

August 10, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 16, 2009

a.m. "*Shiloh*"

Scripture: Genesis 49:8-10

p.m. "*City Without Walls*"

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1-5

Being Set Apart From The World

Don Hatch

What is sanctification? As a doctrine sanctification is imperative for all who desire to be Christ-like. It means that the believer can be separated from evil things and ways. God's sanctification is His will for believers (1 Thes 4:3). His purpose is to call us by the gospel to leave various and sundry worldly pursuits (2 Cor 6:14-18). Sanctification is a relationship with God into which mankind enters by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 6:11). Christian's embrace this through the death of Christ (Eph 5:25, 26; Col 1:22; Heb 10:10, 29; 13:12). God's purpose is learned by studying the New Testament (Jn 17:17; 2 Tim 2:14-19). A holy character is not vicarious. It cannot be transferred or imputed for it is solely an individual's possession and must be built up and developed as a result of obedience to the Word of God when following Christ as the example (Matt 11:29; Jn 13:15; Eph 4:20; Phil 2:5). Sanctification is associated with choice and predicated upon acceptance of the Gospel (2 Thes 1:6-10). Since every faithful disciple is sanctified in Christ it is common for the New Testament to call them "saints" (1 Cor 1:1-3; Heb 10:10). Thus, sainthood or sanctification is not an attainment bestowed upon an individual by men, a church or sect, for it is a state into which God, by His grace, has called sinful mankind as a life in Christ (Col 3:12; Heb 3:1).

Sanctification means to "be set apart" from that which is common and unclean. The Old Testament describes things, while the New Testament employs sanctification to denote a person. These are set apart unto the holiness of God. When someone or something is consecrated to God it suggests a separation unto His service. Separation from sin unto salvation is when the old has been purged and renewal has taken place (1 Cor 5:7; Tim 12:1-5). The adorning of purity and being clothed with righteousness appeals to the principle of sanctification as a standard of grace and mercy which generates a life consecrated to God and purity. The whole being of an individual is set apart unto holiness (1 Pet 1:13-25). It is the work of God which separates the individual unto a service wherein God reigns as Sovereign. Cultivation of moral excellence is a foundation to consecration. Exhibiting piety and virtue

manifests a deepening desire to serve and honor God. A virtuous person hates sin and loves the favor God has bestowed through the blood of Jesus. Sanctification is the practice of worshiping God and the exhibition of godliness. Pretentiousness is a feigned consecration while living sinfully (Heb 10:26-31). Christians seek the high calling of Christ and press on to perfection because of the goal that is set before them (Phil 3:12-16). We die to sin and struggle with unintentional stages of relapses wherein we seek forgiveness by confessing our sins (1 Jn 1:4-10). There is a difference between sin being in us against our will and allowing it to reign in us with our permission (Rom 6:12). God in a masterful measure enables the Christian to plan, practice and participate in holy living. Holiness is divinely manifested and taught that the Christian might know how to order a righteous life. Sanctification is not merely a single action but a constant affirmation that Christ is the Lord of one's life. Therefore, the Christian does not desire to sin (1 Jn 5:1-12). Holiness is the adoption of habits and thoughts controlled by virtuous motives.

When individuals strive after holiness, the more spectacular holiness and righteousness become. The more saintly one becomes, the more the admiration of God grows and it affirms that steadfastness in the Lord has great reward (1 Cor 15:58; Heb 11:6). We are sanctified when we are baptized into Christ and in a practical way we never cease striving for the spiritual lives to which we have been saved to live. As Christians we strive to adjust any and all actions, meditations and intents to the suppression of sin as it presents itself in our lives. Being separated from worldly deeds does not mean we are to live apart from the world (1 Cor 9:1-27; Rom 7). Christ died to save us from further fellowship with sin and helps us see what can be done with a holy life (Col 1:13). The active agency of the Godhead in our lives helps us determine to function by imitating them (1 Cor 4:16; Eph 5:1; Heb 6:12). Enlightened minds accept that God has standards which can be met because God has sanctified the guilty and cleaned the unclean (1 Thes 4:3; Heb 10:11). God's Word guides all in the pathway of sanctification and righteousness.

Prayer seeks to refine the soul, once redeemed, which depends on resources from a loving God to stand firm in the Lord and the strength of His might (Eph 6:10-18). Associations result in assimilation of graceful living or despised culpability. Christians must will to do the will of God (Rom 6:7). God never saves or sanctifies against the human will. All divine gifts are to be received through voluntary exercise of our moral agency. Sanctification has chastisement built into it to reprove and make us aware that we are prone to return to the unchaste life (Heb 12:1-11). We must refine ourselves like fire refines gold (1 Pet 1:3-12). By being holy all men will know that we serve a living God. The world needs to know that there is no other name given among men wherein is found salvation (Act 4:12). Being separated from sinful practices, fiery trials do come upon Christians. They do not think it is strange to suffer for Christ and rejoice to be blessed as they glorify God. If the righteous are scarcely saved where will the ungodly appear (1 Pet 4:18). Thank God for sanctification in Christ.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

After knowing and worshipping with a family more than forty five years, a bond is created we wish would never be broken. This is our case with the A.C. and Maxine Prude family. Our family, both physical and spiritual, has truly been blessed by their association.

Brother A.C. Prude passed away last week separating all of us for now. We extend our deepest sympathy to Maxine, their children and families, and all of the Prude family. They have been an example and a source of strength to all of us.

I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as a deacon when A.C. was an elder at a former congregation. A.C. and Maxine have always upheld the truth, and strived to live by the commandments as given. We will truly miss A.C. knowing that recently, because of his love for the Word, he attended services when it was almost beyond his physical ability.

