

May 26, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 31, 2009

a.m. "Faith and Doubt"

Scripture: Mark 9:14-23

p.m. Fifth Sunday Singing

Freedom In Christ

Don Hatch

The Bible is unique because it gives the crimson side of mankind's deeds. It is repugnant to many modern societies with their deeds of an unregenerated life because it acts as a mirror and shows them as blood drenched and vile. They view the Bible and renounce it for its graphic portrayal of sinful past generations who sought salvation from their misdeeds through an active participation in the sacrifices required by God. From the moment God took the animal and clothed Adam and Eve there has been a trail of blood which was the purchase price for reconciliation of man with God. The godly reminisce on the access they have through the death of Jesus Christ (Rev 5:9). Acquittal can only be claimed through Jesus' blood. Jesus' death, as bloody as it was, became the bridge over which man must cross to gain reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:18-20). Apart from man accepting Jesus' blood as the means of salvation there is no acquittal. The Elders from Ephesus were told that they and all Christians were bought with the blood of Jesus (Act 20:28). The price was enormous and frightfully wonderful. "God with us" gave His life on the cross for mankind's salvation. Being alienated from God, without hope and having no covenant, was altered only by the blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. There is no other name in which salvation is found (Act 4:12). The price demanded was a perfect sacrifice. Jesus Christ was a man without sin (2 Cor 5:21). God will not demand a second sacrifice (1 Pet 1:18-20). Jesus is the Redeemer (1 Cor 1:30; Gal 4:4, 5). Jesus' blood is contrasted with silver, gold and precious things which man has used as ransom for those taken as prisoners of war (Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 1:18; Rev 5:9). Jesus' redemption is eternal in nature (Heb 9:12). The outpouring of His blood secured redemption.

The mighty acts of God throughout the millenniums are vast and with divine purpose (Eph 1:3-15). Jehovah is the redemptive and covenant keeping name for God of the Old Testament (Deut 7:8). It is from the time of creation that God demonstrated His deep and vast love for mankind's soul. God planned and executed His will to redeem fallen man (Isa 52:3; 53). Jesus came to be the Lamb of God bringing love and forgiveness for lost mankind (Isa 63:9). God aided mankind to find and understand redemption because of their complete inability to save themselves (Psm 49:7, 8). Apart from redeeming grace the sinner was helpless and hopeless (Rom 5:1-10). Nothing but the precious blood of Jesus could avail to save mankind. Fully grasping the voluntary humiliation of Christ, being rejected, His agony, sorrow, brutal mocking, beatings and finally death persuades mankind to surrender to the love of God. The immense

suffering of Christ must captivate the mind of mankind in order for them to surrender to the Lord's divine will.

Christ came to grant an inheritance to all of mankind (Gal 3:24-29). The inheritance is a reward and condition of the soul wherein God allows mankind to have a sonship by virtue of the price paid on their behalf. The reward is to receive full and complete pardon upon obedience to certain biblical precepts (1 Pet 3:9; Heb 1:4; 12:17; 2 Cor 6:14-18). Mankind sells themselves to Satan and are in bondage but Christ sets the captive free (Col 1:11-15). Changing the doctrine changes the message and means of salvation (Gal 1:6-10). Redemption is a matter of receiving the benefits because of obedience to the New Covenant's mandates. When one is without God, any hope or a covenant constitutes them as being lost. To receive the covenant, hope and blessings of God there must be a willingness to put to death the works of the flesh (Gal 5:16-20; Col 3:5-8). Freedom gives an entire change of state and status. Believers enjoy redemption because of the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet 1:18; Eph 1:7; Rev 5:9). The effect of redemption is eternal life (1 Jn 5:18). Final consummation of redemption is a heavenly home (Jn 14:1-5). Thus, the blessings and benefits of redemption are varied and vast. Jesus' blood has set us free from the penalty, power and consequence of sin. It frees us from the curse of the law and being in league with Satan (Col 1:12-14). It frees us from the wrath of God and pangs of hell (Rom 1:18-32). Doubt bespeaks of a diminished estimation of the power of Jesus' blood and its value to ransom.

We have been redeemed from all iniquity (Tit 2:14; 1 Jn 1:5-10). We have been redeemed from the power of sin (Rom 6:15-20). Set free to live above a vain manner of life (1 Pet 1:18; Gal 5:17-20). Given power to live apart and eschew all evil (1 Thes 5:21, 22). We can face all circumstance knowing that the Lord will be with us (Matt 28:18-20; Heb 13:1-5). Death has been brought to naught, the power of the devil and the fear of death has been removed (Heb 2:13-18; 1 Cor 15:50-58).

