

October 13, 2008

## SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

### October 19, 2008

a.m. *"Thou Art the Man"*

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-7

p.m. *"The Secret of the Lord"*

Scripture: Psalm 25:14-22

### Confidence In God

Don Hatch

**Psalm 26 displays** a longing for a time to be in the presence of God and rescued from enemies. The psalmist wants to offer God sacrifices of thanksgiving and enthrone Him as supreme in all areas of his life. There is bold confidence in the psalmist's faith. Darkness is an emblem of distress, trouble and perplexing problems. Light is the opposite bringing joy, hope and fellowship with God. God furnishes light for the psalmist to render troubles and distress manageable. Darkness of spiritual conflicts was dispelled by the light of God. Jehovah's light never knew an eclipse but shown brightly to light the path of a faithful follower. If God is on the side of the faithful, apprehension of danger is abruptly diminished (Rom 8:31-39). God abundantly protects. The faithful can have full confidence and trust Him. No one can have a better security against objects of fear or woe than the conviction that God is their friend (Jas 2:23; Jn 15:14). The Lord manifests His strength in a faithful life. Life is fragile and easily crushed, but God gives strength to the fearful. No one, no thing has the power to take the faithful out of God's hands. He is their stronghold or fortress where safety is found. Doubtlessly into every life comes danger but when God interposes His power into the life of the redeemed wickedness faces a formidable foe that will defend His own. Evil will ultimately stumble and fail. The New Testament confirms that God will bless the saint as He did the psalmist.

**The faithful** have a security in God that neither in life nor death finds them cringing for nothing can separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord (Rom 8:39). This confidence is superior to any hostile foe that the faithful might face. Calmness prevails when one learns that in times of want or contentment, abasement or fulfillment, doubt or strength, God is able to fortify and the faithful can do all things through Him (Phil 4:10-20).

**The main desire** of the faithful must be to live, seeking constantly God's favor in all that is done. Seeking the Lord in prayer, purpose of life with cautious practices give the Lord predominance wherein He can rule in the affairs of the faithful (Mat 6:33, 34). Life is more than eating, drinking and raiment. Even the birds have such needs and the heavenly Father takes care of them (Mat 6:25-26). To behold the wonderful pleasantness and favor of God thrills the heart, soul and mind of the faithful. God's love, mercy and grace are never more felt than when in worship of God. When God is elevated, loved and honored His greatness comforts and strengthens. Great truths are brought before the mind when God is worshiped and adored. Troubles can be placed before God. He teaches the faithful "...fear not their fear, but sanctify in your heart Christ as Lord; being ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear: having a good

conscience; that wherein ye are spoken against, they may be put to shame who revile your good manner of life in Christ" (1 Pet 3:14-16). In times of trouble there is a pavilion which the faithful retire in seeking God's favor.

**Existing and excited confidence** in God are because the faithful can review the lives of others who have been mercifully cared for in times of trouble. Fiery trials come because the faithful are partakers of Christ and should rejoice that one day He will come to vindicate their faithfulness. The Spirit of glory and God are upon those who are not ashamed of the Lord. Judgment will begin with the house of God and there will be an end of those who obey not the gospel of God. If the righteous are scarcely saved, what will be the end of the ungodly and sinners? It will be beyond description (1 Pet 4:12-19).

**An expressed confidence** in God and His merciful interposition in times of danger spells out that He will rescue and be gracious to the faithful. God can be trusted with the body, soul and mind of the faithful (Matt 22:34-40). The psalmist wanted the faithful to experience the favor of God and find blessedness in His presence. The earnestness of prayer did not take for granted God, but knew that God granted privileges to come into His presence (Heb 4:14-16). Past experience of any former generations uniquely manifest that God was there to aid them and because He is eternal will be in the present to maintain the lives of the faithful. Those who are evil may think they are carrying out and accomplishing their desires but God will ultimately triumph over them. The light of God's countenance aids as the faithful pass through each experience of life. "...Wherefore the scripture saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall exalt you" (Jas 4:6-10).

**When it looks** like evil is winning take stock of what has gone on in the past and know that God is immutable [never changing]. Wait and fix in your mind that in times of danger and difficulties, instead of despondency, sinking in fear or despair, put your trust solely in God for He is an ever-present strength. View the experience of other faithful individuals and have confidence that God will bless His own.

## **FAMILY CARE**

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

When things go wrong!! What do we do? Who do we turn to? Most of us have been blessed to live a relatively calm and stable life upon this earth. Of course, there have been some critical moments to come and go, but nothing that the Lord and our faith could not handle. With any crisis that has come our way there has been the accompanying knowledge that there are others whose situation is far worse than our own. Life can present the following picture:

For long enough, life can go on rather smoothly. The sunny days far outnumber the dark and dreary ones. The road is pleasantly level. There is no effort beyond our power. There are no sorrows too great for us to bear. There are no agonizing struggles with evil. We can cope.

