

May 5, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 11, 2008

a.m. *"Miracles of Jesus"*

Scripture: Acts 2:22-24

p.m: *Update from India*

Dennis Johnson

Consistency Has It Reward
Don Hatch

Consistency requires that believers live in conformity with the fact that they were baptized into Christ to be raised with Him, who is the object of faith, source of life, and cause of redemption (Rom 6:1-11). After having been raised with Christ, made alive from the dead and given hope of eternity with God, there are dangers that might beset us by lapsing back into worldly ways, for the devil seeks to destroy (1 Pet 5:8). The danger of gross sensuality, wrong solutions for problems, materialism and spiritual ills are evident. However, attacks by the devil need not be terminal. Born again believers have options to exercise based upon the charity, mercy and grace of God (1 Jn 1:5-10). Correction of one's course in life requires seeking those things which are above, responding to Christ's voice as sheep of His flock and walking with Him through the length of life (Jn 10:7-18; Psm 23:1-6). Being raised to walk in newness of life Christian should not seek preservation or fullness of anything spiritual apart from Christ. Why should Christians resort to the fouled waters of philosophy, rudiments of the world and worldliness? Christ is the living water (Jn 4:11, 12; 6:51-69; Col 2:8-23).

Christ's resurrection, ascension and coronation assure Christians exemption from conviction because Jesus provided the agent for salvation (1 Jn 21:1-10). To this Savior, Christians surrender and by faith embrace the significance of salvation that must be lived out in fear and trembling because God will work in them to do His good pleasure (Phil 2:12-18). The supply of grace is manifold. Christians have and can survive in an evil world by showing themselves incorrupt, having gravity, sound speech and being well-pleasing to God (Tit 2:1-13). The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing them to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Tit 2:1-14). The transformation and union with Christ leads Christians to exalt Him and rely on His saving grace.

Seeking the things above maintains guidelines for the spiritual efforts. Constant seeking ends in full discovery of what God can do. The emphasis is not so much on the seeking as it is the One being sought. Seeking to obtain is a common activity, but finding the right treasure is the end of the Christian's search. Jesus, as the Christian's exalted Mediator, Interceder, Friend and Savior helps through the circumstances of life if there is diligence on each one's part (2 Tim 1:12-14; Matt 7:7; 1 Cor 12:11; Eph 1:3). With the heart being filled with such bounties there is no room for fleshly lust or indulgence. Whatsoever is needed for saints is found in the narrow way (Matt 7:13, 14). Jesus is the fountain from which all blessings flow. The things above are not phantoms or illusions but priceless treasures. Those who are not forgetful of these blessings do not neglect their responsibilities. On the contrary, they find a very practical way to struggle against the flesh (Gal 5:16-24). Pondering and yearning are defining concepts

for overcoming evil and making no provisions for the flesh (Rom 13:14). Thinking on things truthful, honorable, just, pure, lovely and those things which have a good report will center the Christian's life on virtue (Phil 4:8, 9). Accordingly we must not allow the old man to control, for eternity is only comprehended in service to Christ (Eph 1:4). Living faith finds the only resort for the soul is being hid with Christ in God (Col 3:2). To live toward immortality and incorruption one must be in Christ (1 Cor 15:5-58; Gal 3:27). Consistently holding to the pattern of sound words is the essence of godliness (Jn 14:19; 2 Cor 4:10; Gal 4:19).

Superficial judgment of how worthy the choice of yielding to Christ is leads to displays of impiety. Those who have put to death actions like fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, covetousness and disobedience live on earth in a condition and state which wholly coincides with God's will. This state is not perfect but justified by Jesus because it is lived with eternity in mind. The old self is dead and Christians live in harmony with God's commands. The progressive character of seeking things above is because of a "new life" in Christ. The presence of this new life in Christ enables the believer progressively to put to death any former actions which resist with boldness Christian living. Vice is renounced and virtue exalted. The resolve of a Christian is to frequently review his manner of life in order to adjust the course his life is taking. Immorality and immortality are never far from the Christian's heart, soul and mind. Living with a godly disposition is second nature to the faithful. Renewing of one mind, heart and soul is analogous to increasing vigor with a definite goal in mind. Progression toward the goal of the high calling which is in Christ is a constant theme in the Bible (Phil 3:13-16; 1 Thes 3:12; 4:10; 1 Tim 4:15; 2 Tim 2:1). Extraordinary virtues are common with saints. Those who grasp the truth habitually refine their lives and distinguish that all they do is harmoniously adjusted to God's will. They know that nothing must hinder them from being the "new man in Christ". The most appropriate image that can be displayed is consistency. With calmness and reflection saints their watches are keeping. Turbulence and warring may rage without but the inner man finds solutions to life by complete reliance on the sustaining power in the implanted strength of God. His transforming grace and renewing love is beyond our expectations (Eph 3:20, 21). Be consistent.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

A great thanks to all those who helped with making the 2008 Ladies Half Day be so successful. Many went the extra mile to see that everything was done properly and scripturally. We appreciate our fine Christian ladies and their desire to spread the gospel of our Lord in this way. Thanks to Ilene Ashworth and her family for providing the transportation and lodging for our guest speaker. I'm sure the ladies are already thinking about next year's Half Day. I Peter 4:9, 10: "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

A few weeks ago we were blessed to have Ted Lingren give us a report on the teaching of the Bible in Southeast Asia and especially in Sisophon, Cambodia. We have supported Ted with finances and prayers for many years in a difficult land. He continues to do good work and we wish him well and God's speed as he establishes Bible teachers throughout Cambodia. Carolyn and I enjoyed his visit with us and hope he will come again.

