

February 4, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 10, 2008

a.m. *"Come And See "*

Scripture: John 1:43-51

p.m. *"The Pattern of Propitiation"*

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:18-25

Christian Pilgrims

The scriptures describe the courage of Christian pilgrims as they tread the pathway to eternity with hope. All who walk this way know that courage is not facing trials with "closed-lipped stoicism". The courage they have comes by facing life's "ill winds" with the strength in an imposing faith that God is and He is unwavering (Heb 13:5). Christ the Lord can be trusted to care and bless the life of His followers (2 Tim 1:12). A haunting idea is found in the corridors of time. That is that life is a pilgrimage to a distant place with many times for testing the worth of Christianity. The hope of eternity with God fills the hearts of the Christian pilgrim with an unquenchable desire to be faithful.

A Christian pilgrimage is one of great religious significance. Participating in this journey is important to one's personal faith and confession (Mat 10:32, 33). The pilgrimage has a place of departure and a destination. The pilgrimage designs, stimulates and differentiates between merely a slow or leisurely stroll and having directed steps to a goal. A pilgrimage ends with success. Intensity of joy is determined, conditioned or contingent on the stamina and urgency of the pilgrims. One who does not despair will arrive at the goal being renewed by the Lord. "Therefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:16-18).

Pilgrims faithfully develop a feeling or attitude regarding the inferior nature of the world in order that they may be free from carnal affections and earthly hindrance while aspiring to surrender their entire soul, mind and will to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ lifts them up and fortifies their courage and perseverance that they may overcome all kinds of temptations and pursue the course performing habitually or customarily the Christian life. The Bible proclaims grace to help all in the times of need. Biblical exhortations are to be holy less the pilgrim render void the price by which they were redeemed (1 Pet 1:13-25). The incorruptible seed, the Word of God, is that by which the pilgrim sets the compass bearings. When pilgrims sees that Christ was despised and rejected by the world they fortify themselves less they vacillate or falter because this rejection is only a fulfillment of what was written about Him (1Pet 2:1-10). The firm foundation is that God knows they are giving all diligence to present

themselves approved unto Him “a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling the word of truth aright” (2 Tim 2:14-20). God bestows great honor on the faithful and they should contemplate their former state and sense the present benefits thus devoting all to a godly life.

Humility and obedience are under the government of the King and as servant pilgrims willingly subject themselves to His divine will. In whatsoever state, man, woman, husband, wife or child they must understand what is require as servants and behave themselves becomingly. Following the way of justice and right towards all galvanizes them to the “Way”. Seeking peace often times encounters harassment and injustices hence, the pilgrims proceed resolutely maintaining a spiritual equilibrium via prayer and service. Pilgrims have an object toward which they strive. This aim or goal becomes greater in value and beauty because they have the example of Christ. They constantly remind themselves that they are separated unto salvation and that they will not perish with the world (2 Pet 3:14-18). The elect prove that the counsel of God, upon which salvation is based, is not of merit but the Lord Jesus’ sacrifice. The gratuitous favor of God is reason enough for the pilgrim to trek forward to the high calling in Christ (Phil 3:13-16).

Christian pilgrims are reminded that others have been strangers and sojourners while upon the earth. Abraham and others died in faith, not having received the promises but confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth. They made it manifest that they were seeking after a country of their own. They desired a better country, that is a heavenly one where God would not be ashamed to be called their God; for God prepared that city for the pilgrim (Heb 11:13-16). Christ who suffered death was crowned with honor and glory when He tasted death for every man. As the author of salvation He was perfected through suffering and sanctified the obedient pilgrims in his suffering. He made formally and officially known to the pilgrims that they should put their trust in God since He brought to naught the power of the devil (Heb 2:1-18).

Christian pilgrims engage in a warfare from which there is no discharge. There are forces at war against God and mankind. What God made in His image is enslaved by diabolical forces. Herein is the greatest conflict in history. Into this holy encounter between God and the evil one Christ entered. Jesus was victorious (Rom 8:31-38). Criticized, called vile names because of Christ, pilgrims would suffer martyrdom rather than leave the path of righteousness for therein is laid up a crown for those who run the race and keep the faith (2 Tim 4:1-8). As pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul.

~ Don Hatch

FAMILY CARE

A Message From Our Shepherds

We have started the New Year very well at Belt Line. The angels in heaven rejoice with us over the baptism of Nathan Allen and Scott Price. Congratulations to both for making the best decision in their life. We also are

happy to have Robert Bickel and Jamie Little place their memberships with us in the last few weeks.

I would like to share with you some of the email notes that we get from our missionaries. This one is from Brother Ted Lingren as he labors for the Lord in Asia. We are happy and blessed to have someone like Ted work the fields in these difficult places. His dedicated longevity for preaching and teaching the gospel to the Asian people is a testament for his love to our Lord and Savior. He has coordinated hundreds of Bible class teachers in several different communist countries for many years. Thousands have heard the gospel because of him and many have obeyed to become good Christian workers for the Lord. Ted represents a great force of teachers that are trying to spread the gospel in their own countries. Look for the Sisophon Province News, December 2007 report from Ted on the Mission Board in the foyer. It gives details of our support of the work in Sisophon, Cambodia. Pray for his well being and his endeavors to spread the gospel. Thank you, Ted!

