

February 2, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 8, 2009

a.m. "*The Word Became Flesh*"

Scripture: John 1:1-17

p.m. "*The Old Paths*"

Scripture: Jeremiah 6:16-21

Questionable Ecstatic Utterances

Don Hatch

Ecstatic utterances are common among religious people in the world. Is it Christian? It is sometimes called "speaking in tongues". The phenomenon is not confined to minor sects but is finding its way into a broad section of "those under the tent of Christendom". It touches lives from the rich to those in abject poverty. Millions of devotees can be found. It leaps over all boundaries of race, creed or culture. The broader scope of this phenomenon is not merely the practice of such but what does it do to the credibility of Christianity. Is it approved of by God? Is it that which gives God the glory? No one can have contact with this without some prejudice. Both prejudices are viewing a subjective experience which has a divisive power. Examining this in light of the Scriptures is the only way the issue can be solved.

Christ, His word [the New Testament] and the apostolic doctrine must be the final religious authority. The Scriptures are complete and final for all Christian teachings.

Ecstatic speech is different than a learned language. It is a frenzied inarticulate jargon with prating jabber whose character is near speech but remains unintelligible utterances. It is not understood.

This spontaneous utterance is incomprehensible and random. It demonstrates a loss of self-consciousness and self-control. These things are common with ecstatic tongues; the speaker is in a state of emotional exaltation, spontaneously sayings that which must be interpreted, as it is not understood by the speaker, listeners do not understand and yet it sounds like a language. Those who "speak in tongues-ecstatic utterances" have never been able to enter another culture speaking in their language. Countless attempts have been made. Those who wish to converse with others in their languages must first learn the language. Such was not the case in the first century on the day of Pentecost.

Those who had the ability to speak in tongues in the first century were speaking languages, not ecstatic utterances. It would have been valueless to go among the nations and say things which neither the listener nor the speaker understood. It is one thing to claim utterances mean something and another to demonstrate that they are from God (Mat 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16). In

1 Corinthians 14 Paul concluded that if there was no understanding it was valueless. It was prohibited in the assembly to speak where the listener was not edified by understanding. It is not an innocent experience when one speaks in “ecstatic utterances” but rather it is contrary to New Testament teaching. If it was a divine gift missionaries around the world who believe in “ecstatic utterance” would not have to spend years learning the language of the natives to which they wish to preach. Christianity seeks to reveal the will of God to the unlearned, not conceal it in unintelligible utterances. The object of the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 was in part to restore the unity long severed at the time of the tower of Babel, where languages were confused (Gen 11:1-9). In this sequence of Bible history Jehovah confused the languages of these people and they went abroad forming different ethnic groups.

It is true that in non-Christian cultures there are bizarre utterances. The list is impressive concerning the pagan speakers of “ecstatic utterances”. Nothing in their practices suggests that they speak a language, only “nonsensical gibberish”. Christians have always sought to speak in a language which could be understood. If it was a language that was not understood there must be some one who knows the language to interpret or the speaker is to remain silent. It is unfortunate that the King James Version uses “unknown tongues” (1 Cor 14:2). They sought to clarify the terms but only confused. The word “unknown” is **italicized** to identify that it was not a part of the original text. To some it did the opposite by giving them license to speak in “ecstatic utterances”. The meaning of the New Testament Greek leaves no doubt that the ultimate test for “tongues” was carefully regulated and the teacher was required to speak in a language that could be understood or they were to remain silent. Moreover speaking in another language was a lesser gift of the Spirit. Prophecy was a greater gift (1 Cor 14:5). The gift of speaking in another language was temporary and passed away when the Bible was completely revealed (1 Cor 13).

The major text which proves that Christ wanted His church to teach in intelligible ways is Acts 2. On the day which the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Apostles they spoke in languages which they had never learned. It is proven by the fact that those from at least fifteen countries with dialects and languages other than Greek or Hebrew, heard God glorified in their own language (Acts 2:1-13). The nature of “ecstatic utterances” does not lend itself to teaching but rather the aggrandizing of the one speaking. Those who today claim ability to “speak in tongues” and “ecstatic utterances” do not have a validation for their experiential religion. The New Testament does not authorize such practices. “Ecstatic utterances” are not a means of evangelism. The Holy Spirit in the first century gave those who spoke on behalf of God the gift to speak in another language. The time and expression of this gift, as well as control to speak was with the possessor of the gift (1 Cor 14:27, 28). Those who had this gift did not always understand the things they said but it was always a matter of teaching, not some utterance which was unintelligible.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

It is so wonderful to worship with such a group of dedicated and active Christians as we have at Belt Line Road church of Christ. This week we had four of our brothers and sisters in the hospital and literally dozens of our members visiting and seeing how they could help them. I saw thirteen of our members in the waiting room at one time. We thank God for blessing us

with three able to go home on Friday and a successful surgery for our brothers, Dean Webb and Dorris Walker. We pray for a speedy recovery for all.

