan is a fearful adversary must be sounded. Some pseudo-religious groups are fascinated with speaking to the dead and thrust themselves into spheres where those eager participants constantly refer to the psychic saying they can call forth the dead to speak from the beyond. They claim to raise the veil of silence which separates the living from the dead. Some seek knowledge of those who have gone beyond wishing to peer into the grave out of idle curiosity. A great number of people seek to learn the psychic experience of comfort or lack of comfort of the dead. Such interest peaks and wanes. A recrudescence of interest is seen in the magazines and television shows which popularize it. Those who prey on the unwary bring much sorrow to the living. These are like foul parasites that are odious because they feed on the tragedy of death. They offer false hope foreordained to disappointment and despair. Countless groups claim to communicate with the dead.

Those who claim to be able to speak to the dead do so with manipulation, preying on the grief of a loved one, with tricks and fraud. Countless documentaries have demonstrated that these slight-of-hand counterfeits deceive and slowly hoodwink their victims with lies and misdirection. Literally thousands of honest people ask the question "can the living speak to the dead"? Charlatans, tricksters and spiritualists say yes! In all the annals and vast research there has not been a proven case where the "medium" spoke with the dead. Necromancers, clairvoyants and mediums as well as in spiritualist churches the practitioners of spiritualism conduct séances through a "medium". Through engaging in spiritual exercises they claim to receive a message from beyond the grave with details for the living. These details will be addresses, particular illnesses and notable events in the life of the living, followed by

outstanding statements about life, death and beyond. There is a large consortium of Progressive Spiritualist churches.

The attitude of the Bible is hostile toward divination, consulter of familiar spirits, augury, astronomy, interpretation of dreams, witchcraft, wizards, palm reading and reading tarot cards (Deut 18:10-20; Lev 19:31; Isa 8:19; 19:3; 1 Chron 10:13). Underlying all these methods is the belief that superhuman, spiritual beings (gods, spirits) possess secrets and certain knowledge desired by mankind wherein under certain conditions they are willing to dispense it. The word "divination" has the notion that information comes by "deity", implying spirits or no-gods can ultimately reveal the destinies and future of those who are enlightened. The practice of augury [watching the flight of birds], belomancy [throwing arrows], hydromancy [divining water], sortilege [casting lots] and dreams [forecasting the future] are not of God.

Modern magic is the accepted term describing the bringing about of results beyond human power by superhuman agencies. It means the securing of special knowledge of the future and implies that something or some one grants this understanding. The Bible's attitude toward magic is clearly hostile (Deut 18; 2 Kg 21; 2 Chron 33). Magic is unmistakably illegitimate for it presumes powers not granted by God. The magicians of Egypt claimed to have such power and were thwarted by Moses (Ex 7-11). These magicians could not perform superhuman feats. Potency of magical words were mere utterances (Num 22-24). Balaam states clearly he could neither bless nor curse unless it came from Jehovah. Many other passages point out the ineptness of such profane claims (Gen 12:3; Ex 12:32; Jg 17:2; 2 Sam 21:3; Job 3:8). Influences of charms and powers of plants [mandrakes] are clearly superstitions called into question by God (2 Kg 9:22; Nah 3:4; Mal 3:5). Sorceresses were condemned to death as witches (Ex 22:18). Josiah's reform removed the household objects which were considered charms (2 Kg 23:24).

If such things do not come from the Lord there is only one answer as to their origin, Satan. "And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards, that chirp and that mutter: should not a people seek their God? On behalf of the living should they seek unto the dead? To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no mourning for them. And they shall pass through it, sore distressed and hungry; and it shall come to pass that, when they shall be hungry they shall fret themselves, and curse by their king and by their God and turn their face upward; and they shall look unto the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and into thick darkness they shall be driven away" (Isa 8:19-22).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Have you ever noticed an old oak tree as you are driving down the road? All of us can surely say that we have. But have we really taken a close look? The next time you observe that old oak tree reaching for the sky, notice the message that it is conveying. Yes, that old tree is a living testimony. Its branches bear witness of the harsh winds of many a storm that has tried to sway them in various directions. Its bark exposes the countless beatings from the rain, hail and blistering sun. Yet, every year that old tree can sustain life and can even provide a haven of shelter for those that seek refuge.

How can it do all of these things? The answer lies in the root system. Without an adequate root system, survival for that old oak tree would be impossible.

You know, to some degree, we are all like that old tree. We all need strength to endure the hard trials that come in life from time to time. Let us look at some of the scriptures that talk about enduring.

- *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”* **2 Tim. 2:3**
- *“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”* **James 5:11**
- *“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”* **2 Tim. 2:10**
- *“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.”* **2 Tim. 2:12**
- *“If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.”* **1 Cor. 9:12**

May we always endure the cross of Christ.

~ Jerry McKey

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; and on his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish” (Psm 1:1-6).

