

**June 29, 2009**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**July 5, 2009**

a.m. "*A Promised Inheritance*"

Scripture: Daniel 12:5-13

p.m. "*Christ's Mansion and Ours*"

Scripture: John 20:19-23

### **Faith Receives**

**Faith receives** divine favor and appropriates spiritual gifts. In the darkest moments of life a faithful Christian does not fear what is at hand because the Everlasting God is an ever present Sovereign who richly blesses the faithful. The faithful are persuaded to give credit, trust and to confide in God. God is the support and foundation upon which the faithful depend. Faith in truth amends the life of a believer. Faith attends the steps of the Christian from the commencement of faith until the summation of life. At all times and under all circumstances faith in God is essential for the spiritual life (Mk 16:16; Rom 14:23; Heb 3:9). Faith counts on God to make good His promises (Lk 5:18-20; Heb 11:11-13). Faith is forsaking all and trusting in Him.

**Faith is not blind**, brainless or unintelligent. Faith must have innocence coupled with strength to press forward to the high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-16). Those who know God put their trust in Him (Psm 9:10). Faith has commitment (2 Tim 1:12). A Christian enjoys security and trust because God has never failed (Heb 13:1-15).

**Faith in its imperativeness** knows that it is impossible to please God without the substance of things hoped for and relying on the evidence of things unseen (Heb 11:1, 2; Rom 1:18-20). Unbelief leads inextricably to condemnation (Psm 72:22). Those who are obedient and faithful have the promise of everlasting life; but he that disbelieves shall not see everlasting life with God (Jn 3:35, 36). Obedience to Jesus, trusting in Him as Savior seeks to honor Him as King (Col 1:13-15). The urgency felt by believers to confess Jesus as the Son of God accentuates faith (Act 8:37). The curse and damnation of sin is lifted and blessings flow from the mighty hand of God (2 Tim 1:12-15). Faith excludes all personal glory. All glory for salvation belongs to God. When a Christian humbles himself before God, he will be exalted (Jas 4:10). The conditions of God's covenant with Christians are faithfulness and grace. If faith and grace are foundational a presumptuous sinner lives in great despair. Apart from faith God's power and virtue will not prevail in their fullness. Faith in the invisible things of God leads to trusting. God supplied a Savior to prove that faith was neither void nor vain (Act 15:11; 2 Tim 1:12; Eph 2:8). The fullest realization of faith is experienced when we strive to reach a spiritual goal. Following

God's ways strengthens the faith with which we began (Rom 1:16, 17). As we live the Christian life the object of our faith becomes more precious (1 Cor 12:4-9). Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb 12:1, 2). Likes beget likes. The witnesses of faith have trod the same road we travel, wherein they exhibited faithfulness. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others left chronicles of their lives of faithfulness. They were the stewards of faith and in living manifested success developed over a lifetime of service. Mankind has the capacity for faith and responsibility to exercise it. Faith is an anchor in the storms of life (Acts 27:20, 25; Rom 4:12-24). The willingness to abandon all hindrances and deepen faith's hold on the heart, soul and will is indispensable. Man is not delusional when he has faith in God. God's warranties are clearly seen when the scriptures tell us that God is not the God of the dead but the living (Mat 22:31-33). Moreover, Moses and Elijah appeared on the Mount and the Apostles of Christ certified it (Mat 17:1-5). There is life now and to come (1 Jn 5:13; Jn 3:16). Faith rests ultimately in God. He assures us that the things written were to tutor us to bring us to faith (Gal 3:23; Rom 15:1-5). God in Christ reconciled the faithful unto Himself (2 Cor 5:18-20). God's faithfulness guarantees us that our trust in Him is well founded. All His pledges and promises have been and are being fulfilled.

**Faith unites the needy soul** to the strong and all-sufficient Lord who can save them to the uttermost (Heb 7:25). Obedience and service are unique parts of the actions found in faith and the proof of its genuineness (Rom 4:5; 5:2; Eph 3:12). James reminds us that faith without works is dead (Jas 2:14-19). Examples of faith are seen the centurion, paralytic, woman with an issue of blood, blind men, Syrophenician woman, blind Bartimaeus, sinful woman, leper, nobleman, crippled man and countless others. Faith must be in our lives if we are to know the life of faith. Christianity is preeminently a life of faith. We stand by faith, walk by faith, live by faith and without faith it is impossible to please God (2 Cor 1:24; 5:7; Gal 3:11; Heb 11:6). Unbelief is a hindrance to mighty works for the Lord. Faith wins the victory (1 Jn 5:4). The result of spiritual progress is faithfulness (Eph 4:13; 6:16).

