

**February 23, 2009**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**March 1, 2009**

a.m. "*Temple of Living Stones*"

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-8

p.m. "*Great Physician*"

Scripture: Mathew 8:1-4

**The Issue Stated**

Don Hatch

**Foundations must be set before a building** can be built. Unless individuals understand an issue they are unable to make a reasonable and intelligent decision. To fail to see the issue is to fail to see why an argument must be made in defense or denial of an issue. Being for or against something is not enough. One must know why. Hence, the Bible teaches that there were miracles. They indicate God was at work in the performance of miracles. New Testament miracles were referred to as signs, wonders, and mighty work (Heb 2:1-5). As wonders they were astonishing. Wonders established that God exercised His power through individuals. Signs were performed to demonstrate that Jesus Christ had sent individuals under divine authority. They signaled a work being done in the natural realm from a spiritual realm by the power of God calling attention to God's might and power in all areas.

**The church in modern times can assert** that she does not have, nor was she promised to have power to work miracles. She can affirm that in the apostolic times, apostles of Christ and certain others could do signs, wonders and mighty works. Therefore, it is understood that the church of Christ believes in miracles only as recorded in the New Testament.

**Divine healing in the sense that people move within the harmony** of God's laws of health can be called healing. God does answer prayer. Healing can be overseen by divine providence without being miraculous. God answers prayer and therefore we should pray for the sick (Jas 5:13-18). However, it does not mean that God will answer for the sick in miraculous manners, as He fed the 4,000, walked on the water or raised Jairus' daughter. It is one thing to believe God answers prayer and quite another to believe one has the power which the apostles had and that hands can be laid on the sick, praying over them and immediately they recover. God answers prayers according to His will, but we do not have the power to perform miracles as did the apostles and neither do the "healers" today. The answer to "Does God Heal His People Today?", is an unhesitating, "yes"! However, it is quite different from the days of Jesus and His apostles. Healing is not instantaneously performed. Jesus could speak, touch or declare healing. His apostles and others in the first century could do the same. We are not troubled if a person goes to a doctor, takes medications and the person is subsequently cured thus seeing

God's providence at work. The discovery of medication, doctor's skills, hospitals and other items were set in place by God through His providence and it is not necessarily a miracle when a person is healed or cured from an illness. An arm cut off and growing back without surgery would be a miracle. In The New Testament when any kind of disease was healed, even one born blind, indicated that a miracle was manifested. The reason for miracles no longer exists. Revelation was confirmed by miracles. The Bible has been fully revealed. Even those who claim miraculous ability dare not add a new book, chapter or verse to the New Testament. Hence there is no further need for miracles. Yet, we can affirm that God still blesses His creation in wonderful ways. Clearly the Bible affirms "...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28). God can bless exceedingly above all we think or ask (Eph 3:20, 21). The church should be happy to represent this belief. Even in the days of the apostles some remained ill (2 Cor 12:7-10; 1 Tim 5:23-25; 2 Tim 4:20; Phil 2:25-27).

**When sickness encompasses our loved ones** we should do all to care for them as the case may demand. But we should put the matter in the hands of our Lord and trust Him, even more than we do the doctors, to make our loved one well again. Examples of congregation after congregation could be cited where a loved one has been ill and the congregation petitioned the Father on their behalf and they were healed when the doctors were stumped and could not accomplish what prayer could. It was not a miracle. It was an answer to prayers by the providence of God (Jas 5:13-18). How far God intervened in these cases is not for us to know. All modern cures are progressive, not affected immediately or instantly, but in the course of time loved ones are well again. God has blessed them.

**It must be remembered that God did not** heal everyone throughout the centuries. He is powerful, yet believers do not need Him to create an entire universe again for us to believe He providentially sustains the universe (Heb 1:1-5). The church can affirm that God has power and that He exercises it according to His design. God has not withdrawn from the affairs of His creation. God is still engaged in all that man does. The issue then is does God grant miraculous powers to modern men that they might demonstrate there is a God? If those who claim to have such power cannot duplicate immediate healing by performing miracles like walking on the water, raising the dead, healing a leper, giving speech to the speechless and other items which the first century apostles and certain brethren could perform, we have reason to doubt. Proof would be raising a person who has been dead three days, as Lazarus, giving sight to sightless eyes and the other miracles which have not been duplicated in modern times. The issue is faithfulness. **God's Bible exists and has no further need of miraculous signs, wonders or miracles to prove it.**

## **FAMILY CARE**

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

Our contributions to members of Churches who we have never seen speaks well of our Christian love and concern. "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." 1 Peter 2:17.

The scriptures teach that we all are capable of doing many different things for God. In 1 Peter 4:10, we're told, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

We must continue to grow as good stewards of God each day. Some of us may travel and take help directly to those in need, others may contribute of their financial blessings and still others may send letters of encouragement to those struggling in difficult places. There are so many things we can do for God.

We must be busy doing God's service each day of our lives in what ever form it may take. That is our duty. "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Develop your talents to be acceptable to God. As you grow older, sometimes your talents change, so take advantage of every opportunity to grow for Christ. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:9-10.

~ Richard Renfro

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009**

Israel was exhorted to keep the law of God. God took them and made a nation in the midst of other nations. Jehovah separated them by mighty signs, great and terrible things. These were demonstrated so that they might believe there was only one God. God commanded they keep his divine mandates that He might bless them. *"For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? Did ever a people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?"* (Deut 4:32, 33).