Jesus has brought justification (1 Cor 1:29, 30); Rom 3:24). His grace imparts forgiveness of sin (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14). Jesus' blood purifies a people of God's own possession (1 Pet 2:9). Freedom in Christ sets the heart, mind and soul to seeking His pleasure in all we think or do (Col 3:17). It brings joy and peace (Phil 4:4-7). Because of Jesus' blood we have our name written in His book of life (Phil 4:2, 3). Redemption brings freedom to realize the potential of our lives. Redemption sets us free from the past, gives us strength for today and the prospects of faithfulness in the future. As free, we do use our freedom for a cloak of wickedness, but give God praise (1 Pet 2:16).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Our thanks to Brother Henry Seidmeyer for his excellent sermons Sunday in the absence of Brother Don Hatch. We are blessed at Belt Line to have men within the congregation to step in when and absence occurs.

It is very troubling in our society today, having men from within and without, questioning what the Bible says and how it is said? Many of those making changes today in the Lord's Church know beyond a shadow of doubt that the changes they are practicing and now allow are not

according to the Scriptures. We had better get back to our old ways of upholding and practicing the Scriptures as they have been written. All authority belonged to God and still does, and this is to all mankind! We need to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent. The Bible came to us under God's direction, and the commandments the Bible contains are to be followed, exactly as written, by all of mankind.

The ultimate author of every word in the Bible is the Holy Spirit. The setting forth of the will of God in both the Old and New Testaments was accomplished as "men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit." (II Pet. 1:21). It is our responsibility to acknowledge the authority of this Book of writings and to receive it "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also worketh in you that believe." (I Thess. 2:13).

But yes, the fact remains that this inspired, complete and authoritative revelation of truth was delivered to us through men. These men were so controlled by the Spirit of God that they could not destroy nor mar the message being given through them. Their very words were chosen by the Holy Spirit and not by themselves. (I Cor. 2:12-16).

The Bible is the all-sufficient Word of God. The Psalmist said, "Forever, O Lord thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalms 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 (I Pet. 1:25). God hath given unto us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 pet. 1:3). Therefore, we are not to add to or take from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19). 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). Do we have new information that has been hidden 2000 years that will change the meaning of the Bible? Brethren, the answer is no!

Attendance is very, very important and we must be meeting with and having fellowship with the saints at every opportunity. Remember our sick and shut-ins in all of your prayers!

~ Dean Webb

Wait for Jehovah

"The mouth of the righteous talketh of wisdom, and his tongue speaketh justice. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. Jehovah will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait for Jehovah and keep his way, and he will exalt thee to inherit the land: When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a green tree in its native soil. But one passed by, and, lo, he was not: Yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for there is a happy end to the man of peace. As for transgressors, they shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of Jehovah; He is their stronghold in the time of trouble. And Jehovah helpeth them, and rescueth them; He rescueth them from the wicked, and saveth them, because they have taken refuge in him" (Psm 37:30-40).

Occasionally the wicked seem to have success. However, in spite of their apparent triumphs, those who wait on the Lord are the ones who are truly blessed. The word “wait” means binding together. The saint and God are bound together as a child and Father (2 Cor 4:16-18; 6:17, 18; Matt 6:9). As God’s own possession we have become His royal priesthood, holy nation wherein He shows forth the excellence of His mercy and grace (1 Pet 2:1-10). We succeed in life because we are not evil-doers but rather are those who seek to glorify God by good works (1 Pet 2:11, 12). We arm ourselves with the same mind that Christ had (Phil 2:1-11; 1 Pet 4:1-6). All of those things which the world strives after will be consumed by rust, moths or taken by thieves (Matt 6:19-33). The day of judgment will find the house of faith prepared to meet God while the unfaithful will watch all things pass away and be dissolved with a fervent heat (2 Pet 3:8-13).

Christianity is not a useless boredom, waiting for something to happen. The end of the Christian’s labors will be crowned with success (Matt 25:31-45). When judgment separates the lambs from the goats, the good and bad the King will bid the blessed to enter into a kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. The essence of “waiting on the Lord” is that the saints seek to be prepared to meet the Lord (2 Tim 4:1-5). There awaits the saint a crown of righteousness because for having run the race, kept the faith and loved the Lord.