This week, Dennis and Beth Johnson of Chennai, India, will stay with Carolyn and me. On Sunday night, May 11, Dennis will give us a report on the Chennai Teacher Training School in Chennai, India. We have supported Dennis and Beth since the Great Tsunami of 2004. They do great works in India for the Lord by directing the school for teachers of the Bible in two languages. They help feed and cloth many that are in great distress. They encourage the saints and write Bible lessons for others to teach. They have done this for forty years. Don't miss Dennis's report of God's work in India. Colossians 1:28: "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Have a wonderful week in the Lord,

~Richard L. Renfro

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Christians Are Different

Christianity is to be different and stand out because of its religious and moral inclinations. The Christian's language edifies and is not to be filled with dirty stories, abysmal and vain statements. Being moral, abstaining from all appearances of evil and not indulging in worldliness is important to them. They must dress modestly, being aware of the emphasis the Bible places on shamefacedness. They see a righteous life as a means to an end, neither justifying nor winking at evil. Christians stand for righteousness and abhor that which is evil.

Important to Christians is seeking the Kingdom of Christ first. God, church, home and country are all important. These institutions are under attack by unimaginable pressure. Christian principles bless a nation. Daring to be different from evil is a worthy choice. Christians make the difference because they are different.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the May 9, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Are You Guilty?

When a wife saw her husband trying to sew on a button, she told him that the thimble was on the wrong finger. "I know," he answered, "It should be on yours."

This amusing little story makes a point that I feel is worth our consideration. Many times we find ourselves being very critical of the way someone else is doing a particular job. He doesn't do it like we would if the task were ours to do, so we begin to point the finger of criticism in his direction. Perhaps the answer to the problem would be found if we would do our fair share of the work and take some of the burden from our brother's shoulders.

The work of the church is never going to be easy, but it could be more effectively done if it were distributed evenly among all the members. It is easy to sit idly on the sidelines and criticize, but it is something else to get into the game. Why not each one put a thimble on his own finger and sew on the buttons together?

~ Larry Kilpatrick

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 11, 2008

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Jamie & Megan Little

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **today** 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.

LOCAL MEETING

The **Colleyville Church of Christ** will be hosting a Gospel Meeting **May 30-June 1**. The theme will be "*Sayings of Jesus*"; a flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

LADIES

During our post ½ Day meeting, one of the suggestions made for next year was to invite Sister Polly Cline back again. Sister Cline has agreed, the Lord willing, to speak again for our 8th Ladies' ½ Day.

THANK YOU

We thank everyone for your prayers, phone calls, & cards. In the near future, I will undergo radiation treatments, so I still want your prayers for me. Our love to all of you, Bob & Gwen Bingham

Thank you for the cards & prayers on my behalf, & especially to the young people who worked on my lawn. In Christian love, Frances Tipton

Thanks so much for all the phone calls, visits, cards and expressions of concern. They were so generous and so comforting. May God bless you all. The Family of Jean Haddock

WITH SYMPATHY

Our prayers go up for the family of **Emily Barganier** (occasional visitor). Emily passed away on Friday; services will be held at the North Irving Church of Christ today (5/5) at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- √ **Nancy Batot** got a good report from her cardiologist.
- √ **Melissa Beverly's** surgery has been rescheduled for tomorrow (5/6).
- √ **Bob Bingham** underwent surgery on his tongue on Thursday.
- √ **Bob Bradley** is seriously ill at home.
- √ **Charlene Carroll** is home from the hospital.
- √ **Billie Gilliam** has not been feeling well.
- √ **Chad Mathews** hurt his leg in a soccer accident; doctor thinks it is just a bad sprain.
- √ **Lyda McAlister** was able to be in worship yesterday after a recent sick spell.
- √ **Beverly McKey** underwent day surgery on her leg on Friday.
- √ **Donna Meyer** fell & broke her nose & fractured an eye socket; she was treated & released, but will need surgery.
- √ **Georgia Meyer** is in rehab at Avante on Sowers Rd., room #207.
- √ **Billie Prince** will possibly be released from the hospital in the next couple of days.
- √ **Maxine Prude** is in HEB, room #518 following a reaction to some medications.
- √ **Jan Smithson** is still ill at home.
- √ **Lisa Allred** (Carol Townsend's daughter) got a good report; she does not have cancer.
- √ **Marie Grice** (former member) broke her ankle. Also, her last sister has passed away.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Frances & Jack LaFerney, Tom Prince, AC & Maxine Prude, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 30 thru June 1: Colleyville Gospel Meeting
- June: Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27: Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 16 – 18: Vacation Bible School
- July: Cisco Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Melissa Allen

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Brandon Thomason
- Grady Fowler
- Jerry Baker
- Mike Garrison
- Rob Farmer
- Stan Selby
- Derrol Allen
- Marvin Brown

Rear Table

- Nathan Allen
- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Robert Bickel
- Max Melton
- Bill Paschall
- Bobby Bowen
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly

SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
Acts 2:22-24

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Meyers
- Paul Guisinger

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	88	94	97	125
A.M. Worship	157	160	169	210
P.M. Worship	94	90	93	112
Wed. Class	87	91	93	110
Ladies Bible Class	27	27	28	35
Contribution	\$4314	\$6414	\$5447	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India

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

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