**Amid the complex experiences** of life the power of faith is indispensable. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:35-39). Faith receives, "God has granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Pet 1:1-1).

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall* 1 Cor. 10:12. We have heard this passage of scripture all of our life. As we take inventory of our lives, we must realize the importance of this scripture. Another word that we do not use frequently in our vocabulary is "backsliding."

Backsliding in Hebrew has the idea of "going back or "turning back" to the old life of sin and idolatry. Yes, backsliding is possible. What are some evidences of backsliding you might ask in our lives.

- Neglecting God's Word
- Little desire for prayer and communion with God (Matt. 6:1-8)
- A growing fondness for worldly pleasures (2 Tim. 3:4)
- A decreasing anxiety for the salvation of others (Psalm 126:5-6)

As we look at some evidences of backsliding, we then begin to uncover the causes.

- Mixed marriages. Let me encourage you to marry in the Lord's body. So many problems arise when you marry outside the body of Christ.
- Love of money (Matt 26:14-25). Money problems can cause us all kinds of problems.
- Reverting to sinful practices. Almost always apostasy is caused by reverting to a former practice rather than through the development of a new vice. Did Peter revert to cursing when he denied the Lord? (Matt. 26:74).
- Returning to false religion. The entire book of Hebrews was written to prevent the apostasy of converted Jews. Pressure from relatives or friends can become great; and, due to insufficient instruction and/or strength, babes in Christ at times return to a false religion.

May we take inventory of our personal lives and never allow such words as backsliding to come up on the inventory list. May we stand tall and strong for the cause of Christ in our lives.

~ Jerry McKey

“Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; And the end of mirth is heaviness. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; And a good man shall be satisfied from himself. The simple believeth every word; But the prudent man looketh well to his going. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; But the fool beareth himself insolently, and is confident. He that is soon angry will deal foolishly; And a man of wicked devices is hated. The simple inherit folly; But the prudent are crowned with knowledge. The evil bow down before the good; And the wicked, at the gates of the righteous. The poor is hated even of his own neighbor; But the rich hath many friends” (Prov 14:13-20).

### **How Firm a Foundation**

“Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that are incensed against thee shall be put to shame and confounded: they that strive with thee shall be as nothing, and shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contend with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I, Jehovah thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith Jehovah, and thy Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel” (Isa 41:10-14)

"How Firm a Foundation" is a song which we sing and it has these words, "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand". God has laid in His word a foundation upon which saints can build their faith and trust. Jesus Christ will be with the church unto the end of the world (Matt 28:20). During times of peace and jubilation the

Christian glories in God. In the event of a change in circumstances the Christian still finds serenity (Act 16:19-34; Phil 4:1-6). Christians do not fear, nor are they filled with dismay. God's rich providence gives aid and strength. Christians are strong in the Lord and the strength of His might (Eph 6:10-20). Their armor is both defensive and offensive in its nature. Souls who have learned to trust and find a refuge in Jesus find He will not be deserted in the face of enemies. Though all the force of the devil runs riotously the gracious Omnipotent hand of God is powerful to protect the soul (Lk 12:4, 5; Matt 10:24-33). The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth His own (2 Tim 2:19).

Christians are aware of the power of evil that lurks in the world. Countless Christians have lived with the threat of this foe. They worked, raised families and were superb citizens no matter what might have come. Good character was more important to them than outstanding talents. Good character is constructed with total dependence on God. Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved without a lifetime of perseverance. That which is beautiful and good makes sense in the context of history, therefore we must accomplish all in the name of our God. There are two aims in the Christian life, to please God and to enjoy serving Him. The steadfast who are zealous of good works achieve these goals. They look at the blessed hope waiting for the appearing of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a redeemer and purified a people for God's own possession (Tit 2:11-14).