The promise of the Lord is that His children shall mount up on the wings of eagles (Isa 40:31). Their victory is assured because by waiting upon the Lord they will be renewed in strength and run but not be weary in well doing (Gal 6:9, 10). God comforts His people in all the tribulations of life (2 Cor 1:3-11). Mark out then “perfect man” and behold his uprightness. The end of that one will be peace (Phil 4:1-4). The Lord is our strength and redeemer. He cares for us. He will strengthen in times of trouble. He will deliver the righteous from the hands of the wicked. We can trust in the Lord, He is faithful. Seeking the Lord is a lofty and worthy cause to pursue. The end of this quest will be blessed.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 31, 2009

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, June 7, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; Jamie & Megan 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** gathering will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

SUMMERTIME SERIES

Take some handouts from either foyer to share with friends & neighbors with details of our upcoming Summertime Series.

GLEANNING FOR CHILDREN

Pick up a green can if you are interested in collecting change for Foster's Children's Home; we have until September.

TEENS

The first meeting of the Summer Youth Series will begin on Tuesday, **June 9th** & will be held in Keller. Please meet at the building at 5:30 p.m. if you'd like to go.

CONGREGATIONAL FISH FRY/ICE CREAM SUPPER

Everyone is invited to a fish fry which will be held in the Annex this **Saturday, May 30th** at 5:00 p.m. Bring something to go along with fish 'n fries and if you'd like to bring ice cream, please sign up on the sheet in the front foyer.

DAY OF SERVICE

Everyone, mark your calendar for **Saturday, June 6th** as a day of service to distribute door hangers advertising our VBS in several locations. Meet at the building at 8:00 a.m. to help with this work.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The New Bible School quarter will begin actually on **June 7th**. Teachers, if you need anything, please let the office know.

GRADUATION INVITES

Jeremy Hardegree will be graduating from Irving High School on **Friday, June 5th** at 7:00 p.m. at The Potter's House in Dallas.

Chad Mathews will also be graduating, from Trinity High School on **Saturday, May 30th** at the Ft. Worth Convention Center.

Congratulations to both of you; you really make us proud!

IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Melvin & Evelyn Armstrong on the birth of their 6th great-grandchild, **Kaitlyn Reese Bentley**, who was born on May 22nd at 6 ½ pounds & 19" long.

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower is planned for Brandon & Kenica Thomason on **Saturday, June 13th** in the Annex from 2pm – 4pm, come & go. They are registered at Babies-R-Us and Target.

WITH SYMPATHY

Eddie Archer, son of the late Charles & Mary Roth Archer, passed away last Thursday. Visitation was today (5/26) at the Chapel of Roses at 10:00 a.m.; services were at 11:00 a.m.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Grady Fowler's** surgery was a success, however he suffers with severe headaches.
- **Billie Gilliam's** surgery was also a success; she is also at home.
- **John & Kim Mayer** made an emergency trip to Tyler last week to check on John's mother.
- **Everett Newton** had a treatment last weekend & is doing well.
- **Tom Prince** has completed some heart testing & nothing shows immediately; awaiting results.
- **David McDaniel** (Elizabeth Garrison's brother) is back in a Tyler hospital today (5/26).
- **Wil Sadler** (Military missionary) went through successful surgery & will undergo dialysis soon.
- **Scott Watson** (Jeanene Heilman's friend) went home last week.
- **Myranda Williams** (Brandon Williams' wife) has been ill at home.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Gwen Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Louise Gierling (former member Tom Gierling's mother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 30: Congregational fish fry & ice cream supper
- May 31: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- May 31: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- June 3: Summertime Preaching
- June 6: Day of Service
- June 9: Summer Youth Series
- June 15-17: Vacation Bible School

- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Mary Bowen

Sunday evening:

- Betty Ruckman

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

- Dean Webb
- Richard Renfro
- Jerry McKey

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
- Mark 9:14-23

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Fifth Sunday Singing schedule

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Fifth Sunday Singing schedule

P.M. SONG LEADER

- All songleaders

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Bill Matthews

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	84	93	125
A.M. Worship	151	125	154	210
P.M. Worship	82	76	87	112
Wed. Class	71	67	81	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5190	\$3931	\$5386	\$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