

April 21, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

April 27, 2008

a.m. *"Things We Leave Undone"*

Scripture: James 4:13-17

p.m. *"Tree Of Life"*

Scripture: Genesis 3:22-24

Looking Above

Don Hatch

Paul encourages the Christian to "set your mind on things above" (Col 3:2). This is natural to the Christian because in heaven our Lord is seated at the right hand of the Father. Heaven is the resort of the redeemed (Heb 12:22-29; Jn 14:1-5). Looking above is the natural outcome of being baptized into Christ. Interest in heaven manifests itself daily. Jesus ascended from earth to go to heaven (Act 1:10-15). Christians want to do the will of God that they might have fellowship with Him in eternity. The glorious destination of the redeemed soul is immeasurable and glows brighter with each passing day.

Jesus is the "author" of our salvation because He is the Creator and source of all things (Heb 1:1-5; Jn 1:1-17). Jesus is also the source of our salvation. What we are to receive in the eternal realm with God is due to Jesus' sacrifice on man's behalf (Rom 5:1-11). Grace and mercy are extended to the faithfully obedient individual. The enduring possession of eternal life is declared in the Bible. The Psalmist said "I believe, therefore I have spoken" (Psm 116:10). The Psalmist relied completely on God and sang of his deliverance. When facing whatsoever might betide a voice of praise was raised. Paul identified that the meditation of his heart was on the life which God had promised. Paul repeatedly was blessed by God (2 Cor 11:21-33). He encouraged the saints to believe and speak of the glories of God.

Our internal faith is expressed in our external actions. Acknowledging Jesus' death, burial and resurrection also admits the existence of hope found in His promises. We know that He who raised Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us in His presence (Rom 6:4, 5; 8:11; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:15; Eph 2:6; Phil 3:10; Col 2:12; 3:1). The church can repeat after Paul, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Jesus Christ. That good thing which was committed unto thee guard through the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us" (2 Tim 1:12-14). All are reassured that Jesus was raised from the dead, the firstborn of all the people of God that they might have a guarantee of their resurrection (1 Cor 15:20, 50-54). Jesus secured a glorious state for all faithful believers and will be with them in glory (Eph 5:27; Col 1:22; Jude 24). He is our advocate, brother and friend (1 Jn 2:1; Heb 2:11; Jn 15:14). God's grace is magnified in the saints and increases the thanksgiving in all (2 Cor 4:15). We do not lose heart, even when the outer man is decaying for our inward man is renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16,17). The outer man is exposed to temptations pertaining to human living while the inner man is sustained and renewed day by day. This gives the saint a stronger trust in God and strengthens the communion with Christ and the Holy Spirit. The triumph is in Christ (Rom 8:31-38). Saints look

at the things which are eternal because the temporal is but for the moment (1 Pet 1:6-10). Glory far outweighs all of earth's treasures. Glory exceeds all limits of man's imagination (Eph 3:20, 21). Heavenly glory is indescribable and beyond measure when compared to the trifling temporaries which surround the saints. Christians endure concentrating on the heavenly while applying themselves to the earthly tasks at hand. The difference between earthly and heavenly is the relation between time and eternity. The invisible things are clearly seen from the foundation of the world (Rom 1:18-20). Saints keep their spiritual eyes on eternity.

Saints know that if their earthly tabernacle is destroyed [i.e. body] they have an eternal home of the soul in heaven (2 Cor 5:1-10). The promise of Jesus' return to claim His church and have them live with Him forever is paramount to the believer (1 Thes 4:13-18). Knowledge of life hereafter does not originate in the human mind. Through the Holy Spirit, God revealed His assurance of immortality so that the saints can meet death cheerfully. We are assured that life here is only temporary (2 Cor 4:16-17). Knowing firsthand the temporary nature of life the resurrection of Christ became a focal point for Christians to rally around and fortify their hope (1 Cor 15:1-7). Unequivocally the scriptures affirm the body of man returns to the dust and the spirit to God (Eccl 12:7; Heb 12:23). Amidst the groans and trials of life God provides assurance of a heavenly dwelling. God's children will be liberated from them all (Rev 21:1-8). The redeemed will have glorified bodies (1 Cor 15:51; Phil 3:21). The believer will be adorned in a new body suited for their new home with God. The unredeemed will be unclothed and unprepared to meet God (2 Cor 5:1-10). There is a degree of uncertainty about the time of death. However all are destined to die (Gen 3:19; Heb 9:27). The dead will be raised to meet the Lord in judgment (2 Tim 4:1-5). Without Jesus, God's grace and man's obedience, Paul presents a bleak picture for the unredeemed in eternity. Being clothed with immortality begins on earth when man looks above for heavenly help and hope. God's pledge is Christ, the Spirit and allowing one to be added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47; 2 Cor 1:20-22; Eph 1:3-23). Christians walk by faith and not by sight, confident in Jesus and the heavenly home He promised the soul, redeemed by His blood. The Christians' aim is to appear before Jesus in judgment to receive the recompense of things done in the body (2 Cor 5:10). Look above from whence comes our help.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it." {Exodus 25:8, 9}

The tabernacle was a portable tent or sanctuary used by the children of God as a place of worship during their early history. In the Old Testament it is often called "**the tent of meeting**." The tabernacle was 15 by 45 feet, had two main sections--outer room known as the holy place and inner room called the Holy of Holies, or Most Holy Place, *Exodus 26:33*. The outer courtyard of the tabernacle was a fenced rectangle about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide, *Exodus 27:9-19*. The people were expected to give freely for the materials needed in the construction of the tabernacle. How did they do? *"...The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do. So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, 'Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.'* And the people were

restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done--indeed too much." {Exodus 36:5-7}

Once the sanctuary was completed God blessed their work. "*Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*" {Exodus 40:34} This was symbolic of God taking up residence in the tabernacle--dwelling among them.