There is strength and might for the believer according to the glorious power of God which brings patience, longsuffering and joy (Col 1:11). Christ lived, taught and died to assure the faithful that they would have peace which the world would never know, even in the face of tribulations (Jn 16:33). We are encompassed by many witnesses in the Bible, who testify that when we lay aside every weight of sin and faithfully "run the race" Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith enables all to endure (Heb 12:1-13). The foundation of our faith is solid, sure and steadfast.

~ Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, July 5, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor; Thomas Rathbun

**Back foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby

### **Sunday, July 12, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Megan & Jamie Little

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

## Family News:

### MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

### SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

### MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

### SUMMERTIME PREACHING

Next Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**Prodigal Son**" from Luke 15:11-32 by Brother Paul O'Rear.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers, visits, & cards. Mom is now at Ashford Hall, room #210; phone: 972-786-7259 for speech & physical therapy. Linda Lowman (Elsie Nanney's daughter).

### IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Ira & Nola Wolfe on the birth of their 12<sup>th</sup> great grandchild, **Jaiden Lynn Birgil**, who was born on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

### IN RESPONSE

**Sister Marcella Porter** came forward last evening to rededicate her life to Christ & His Church, asking for prayers for strength to be a better Christian & for forgiveness of any sins she has committed.

### OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed on **Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>** in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Also, there will be a break in the bulletin for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 weeks of July in compliance with the USPS. Please contact Don or one of the elders if you have a need during this time.

### CHRIST'S HAVEN

If you'd like to participate, pick up a bag in either foyer with a list of needed items & return them to the building by **July 15<sup>th</sup>** for pickup.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Sean Hamil** (Michele Farmer's friend) passed away last weekend.

**Bobby Lindamood** (Dessie Ross' grandson-in-law) passed away in an accident last week. Services were held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Euless last Friday.

**Betty Stevens** (Myrtle Wade's sister) passed away last Thursday in Pinehurst, NC.

### NEWS OF OUR ILL

- **Gwen Bingham** says hello to everyone; she loves you all & appreciates your prayers on her behalf.
  - **Charlene Carroll** underwent successful surgery on her wrist and is at her daughter's home in Keller.
  - **Marion Grantham** is having difficulty following eye surgery.
  - **Linda Matthews** got an excellent report from her surgeon.
  - **Billie Prince** will see her cardiologist tomorrow (6/30).
  - **LeRoy Bufe** (frequent visitor) is suffering with back problems & may require surgery.
  - **Donna Willaims**, (Bobbie Williams' daughter-in-law) remains in Baylor/Dallas; she has been moved to the Hoblitzelle Bldg. (east of the Truitt Bldg.), room #301.
  - **Dr. Shouse** (Melissa Beverly's UNT professor) is suffering with recurring cancer.
- Debra Alonzo & Everett Newton** spent some time in a hospital, but both were soon released.

### Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Joy Webb, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Frank Garrett, Louise Gierling (former member Tom Gierling's mother), John Veyon (Ilene Ashworth's brother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

### THOSE TO SERVE – JULY

**Lord's Table (front):** Purman Cofer, Jerry Baker, Dorris Walker, Marvin Brown, Mike Garrison, Bill Matthews, Ty Harvey, Rob Farmer

**(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Roy Martin, Derrol Allen

**p.m.** Glen Kelly; Garl Latham

**Card Pickup:** a.m. Toby Howard; Curtis Vaughan p.m. Scot & Nathan Allen

**Contribution Counters:** John Mayer, Rob Farmer

**Communion Preparer:** Brenda Bryant

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- July 5: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- July 5: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.]
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 6: Office Closed
- July 7: Summer Youth Series
- July 8: Summertime Preaching
- July 16: Christ's Haven Pickup
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

**Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Jerry McKey
- Darrell Allen
- Grady Fowler

**A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jeremy Hardegree  
Daniel 12:5-13

**A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Henry Seidmeyer
- Thomas Rathbun

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Marvin Brown  
John 20:19-23

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

- Ty Harvey

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Glen Kelly
- Garl Latham

**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	91	87	92	125
A.M. Worship	142	154	155	210
P.M. Worship	88	85	87	112
Wed. Class	46	80	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5431	\$5515	\$5396	\$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