Then, all of a sudden things go wrong. Tragedy strikes the dearest on earth to us, and there comes a demand for an effort that we may well think is beyond us (Cf., 1 Cor. 10:13). There comes an illness or a breakdown, which lays us low. The sun sets at midday and we find that life becomes nearly unbearable.

In that moment many turn to God, because as Abraham Lincoln said, “there is no place else to go.” But it will make all the difference in that moment if a Christian has been faithful to Christ through the years. He does not turn to the Lord as a last resort. He is able to seek refuge, not as a stranger, but as a familiar friend. The more closely we walk with the Lord, the easier it is to call on him when things go wrong. He is never far away.

May we always trust in the Lord when we are struggling as well as when receiving blessings in our lives. There is no other strength like it.

~Jerry McKey

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Change is **acceptable** to God as long as it does not **change the divine command and purpose**. Once one allows change to modify the divine command and to corrupt the divine purpose, he has left the commands and traditions of God and has substituted with his own.

~ John L. Kachelman, Jr.; Judsonia, AR Church of Christ

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



**Gospel Meeting**

## **We Invite You To Attend**

### **A Series Of Lessons**

Presented by

**Robert Dodson**

*Evangelist for Birdville Church of Christ*

Sunday class 9 AM– Lord Increase Our Faith

Sunday Worship 10 AM – I am the Resurrection and the life

Sunday 6 PM worship– Dare We Compromise

Monday 7 PM– Another Sermon On Baptism

Tuesday 7 PM– The Church of Christ Is Different

Wednesday 7 PM– The Rich Man and Lazarus

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~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the October 16, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, October 19, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney; Grady & BC Fowler

**Back foyer:** Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

#### **Sunday, October 26, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

**Back foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

## **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 be held **Sunday** at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

### GOSPEL MEETING SPEAKER

As you know by now, our Gospel Meeting speaker will be Brother Robert Dodson. Please see the bulletin board in the back foyer for a letter from him giving some of his background and what he plans to speak about.

### GLEANNING FOR CHILDREN

Please return your filled green coin cans to the building by next **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**.

### PHONE DIRECTORY ADD'N

Please add **Brandon Williams** to your directory: 3227 W. Walnut Hill Lane, #1032; 75038.

### 39'ers

The monthly gathering of the 39'ers is coming up on **Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Bring your favorite food & join us in the Annex at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship!

### LADIES

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

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on **October 21<sup>st</sup>** at 9:30 a.m.

### RESPONSES

**Mary Scott** came forward last evening requesting prayers for strength.

**Brandon Williams** also came forward last evening to be baptized and to place membership with us.

Our hearts are filled with love for these two precious souls!

### WITH SYMPATHY

Becky Henry lost her sister to a long illness on Saturday; she was from El Paso.

### CONGRATULATIONS, AGAIN!

The Armstrong's have another great granddaughter, Julianna Grace Belcher, born last Friday weighing 7 pounds and 19-1/4 inches long,

### THANK YOU

My husband David and I wish to express our gratitude for your overwhelming generosity during our recent evacuation to the Dallas area during hurricane Ike. It's comforting to know that as Christians we can always count on each other in times of need. I can assure you that your gift will be put to good use. Thanks again & God bless!

David & Stephanie Peavler (the Armstrong's daughter).

### CONGREGATION

Mark your calendar for a sandwich supper following the **evening worship service on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** to help kick off our Gospel Meeting. Bring sandwiches (or other finger foods), chips, & desserts and meet us in the Annex for fellowship.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Brenda Bryant** is doing well after shoulder surgery.
- **BC Fowler** will undergo foot surgery soon.
- **Billie Gilliam** has a staph infection on her arm.
- **Joann Hatch** will have hip replacement surgery tomorrow at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.
- **JC Ross** has a solution to his throat problem & doing well.
- **Brandon Thomason** requests prayers while he's seeking employment.
- **Mary Lou Tibbetts** will undergo tests this week.
- **Leo Townsend** has tests scheduled.
- **Johnny Bowman** (Nancy Pond's brother) is having health problems.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), 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), Wayne Ruyle (Ilene Ashworth's son-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- Oct 19: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Oct 19: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible Class in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.
- Oct 19: Return coin cans
- Oct 20: Early voting...vote NO!
- Oct 21: Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Mary Bowen

### **Sunday evening:**

- Melissa Allen

## **LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Brandon Howard
- Grady Fowler

### **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**

- John Mayer
- 2 Samuel 12:1-7

## **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Denzil Meyers
- Mike Batot

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Darrell Allen
- Bill Paschall

**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	94	83	94	125
A.M. Worship	163	145	165	210
P.M. Worship	92	97	94	112
Wed. Class	101	87	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	22	19	20	35
Contribution	\$5806	\$5254	\$5368	\$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