Their message to us would be: stay the course, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the faith, keeping the Lord's commandments! Inclusive, these are achieved by assembling with the saints (Heb. 10:25). We appreciate so very much A.C. and Maxine's work over the many wonderful years.

The Bible is the Word of God! It is lasting and all we need to guide us to Heaven. The Psalmist said: "Forever, O Lord thy word is settled in heaven (Ps. 119:89). Isaiah wrote, "...the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of God shall stand forever" (Isa. 40:8). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:25). The word of God liveth and abideth forever (Pet. 1:25). The Bible is God's final revelation (Jude 3). It is inspired, complete, confirmed, and will judge us in the last day (John 12:48). Therefore, we are not to add to or take from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19).

Let's continue to remember the bereaved, the sick, the shut-in and many others in need of our prayers. With all the wonderful promises we have, why would anyone not want to plan for their everlasting destiny?

~Dean

"I love Jehovah, because he heareth My voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, Therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. The cords of death compassed me, and the pains of Sheol gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of Jehovah: O Jehovah, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is Jehovah, and righteous; Yea, our God is merciful. ... For all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of Jehovah. I will pay my vows unto Jehovah, Yea, in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of his saints" (Psm 116:1-16).

GIVING AND RECEIVING

"But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at length ye have revived your thought for me; wherein ye did indeed take thought, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know also how to abound: in everything and in all things have I learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in want. I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me. Howbeit ye did well that ye had fellowship with my affliction. And ye yourselves also know, ye Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church had fellowship with me in the matter of giving and receiving but ye only; for even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my need. Not that I seek for the gift; but I seek for the fruit that increaseth to your account. But I have all things,

and abound: I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, and odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God. And my God shall supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now unto our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen” (Phil 4:10-20).

Paul’s missionary journeys were extensive and varied. He, like other Apostles, did not seek for creature comforts but for ability to live and keep preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. The seal of his apostleship was the faithfulness of many who had been converted by his preaching (1 Cor 9:1-12). Paul used an Old Testament principle to explain how the church could support his and other’s efforts by giving to the work. The Philippians were constantly involved with Paul in his preaching. The giving and receiving of funds from Philippi and others was wonderful. The congregations laid by in store on the first day of every week for the local and foreign work of preaching the Word (1 Cor 16:1, 2). Paul, as a laborer, was a worthy candidate for the bounty given to him. A laborer is worthy of his hire (1 Tim 5:18; Lk 10:7; 1 Cor 9:14, 15).

Paul’s explanation of preaching was that he determined to know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified that the faith of those being converted might not stand on the wisdom of man but in the power of God (1 Cor 2:1-5). Paul was expressly moved by the brethren in Macedonia who gave in rich liberality and abundant joy (2 Cor 8:1-5). He unashamedly said that congregations supplied his wages in order that he might not be a burden to the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:1-15). He said, “Or did I commit a sin in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I preached to you the gospel of God for nought? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them that I might minister unto you; and when I was present with you and was in want, I was not a burden on any man; for the brethren, when they came from Macedonia, supplied the measure of my want; and in everything I kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself. As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this glorying in the regions of Achaia” (2 Cor 11:7-10). It is wonderful that ungrudgingly our congregation gives to mission work around the world. Thank God for cheerful giver. Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**Ten Virgins**" from Matthew 25:1-13 by Brother Randal Morris.

SPIRITUAL SWORD

New issues of the Spiritual Sword are now available in the front foyer.

WITH SYMPATHY

Our prayers go out for the family of **AC Prude** who passed away last Wednesday. Services were held here at the building today (8/10); interment was at Restland/Coppell.

Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend) passed away last Monday after a long illness; services were held at Ben Brown's last Saturday.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The new quarter will begin on September 6th. Teachers, let the office know if you need anything.

THANK YOU

To my Christian family at Belt Line: thank you for the cards, calls, visits, & prayers said for me. I love you all, Charlene Carroll.

I would like to thank the Belt Line congregation for the Bible that you presented to me. Also, thank you very much for all of the love & support you have given me over the years. Sincerely, Jeremy Hardegree

Thank you so much for the concern you've shown me during my illness; your prayers have sustained me. Hank Henry

NEWS OF OUR ILL

•**Gwen Bingham** has moved to HealthSouth Rehab; 3200 Matlock Rd.; Arlington; 76015; 817-468-4000.

- Grady Fowler** is awaiting more test results.
- Hank Henry** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- Tom Head** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- Harold Keller** spent some time in the ER yesterday, but is now home doing better.
- Jack LaFerney** underwent back surgery last Thursday.
- Lyda McAlister** was also able to be in worship yesterday.
- Everett Newton** is having more difficulty.
- Tom Prince** is sore but doing well following back injections.
- Leo Townsend** will undergo surgery this Wednesday (8/12) at Methodist Hospital in Dallas.
- David McDaniel** (Elizabeth Garrison's brother) is gravely ill in ICU in a Tyler hospital.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Garldean Latham, Roy Thomas, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Louise Gierling (former member & Tom Gierling's mother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (son of missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 16: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 16: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- August 19: Summertime Preaching

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Virgil LaFerney
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Darrell Allen
- Bill Matthews

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
Genesis 49:8-10

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Laltham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Mike Garrison

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- Zechariah 2:1-5

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Ty Harvey (last song: Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

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	85	88	93	125
A.M. Worship	148	160	156	210
P.M. Worship	83	87	86	112
Wed. Class	98	90	80	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5917	\$5852	\$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