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

“Prepare to Meet Thy God”

“So two or three cities wandered unto one city to drink water, and were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: the multitude of your gardens and your vineyards and your fig-trees and your olive-trees hath the palmer-worm devoured: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have carried away your horses; and I have made the stench of your camp to come up even into your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah. I have overthrown cities among you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a brand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel; and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought; that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the Earth-Jehovah, the God of hosts, is his name” (Amos 4:10-13).

Death and taxes are unassailable items which most will meet. However, if we remain until Jesus comes we know that all will give an account for the deeds done in the body, good or bad (2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:12). The most flagrant and vile individuals who hold God and His word in contempt must one day stand before God (2 Tim 4:1, 2). The best admonition is “prepare to meet thy God!”

God created man and set in order that which will bring mankind into fellowship with Him. Those who have fellowship with God have renounced the hidden things of darkness (2 Cor 4:2; 6:14-18). There is a God in which to live, move and have our being (Eph 4:6). The God of creation knows man’s thoughts and actions (Heb 4:12, 13). He knows obedience and pretense. Amos saw the land of Israel as being filled with darkness. The church has been delivered from darkness to be the light of the world (Mat 5: 13-16). Mankind’s thoughts and actions make the world a dark place. Darkness is synonymous with service to the devil (Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 2:9-11). Darkness is a place of disbelief and disorder. Christians have escaped to live in the light (1 Jn 1:5-10).

With an impending time of scrutiny of each it is wise to consider what would one give in exchange for the soul (Mat 16:26). God gave His Son to redeem and save us (Rom 5:1-10). Being in Jesus assures that if we live until He comes we have the hope of the soul. If we die before He comes we have the assurance of the resurrection (1 Thes 4:13-19).

Preparing to meet God takes place while upon the earth. It is appointed once for man to die and then the judgment (Heb 9:27). It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God while practicing “willful sins” (Heb 10:26-31). Being in Christ prepares us to enter into God’s presence (Gal 3:27). Judgment is sure and final. As Amos said, “**prepare to meet thy God**”. Preparing is a daily activity wherein a soul redeemed pledges to love God with all the heart, soul and mind (Mat 22:34-40).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, April 5, 2009

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross; 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 meet at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **March 31st** at 9:30 a.m.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

Our Summertime Preaching sessions will begin on Wednesday evening, **June 3rd**, with Perry Cotham as our speaker.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The schedule is set for Vacation Bible School for **June 15-17** with this year's theme being about "Worship". Make plans to bring your friends & children to learn about this important topic.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

Summer Camp at Lake Cisco is free of charge for those kids who'd like to attend. Jr. Camp is set for **July 5-9**. Sr. Camp is set for **July 19-24**. Registration forms will be available soon – around the first of April.

TEEN WORK DAY

Be sure to get your name on the list if you need our Teens' help around your home on **Saturday, April 4th**. See Darrell Allen, John Mayer, or Ty Harvey.

WITH SYMPATHY

Percy Henry (Hank's brother) passed away over the weekend; services are pending at the time of this writing.

PRAYER CONCERNS

•**Mike Batot** is ill at home with the flu.

•**Grady Fowler** will face surgery sometime soon.

- Billie Gilliam** is taking radiation & will undergo another biopsy tomorrow (3/24).
- Linda Matthews** will see a surgeon tomorrow about a small lesion on her kidney.
- Tom Prince** is home & not feeling well.
- Myrtle Wade** successfully underwent tests last week & is awaiting results.
- James Barnes** (Gladys' son) suffered a heart attack & is in Arlington Memorial. He will need bypass surgery in a few weeks.
- Pati Marik** (Marcella Porter's friend) has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Charlotte Terry** (Nancy Pond's friend) remains in Baylor/Irving, CCU #6 off of the ventilator & seems to be stabilizing.
- Mike** (Linda Matthews' brother) is having heart & kidney testing today in Houston.
- Kaydi Stone** (Cindy Vaughn's 5-mo. old great niece) is in Cook's/Ft. Worth with the very dangerous type A flu.
- Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie Ross' son) has a mass on his kidney & is waiting for results of a catscan.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Gardean Latham, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (Scott Watson' mother), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend), Natasha & Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- March 29: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- March 29: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 31: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- April 4: Teen work day
- April 11-15: Southwest Lectures in Austin
- 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:

- Shellie Pearce

Sunday evening:

- Betty Ruckman

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- John Mayer

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Rob Farmer

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
Matthew 16:21-28

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Marvin Brown
- Roy Thomas

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- 5th Sunday Singing Schedule

P.M. SONG LEADER

- 5th Sunday Singing Schedule

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Stan Selby
- Bill Paschall

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	88	91	92	125
A.M. Worship	147	143	153	210
P.M. Worship	85	87	90	112
Wed. Class	66	69	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	21	-	32	35
Contribution	\$4426	\$4920	\$5482	\$5474

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Willie Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Glen & KuitTattersall – 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