I am in Phnom Penh, but will leave tomorrow for Bangkok, Thailand. Then, up to Luang Prabang, Laos. My future son-in-law is to meet me there to preach in the villages of northern Laos. Samrit hopes to go with Brother Khounkham from Savannakhet, Laos. They will drive to the north, which will take about 14 hours by Toyota pick-up. Pray for a safe trip and a fruitful journey to bring glory to God through the church (Eph 3:21,22). **According to the Laos report for 2007, they had 52 baptisms and have a total of 34 faithful congregations.** Pray for them as they labor in a communist country for the Lord.

God bless you all for your help in Cambodia, Laos & Philippines.

In Christ,
Ted
~ Richard L. Renfro

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Conversion

Conversion corresponds to a change in one's spiritual relationship. Intensely interesting accounts of conversion are found in the New Testament. Saul of Tarsus persecuted the church of Christ (Acts 9:1-30). He did not believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the long awaited for Messiah. His wrath was swift and harsh (1 Tim 1:12-17). He later claimed Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. His conversion followed and he became the apostle Paul of Jesus. What makes a man, who was so opposed to Christianity, become a disciple and then spend his life preaching, teaching and writing of Christ? Paul said Jesus was alive after being crucified. Paul was told to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins and call upon the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16). Paul's conversion is a wonderful illustration of New Testament conversion. Learn how to be a convert to Christianity.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the February 8, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Great power is found in music, especially in vocal music. In this vocal structure is found a unique essence of language. Reminiscences of Christian virtues taught are magnified in songs sung many times over many years. Congregations' use of songs creates memories through life. Vocal music is a powerful instrument for establishing patterns of reason and practice in a congregation. The manner of writing music is melody, harmony; rhythm supports the message that is found in the words. One can hear the music sung and its words flood back into the mind with readiness and adroitness. Emotions are kindled by songs of faith. Seldom does a Christian pass from this life without the family being clearly aware of the song or songs which stirred the individual's emotions. Saints of God are aware that disinterest in singing drains their zeal and vigor. Enthusiasm for singing comes from the heart. Unscriptural singing can have an adverse effect on a congregation. Congregations have spiritual growth within a good singing atmosphere. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, and hymns, and spiritual song..." (Col 3:12-17).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney, Megan Little, Megan McNeely

Back foyer: Paul & Bernice Guisinger

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.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex for a lesson on **Tuesday, February 12th**.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to **Scott Allen & Gracie Latham** for perfect attendance in Bible Class!

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits & prayers when we were so needing them. You were a great help in Bob's recovery. He is still not "out of the woods", but your prayers are powerful. In Christian love, Bob & Gwen Bingham

IT'S A BOY!

Xander Michael was born to Chari on January 28th at 8 pounds, 4 oz. Proud grandparents are Mike & Teresa Demory.

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark you calendar for Family Bible School scheduled for **June 15-18, 2008**. This year's studies will be announced soon.

BABES IN CHRIST

Nathan Allen obeyed the Lord's invitation & was baptized after morning worship yesterday. We had a great day!

We're so proud that **Scott Price** was baptized here at the building last Monday evening.

Also, that Elizabeth Garrison's grandson, **Garrett Sutton**, was baptized last Wednesday evening at the South MacArthur building.

PRAYER CONCERNS

√**Bob Bradley** is better after having fluid drained.

√**BC Fowler** is ill at home with the flu.

√**Jerry Grantham** underwent successful surgery on Friday.

√**Linda Matthews** underwent successful surgery last Monday.

√**Denzil Myers** is at home with back trouble.

√**Georgia Myers** is now back at Northgate Plaza.

√**Maxine Prude** went home on Saturday.

√**Ira Wolfe** was fitted with a heart monitor.

√**Mike Horn** (Marinell Zaun's son-in-law) is very ill.

√**Brad Meine** (Frances Tipton's 28-yr. old friend) will need open heart surgery.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, AC & Maxine Prude, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Bran Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Shirley Bryant (James Gilliam's sister), Vern Daniel (Janice's son) Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Elizabeth Oliver (Becky Henry's sister), Nell Rogers (Carol Swinney's sister), Nita Spencer (the Webb's niece), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Lewis Tomlinson (Nelda Bell Newton's son), Larry Toye, & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Feb 9 – Granbury Church of Christ Forum
- Feb 12 – Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m. in the Annex.
- Feb 15 – Shenandoah Lectures
- June 15 – Family Bible School

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Samantha Swinney

Sunday evening:

- Julie Roses

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Grady Fowler
- Dorris Walker
- Glen Kelly
- John Mayer
- James Gilliam
- Stan Selby
- Ron Baker
- Robert Ruckman

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Max Melton
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Robert Taylor
- Harold Head
- Bobby Bowen
- Roy Martin
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Bob Bingham
- Mike Garrison

SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
John 1:43-51

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Melvin Armstrong
- Marvin Brown

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Jerry Baker
- Bill Matthews

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

· Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	97	92	102	125
A.M. Worship	165	167	174	210
P.M. Worship	103	98	96	112
Wed. Class	85	95	92	110
Ladies Bible Class	26	29	29	35
Contribution	\$5395	\$5947	\$5569	\$5400

MISSIONS

Gary Workman – Ukraine
21st Century Global Missions
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
JV & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India
Glen & KuenTattersall – Australia
Ian McPherson – Tasmania Australia
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia
Chennai Teacher Training School - India
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry Laurence – Bear Valley School of Preaching