

**May 3, 2010**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**May 8, 2010**

a.m. *"Walking With the Lord"*

Scripture: Genesis 5:21-24

p.m. *"Toil and Rest"*

Scripture: Psalm 4:1-8

**The Bible Is The Church's Book**

Don Hatch

**The church of Christ** is built upon the "...apostles, and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Eph 2:11-22). During the excavation of the temple area in Jerusalem there have been foundation stones discovered in almost the original finish. It appears that an important place in church history was the laying of a strong foundation. Rudimentary is the fact that Jesus Christ is the "chief corner stone" from which all other stones take their reckoning. Peter's confession of Jesus, being the Son of God, became a foundational truth for the church (Mat 16:13-20). Peter wrote, "...if ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Because it is contained in scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious..." (1 Pet 2:1-9). The stone which the Jews disallowed was Jesus Christ (Acts 4:8-12). If the foundation of the church be destroyed what shall the righteous do? The only Christ we have is the one revealed in Scripture. To damage the credibility of Christ and Scripture impugns the only historical witness bearing testimony to Christianity. Christ always supported the Bible as truth assuring the Apostles they would know The Truth (Jn 15). Scriptures furnish all that is necessary for the organization and effectiveness of the church. The Bible is sufficient to guide the church into all truth. Guided by Scriptures in all matters and patterns, **identifies ceremony, rites and rituals as superfluous and unnecessary.** Confirmation of Christianity must be her moral, ethical and spiritual conduct. These are principles of life which mark out the way of righteousness arising from Scriptures. The church did not give the Scriptures, but rather the Scriptures gave the church. No Creeds are needed!

**The church of Christ** is not only founded upon the Scriptures but is the repository and using them is a sacred trust for world-wide distribution (Jude 3). The church is to guard the good thing which was committed unto her through the Holy Spirit. The church is distinctively the "pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim 3:14-16). The "called out people of God" [church] have always used Scripture as the basis of faith and practice. Their specific purpose is to preserve and utilize the Scriptures which were deposited in their care and custody. God has jealously maintained His word. It would be the height of absurdity for those redeemed by Him not to hold His word also in the highest regard. Take the Law of Moses away, where would Israel be?

Such is true of the church of Christ. Her only reason for existing and the way of existing is the Scriptures. The advantage which Jews had over the Gentile world was because of the Oracles of God (Rom 3:1-8). To reject the New Testament suspends the reason for the church of Christ. Christians are lineal successors to the advantages of faith and righteousness if they retain their fidelity to the Scriptures. Dissemination of the truth of the Gospel saves souls and that is the distinctive business of the church. The summons to this sacred trust of protecting and disseminating the truth contained in the Gospel is a solemn pledge. The book which the church uses is the Bible. She must never surrender allegiance of this trust for there are many who would make shipwreck the faith of others (1 Tim 1:18-20).

**The question often raised** is “where are the candidates for elders, deacons and ministers”? Is it to be expected that young men will be moved to these offices of trust without devotion to the instrument which will guide them in the way of righteousness? Solemn pledges of service are derived from a proportionate teaching of the Scriptures. Faith and conduct are inextricably joined and always found together. One who does not hold to Biblical teachings can scarcely be trusted to teach them. Progressives are always on the wrong side of any Biblical question. Biblical faith can always be depended upon to teach purity, marital integrity, worthy citizenship and proportionate regard for things holy. Questions of purity are supplanted by absolute and undeniable Biblical evidence of what God demands. There must be those who stand for the integrity of the written word of God. It is worthy for those who call themselves Christians to disclaim any clamor to rewrite the Bible trying to conveniently fit the changes of society. When the Bible is believed and its words upheld it will change society into seekers of godliness. What is needed is not a Bible that condones or calls evil good and good evil, but rather the old Jerusalem gospel, preached and practiced!

**There is no truth more dependable** than the Bible. Its moral and spiritual teachings are firmly set upon the foundation of Christ, Apostles and Prophets. It will not be shaken and we have the assurance that neither will Kingdom of Christ be shaken (Col 1:12-17; Heb 12:18-29). The church is not only founded upon the Scriptures and responsible for its purity, but has a solemn trust and must enjoin herself in the vital preservation of the purity of the gospel. A full measure of the church and her influence will be vivid in setting forth the excellencies of the marvellous light, as the people of God. The Bible is the church's book. Heed it, practice its principles and precepts and lean its promises!

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

Thank you Brother Hatch for continuing to bring us outstanding Gospel sermons. Each one of our worship lessons is available on cassette or CD versions. We recommend using this method to increase our learning and share the Gospel with others. We want to commend the Belt Line brethren for your dedication and love for the Gospel.

Our VBS will start in five weeks. Hopefully, we are making our plans to attend and take advantage of this great opportunity. It is important to all of us, and our teachers will be highly encouraged and strengthened. Hope to see you at VBS June 14-16! Read Heb. 10:25.

THE BIBLE IS RIGHT..... What is the Church That Jesus Built? Christianity is the one true religion of the one true God, established by the one true Lord, Christ, and revealed by the one true Spirit in the one faith. Christianity expresses itself through literature, the Bible, the Word of salvation, and also through a person (Jesus Christ, the Savior), through an institution (the Church) and the saved. The church then is the blood bought body of Christ. It is the saved (Acts2:47).

The Church is the spiritual body of Christ. "And he is the head of the body the church" (col. 1:18, Eph. 4:4). The church is the blood purchased people. "Take heed unto yourselves and to the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Therefore, the church is composed of those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ. Note: Some former "Churches of Christ" have removed "Christ" from their identifications (signs, bulletins, pamphlets, brochures, etc.). They should do this since they have departed from the Scriptures and strayed from the commandments. In other words, worldly!