What lessons can we learn from the construction of the tabernacle? First, God demands His instructions be carried out to the letter. No subtractions or additions--according to the pattern. Second, we learn that God desires men to worship Him. In just anyway? No. God has given strict instructions on how His people were to worship Him--both then and now. Last, this was not built as a permanent structure. It would serve its purpose and then later be replaced by the temple. God's people were not left to decide on their own about the tabernacle. Neither are we, concerning the church.

Let us not forget our sick this week who are needing our encouragement. Have a great week.

~ Jerry McKey

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Let There Be Light

God created light (Gen 1:3). Light is an energy form that has a dwelling place (Job 38:19). It has a path to follow. Light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second (640 million miles per hour). It takes the sun's light more than eight seconds to reach the earth (the sun is 93 million miles from earth). God said that everything he made was good (Gen 1:31). Light is good because without it we could not see and in the absence of light much of the natural world would die. Light is of great benefit.

Greater than natural light is the spiritual light we must walk in to be in fellowship with God (1 Jn 1:1-10). We should be thankful for the light of God's word. God is light and gives us spiritual gifts (Jas 1:17, 18). Christianity is a light to the world (Matt 5:14). Christians, by letting their light shine, demonstrate the difference between good and evil (Eph 5:13). Walk in the light of God's word (Eph 5:8).

EASING BURDENS

Take the "sun" out of sunshine,
Put in a sunny smile.
It will cheer a lonely person
And make living more worthwhile.

Take a hand that needs a helping,
Lead it on a happier road.
It will ease those heavy burdens
By your sharing half the load.

Take your heart that's filled with love,
Gladly give it all away.
It will overflow to others
And keep rushing back each day.

Take the time to speak to neighbors,
A "hello" to show you care.
You may need a cup of sugar,
For you, no cupboard will be bear.
~Kathryn Wiesenhoefer

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Grady & BC Fowler

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews; Thomas Rathbun, Max Melton

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

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 in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

THANK YOU

Thank you so very much to everyone who helped with our wedding shower. Everything was very nice, the food was delicious, & everyone was very gracious in giving us gifts. We love & appreciate everyone. In Christian love, Kenica & Brandon

AREA MEETINGS

The **Mabank Church of Christ** is hosting their 22nd Annual Lectures on **April 25-27** with the theme of "Bible 'Time' ".

Hawn Freeway is holding their 7th Annual Bible Lectureship on **April 27-30** about "Unity Among the Saints".

Dan Flournoy with the **Handley** congregation in Ft. Worth is teaching a Marriage & Family Enrichment Seminar on **May 2-4**.

Flyers with details on all are posted on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

LADIES

Ladies' ½ Day is upon us! Don't forget to sign up **by Wednesday evening** to bring a salad; sheets are in the front foyer.

Please be aware of the "Meet & Greet" for Polly Cline at the Hatch's home on **Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.** Joann has graciously planned food & fellowship. And...there's now better parking...you'll see!

Saturday begins at 9:00 a.m. with lunch afterwards to wind down around 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, join the afternoon Ladies' class in the Annex from 4:45 p.m. till 5:45 p.m. for another lesson by Polly.

WITH SYMPATHY

Our hearts & prayers go up for the family of **Jean Haddock**. Jean passed away & services were held Saturday (4/12) at the Chapel of Roses: interment was in Klondike.

Also, while caring for her mother, Debra Alonzo learned that her uncle, **Bill Houchen**, passed away. Services are pending, but will be in Oklahoma.

PRAYER CONCERNS

√**Bob Bingham** will have a biopsy done on his tongue on May 1st.

√**Charlene Carroll** has an infection in her foot wound.

√**Janice Daniel** will undergo shoulder surgery on Wednesday, 4/23 in Dallas.

√**Lyda McAlister** is in Baylor/Irving, room #408; she may go home tomorrow or Wednesday.

√**Georgia Meyer** is in Baylor/Irving, now in room #670; she recognized Don today, but she's still in the same shape.

√**Billie Prince** is in Baylor/Irving rehab, room #554; she's in pain from surgery, but is moving around.

√**Tom Prince** went to the ER on Saturday, but was treated & released.

√**Maxine Prude** is undergoing more tests.

√**Jean Forbus** (Debra Alonzo's mother) had successful knee surgery last week.

√**Bill Roses** will have a biopsy done on his left lung.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Apr 25: Meet & Greet @ Hatch's
- Apr 26: Ladies' ½ Day
- Apr 27: Ladies' Bible Class in Annex @ 4:45 p.m.
- Apr 27-30: Hawn Freeway Lectures
- May 2-4: Handley Marriage & Family Enrichment
- June: Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27: Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 16 – 18: Vacation Bible School
- July: Cisco Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Betty Ruckman

Sunday evening:

- Samantha Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Batot
- Bill Matthews
- Thomas Rathbun
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Robert Ruckman

SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
- James 4:13-17

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Melvin Armstrong
- Marvin Brown

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

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	100	102	97	125
A.M. Worship	176	168	170	210
P.M. Worship	101	100	93	112
Wed. Class	90	102	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	25	27	29	35
Contribution	\$4713	\$4857	\$5457	\$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