This week, Mission Printing (MP), sadly accepted the resignation of our brother Roy Thomas as Treasurer of the MP Board for health reasons. Roy has been a MP Board Member for the last 22 years. He not only operated the MP printing press, he bought them a new one. His financial generosity of sending the printed Word to all of the world is a great testament of where his heart is. Roy continues to be an inspiration to me and those who have the privilege to work with him for the cause of Christ at MP and at Belt Line. He is a very quiet and humble man with an unbelievable lifetime of experiences serving Christ and his country. We appreciate Roy and his sweet wife Helen for being part of the Belt Line family.

We have dedicated workers who enjoy spreading the Word of God through the avenue of the printed tracts distributed by MP. Each Sunday afternoon at 4pm, we meet for two hours in the Junior Auditorium to collate and staple hundreds of tracts to help the world understand the Bible. Some of our members go over to MP in Arlington during the week to continue in sharing their skills and time to prepare these scriptural tracts. MP is almost totally operated by volunteers and is dependent upon contributions to pay for shipping and postage, our largest expense. We would love for you to join us and keep this program a vital part of our outreach to the lost.

~ Richard L. Renfro

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

LADIES

Please Mark Your Calendars

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REMEMBER

THE 8th ANNUAL LADIES' 1/2 DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th, 2009

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

BELT LINE RD. CHURCH OF CHRIST

1202 N. BELT LINE RD.

IRVING, TX

HEAR SPEAKER:

POLLY CLINE

BLUERIDGE, GA
(We are happy that she is returning!)

**HEAR Bible Based and Challenging
Lessons!**

**Holiness In An Unholy World
What Is Holiness?**

How Important Is It To God And Me?

1) Holy Thine

2) Wholly Thine

PLEASE COME-LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL!

LUNCHEON SERVED -- 12:00 PM

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby; BC & Grady Fowler

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

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, **February 10th** at 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING TIME CHANGE

The Wednesday evening worship time will change back to **7:30 p.m. this week, February 4th**.

39'ers

The Teens invite you to their annual breakfast, so mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 7th** at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex. Also, please sign up on the sheet located on the round table in the front foyer so we can get a headcount. Thanks!

TEEN WORK DAY

The Teens have scheduled a work day for **Saturday, April 4th**. If you have a need for chores around the house, please contact Darrell Allen, John Mayer, or Ty Harvey.

NEW ADDRESS

Please make this change in your directory. **Donna & Don Meyer** have moved to be closer to Jayne. The address is 714 W. Arapaho Rd., #210; Richardson, TX 75080; **phone number: 214-364-1178**.

ANOTHER WELCOME!

We are so pleased that more long-time visitors, **Don & Margaret Lewis**, have placed their membership with us. Their address is 1821 Waldrop St.; Irving; 75061; phone: 972-438-1544. The Lord has richly blessed us with faithful new members. Welcome, Don & Margaret!

A NEW BABE IN CHRIST

We rejoice with the angels that **Whitney Dupree** (the Townsend's granddaughter) was baptized yesterday at the Legacy congregation.

LECTURESHIPS

The Shenandoah Church of Christ will host their annual lectureship **February 13-16, 2009** on "Debate Thy Cause": Social Conflict Termination.

The Southwest Bible Lectures about "Building a Godly Home" will be held **April 11-15, 2009**.

See the flyers on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you so much, not only for the lovely flowers, but for all the love & support you've shown our loved ones during this & all the times of their lives. Love, the Bingham family.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Joann Hatch** was released from the hospital last Thursday eve.
- Jean Kelly** was treated & released from the hospital last week.
- Denzil Myers** is home with a stiff neck.
- Richard Renfro** will leave for Russia on February 9th.
- Dorris Walker** is home recuperating from gall bladder surgery.

- **Dean Webb** is in Baylor/Irving, ICU following bypass surgery on Friday & doing well. Please keep visits short.
- **Virginia Boley** (former member) is gravely ill in CCU at Baylor/Irving.
- **David Bowman** (Nancy Pond's brother) underwent a procedure for a kidney stone.
- **WT Brown** (Mike Garrison's brother-in-law) passed away last Monday; visitation & services were held in Gainesville.
- **Cindi Cody** (the Seidmeyer's daughter) has been released from the hospital.
- **George Ryon** (Ann's son) was able to go home last Friday.
- **Scott Watson** (Jeanene Heilman's friend) has moved to LifeCare Hospital's rehab facility; he is responding well to antibiotics.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (mother of Scott Watson), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- February 8: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- February 8: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 10: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- March 7: Teen/39er breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex
- April 4: Teen work day
- April 25: Ladies' ½ Day

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Samantha Harvey

Sunday evening:

- Melissa Allen

DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Brandon Thomason
- Grady Fowler
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- John Mayer
- Harold Head

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Rob Farmer
- John 1:1-17

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Brandon Thomason
- Marvin Brown

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Kenny Mayer
- Jeremiah 6:16-21

P.M. SONG LEADER

- Jerry Baker (last song, Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Garl Latham

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	98	93	95	125
A.M. Worship	160	145	159	210
P.M. Worship	101	85	91	112
Wed. Class	95	77	81	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	16	22	35
Contribution	\$5577	\$6439	\$6007	\$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