The church is the saved. "...For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body" (Eph. 5:23). The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22, 23). Therefore, Christ is the savior of the church. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Those who are in the church constitute the saved; and those who are saved constitute the church. The Church is the house, household family of God, and the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim. 3:15, Eph. 2:16-19, Eph. 3:14, 15). The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22, 23). "Ye also were made dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who raised from the dead." (Rom. 7:4). Paul likened the relationship between husband and wife unto the relationship between Christ and His Church. (Eph. 5:23). The bride now belongs to Christ. However, when he comes, it will be presented to himself forever (Eph. 5:26,27). We should all want to be in that glorious Church (2 Cor. 6:2, Mk. 16:16). Being outside the church is living without any hope of salvation! We need to be in the assembly when all possible.

Have a great week serving God and doing His will! Pray for our sick and shut-ins!

~ Dean Webb

### **LADIES ½ DAY 2010**

Our 9th Annual Spring Ladies' 1/2 Day has come and gone. As always I look back with a little sadness that it has passed but look forward to our 10th - the Lord willing - the last Saturday of April, 2011!

Our theme this year, "Women Hold The Keys" was addressed and lesson delivered successfully by sister Sarah Fallis. Her message, in part, was looking on society of the first century compared to the time we live, and seeing they are somewhat comparable. Revelation 1:17, 18 should encourage us to go forward and bring others to Christ, "...Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." There are keys we must use that are found in The Word of God.

"There's nothing cheers a person up just like a hearty greeting -- A handclasp and an honest smile that flash the joy of meeting." From the front door to the annex I believe these words held true. A few new things we did this year: Pretty corsages pinned on everyone who came through our doors, thanks to Letitia Beverly. The suggestion was made at our post 1/2 Day meeting not to let the corsages go to waste and to wear them the 2nd Sunday of May. A nice, well bound cookbook, with recipes from our ladies was prepared and edited by Beverly McKey and put together by many helpers of whom I don't have the names. Lesson C. D.'s were "burned" successfully and distributed, as a gift, by Bill and Linda Matthews.

Were there space, I would mention everyone by name who was responsible for photography, delicious food, decorations, greeters, registration, participants in the program, (i.e. song leaders, prayers, scripture reader, speaker's gift, those who donated to the "surprise gifts", etc.) You are appreciated and did a great job. A special thank you to our elders for always being supportive in this effort! I believe God was glorified, and that we and our many visitors were edified and exhorted.  
Joann Hatch

"...A worthy woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband trusteth in her, And he shall have no lack of gain. She doeth him good and not evil All the days of her life. She seeketh wool and flax, And worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchant-ships; She bringeth her bread from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, And giveth food to her household, And their task to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it; With the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, And maketh strong her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is profitable: Her lamp goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the distaff, And her hands hold the spindle. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household; For all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh for herself carpets of tapestry; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, When he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh linen garments and selleth them, And delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and dignity are her clothing; And she laugheth at the time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; And the law of kindness is on her tongue..." (Prov 31:10-26)

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, May 9, 2010**

***Front foyer:*** Richard & Carolyn Renfro

***Back foyer:*** Robert & Cathy Taylor

### **Sunday, May 16, 2010**

***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.

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please delete Rob & Michelle Farmer and Jamie & Megan Little from your phone directory; also Doyle & Shirley Graham as they have moved to Percy, Texas.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We had a great meeting of VBS teachers & workers yesterday evening; your attendance & willingness to participate is appreciated and will glorify our Lord. Be sure to invite friends & neighbors so that we may have the best VBS yet: June 14-16.

### 39'ers

**The 39rs will meet on the 17<sup>th</sup>**. We hope all will plan to attend this special fellowship. The meal is "pot-luck". We start at 6:30; bring a friend. You will enjoy a wonderful evening.

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- Billie Gilliam** is back in Northgate Plaza, room #118,
- Mary Jackson** was treated & released from the ER with chest pain.
- Frances LaFerney** had a rough time last week.
- Everett Newton** is in Baylor/Dallas, Roberts Bldg. room #1528 & not doing well.
- Wade Dillenbeck** (family member of the McAlister's) has been diagnosed with Hodgkins disease.
- Dick Roberts** (friend of the Matthew's) is in a coma.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Mildred Pennington** (James Gilliam's sister) passed away last week; services will be in Ardmore, OK tomorrow (5/4).

Former member, **Minnie Edwards**, also passed away last week; her services will be in Houston this Friday.

**Carl Smith** (elder at S. MacArthur) passed away last week.

### CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Hank Henry, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brenda Alsup (Lotah Franklin's friend), Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

"To everything *there is* a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck *what is* planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. The God-Given Task, what profit has the worker from that in which he labors? I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. I know that nothing *is* better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it *is* the gift of God."

~Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 9: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- May 9: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- May 17: 39'ers in Annex at 6:30 p.m.
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

## LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

### Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Jerry Baker
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Howard
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker

### Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin

## SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Mike Batot
- Denzil Myers

## A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen  
Genesis 5:21-24

## A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

## SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- Mike Garrison

## P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- John Mayer  
Psalm 4:1-8

## P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

**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	78	73	81	125
A.M. Worship	145	147	145	210
P.M. Worship	77	83	77	112
Wed. Class	85	71	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	21	-	28	35
Contribution	\$5455	\$6643	\$5450	\$5433

***MISSIONS***

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
- Willie & Del 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
- Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
- 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 – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
- Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India