This test was given by Moses to the children of Israel as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. It was fundamental that they hold God in the highest regard. They were to take heed to themselves less corruption enter in among them. Complaining was an inappropriate behavior as God's chosen people (1 Cor 10:1-13).

Israel needed to gain a sense of the historical perspective and Moses urged them to study the history of the world since the beginning. The prophets spoke to the fathers in diverse manners and now Moses was their prophet. They were created as God's own. When Christ came He was the prophet unto which all must heed (Acts 3:22-26). There is no other name given under heaven wherein is found salvation (Acts 4:12). The church of Christ is the only one of its kind. Christ's own (Eph 1:22, 23)!

As the Church looks at the past and notes how blessed she has been to become an elect race of God, precious, a spiritual house, acceptable, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession to show forth the excellencies of His greatness, who in times past had been no people, but now are the people of God because they had obtained mercy it should be a season of rejoicing (1 Pet 2:1-10). The days which are past are the foundations upon which we

build faithfulness (Rom 1:16, 17). As God's new creation the Church is of incredible importance. Centuries have come and gone with God still vitally interested in the Church. God provided enough history to instruct us that His plans for the Church were to have a key role in accomplishing His work of redemption. She should appreciate the meaning of their lives as they receive the spiritual blessings from the mighty hand of the Redeemer who has blessed so bountifully.

A true historical perspective is needed today to learn and profit. Understanding God's purposes for the Church is invaluable. We have such a great responsibility. May God help us to learn, believe and understand. There is nothing more wonderful upon the earth than the Church.

~ Don Hatch

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, March 1, 2009**

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

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

#### **Sunday, March 8, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Bill & Linda Matthews

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

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

### **LADIES**

Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. for a lesson & lunch.

### **39'ers**

Don't forget to sign up for the annual Teen breakfast scheduled for **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. The sheet is on the round table in the front foyer.

### SUNDAE SUNDAY

On **Sunday, March 1st** at 5:15p.m., there will be a Sundae Sunday party in the Annex for all Belt Line children thru 8th grade. Bring your parents and enjoy a sundae. This is your reward for turning in your "listening" pages each Sunday.

### TEEN INFORMATION

We are planning for the **Summer Youth Series**. Encourage your children to plan on attending each session. We will give you dates, places and times as they are available.

**Summer Youth Camp at Lake Cisco** always invites our youth to attend. Jr. Camp is set for **July 5-9**; Sr. Camp is for **July 19-24**. Plan now to go.

### TEEN WORK DAY

Anyone who needs help with work around your home, please notify Darrell Allen, John Mayer, or Ty Harvey as the Teens are planning a work day for **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### IN APPRECIATION

From every heart on campus to every heart in your church, we say THANK YOU! It is in your giving that hearts & tummies are touched by God's love. I know He is smiling on His kids, all of us. Blessings around, Steve Deloney (Romans 15:13), Christ's Haven for Children.

### THANK YOU

Thanks to the Matthews & Beverly McKey for preparing & handing out worksheets for our young people during worship.

### ADDRESS CHANGE

**Lance Corporal Cornish, Jeff**; 9<sup>th</sup> ESB 3<sup>rd</sup> MLG Unit 38430; APO AP 96604-8430

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School set for **June 15-17**; this year's theme will be about Worship.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Lynn Wynn** (friend of the McKey's) passed away yesterday following a massive stroke.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

- **The Garrisons** request prayers as they travel on vacation.
- **Mary Lou Tibbetts** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- **Gina Pearson** (the Baker's daughter) is in Baylor/Irving with stomach problems.
- **Nell Rogers** (Carol Swinney's sister) is undergoing dialysis.
- **Natasha & Ilya Yakimenko** (missionaries in Russia) have health problems: Natasha with a lung problem & Ilya with an eyesight problem.

**Please continue to remember in prayer:** Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (Scott Watson' mother), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), & our shut-ins.

### **THOSE TO SERVE IN MARCH**

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

**(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Virgil LaFerney, Derroll Allen

**p.m.** Stan Selby, Bill Paschall

**Card Pickup:** (a.m.) Toby Howard, Curtis Vaughan (p.m.) Scot Allen, Alex Mayer

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

**Communion Preparers:** JC & Dessie Ross

**We appreciate all who work hard behind the scenes for the Lord & for our congregation!**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- March 1: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- March 1: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 3: Ladies' Bible Class & lunch at 11:00 a.m. in the Annex
- March 7: Teen/39er breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex
- April 4: Teen work day
- April 25: Ladies' ½ Day
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

### **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**Sunday morning:**

- Betty Ruckman

**Sunday evening:**

- Samantha Harvey

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

#### **Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- John Mayer

#### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

### **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Jerry McKey
- Mike Batot
- Grady Fowler

### **A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Henry Seidmeyer  
1 Peter 2:1-8

### **A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Garl Latham
- Henry Seidmeyer

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Bill Matthews
- Mathew 8:1-4

**P.M. SONG LEADER**

- Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Stan Selby
- 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	96	98	94	125
A.M. Worship	153	156	156	210
P.M. Worship	90	90	90	112
Wed. Class	88	94	84	110
Ladies Bible Class	20	22	27	35
Contribution	\$4906	\$4337	\$5594	\$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