

February 15, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 21, 2010

a.m. *"First Things First"*

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

p.m. *"Two Paths"*

Scripture: Proverbs 4:10-19

The Church Cannot Be Dominated

Don Hatch

The name of God must convey more than cultural significance. Deity and divinity is what set God apart and mankind must give God's name more essence and particularity than what is involved in the idea of it being a proper name. There should be no confusion that the God Christians love is the God of the Bible. Let there be no vagueness that the significance of God is crucial to the church of Christ. The nature of the church of Christ rises out of the consequences of who Christ was, is and will be and who are the Father and Holy Spirit. Who is God, how is He identified and known are important to the wellbeing of the church. God is the ultimate concern for a religious man. Is His name used tritely and without solemnity wherein we reiterate "God is Spirit" and give no consideration to what it means to be the Creator of all things? God is known as the Definite One. He is not a general being diffused into nature. He is not depleted because of the millenniums He has existed. He is eternal. Within mankind is the spirit which looks like God. God's name must be particular and definite to mankind if they are to reap the benefit of a relationship with Him. Glorifying and enthroning Him as the Creator and Sustainer commands absolutely no deviation.

In order to emphasize the all-important characteristics of God we should know God is heavenly and eternal. The Bible vocalizes that He is enduring and stable. He promised and fulfilled all His promises throughout the millenniums. At all junctures of history the Bible proclaims "hear the Lord" for His word is active and vital. God is the active Sovereignty before whom all nations are as nothing. Cultures have arisen and waned but God's power is unabated and beyond rivalry. To what in the physical universe is God to be compared, idols of men, creeping things, birds, man, stars? Absurd! Nothing in creation is compared with God because He is Maker of all and Ruler. God is ceaseless and powerful in history. His nature has been aptly displayed. God can renew the strength of a human being, make the weary walk and not faint (Isa 40:1-29). The gods of mankind must be attacked at their weakest point. They are mere conceptions of the imagination while the God of the Bible grants plenteous evidences of Himself. He is not a mere figment of imagination. He is absolute with no equal.

The climatic event in history was the coming of Jesus Christ and He is comprehended as "God with us". The crucial question before mankind is do they see God implicitly and explicitly as the answer to their needs? It is absolutely necessary to believe in God's fulfilled pledge of salvation through Jesus Christ. The transcendent God of the Bible has authenticated His will by His Son Jesus Christ. God cannot be depicted in spatial [space] terms. The mind of a believer must consider God as limitless and infinite. What can we liken God to? Nothing created! Mankind may have lost the scope of a heaven and hell. They are skeptical of a definite God of creation. No-gods of this world are mythology of the simple-minded past. God is validated by His fulfilled pledges. When men say they are going to demythologize the Bible they enter into a realm of popular culture that evades the imposing evidence that there is only the God of the Bible who has proved repeatedly His power. All no-gods have fallen by the wayside.

God is more than an inner personal Being working in the inner resources of the soul. He is the God who made the soul and saves it by the blood of His Son. God is totally dissimilar to anything man can create and call a god. God is more than clay, wood, stone, iron, gold, silver or substances molded into an image. He created all of these substances and mankind is bankrupt when they make God a mere thing. Demythologizing the Bible is a failure. The Bible is not a myth. Reason demands that the evidence be considered without jaded cultural biases. There is no evidence that the Bible is a myth, legend or lore of past generations.

Man is the crowning glory of God's creation. The dignity of man is because he has within him the image of God. Those who believe and teach the Bible are not in a dilemma. They can prove that it is more reasonable to believe in God than to not believe. Christianity exports piety which is tailor made for all bettering of cultures and circumstances. Christianity answers all moral and religious issues. The chaotic emptiness of many cultures is because they do not know the God of the Bible.

The church cannot be dominated by a desire to be decent citizens in possession of a peace of mind knowing little of the vigor expected of her. Secularism is advancing and distorts the purity of Christianity. Christianity offers a consistency wherein each of those who embrace it find true meaning for why am I here, where am I going and what means must I use to be given eternal life.

Christianity exalts the nations wherein it is found. There have been those who have tried to destroy Christian influences because it contrasts with their vulgar culture. Yet, when examined in the clear light of moral and spiritual worth nothing compares to Christianity. The weapon of choice used by those who wish to destroy Christianity is by destroying faith in the Bible by calling it a myth. It is not written like a myth, nor does call itself a myth. Therefore it is not a myth. Read the Bible, use it as a guide and obey its teachings for therein is found the issues of life.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

We continue to be richly blessed at Belt Line Road. This past Lord's Day was wonderful for the spiritual family at Belt Line. In Brother Hatch's absence, Brother Seidmeyer taught a wonderful Bible Class Lesson on Prayer. In our Worship service, Brother Jerry McKey preached and Sunday Evening Brother Richard Renfro brought us a lesson. It's great to have men within

the congregation to fill-in when someone is out of pocket. We thank all all of our brethren for stepping in and doing a good job.

Does our society today see anyone sin anymore? It seems that we don't hear much about sinning anymore and whenever we do commit sin, we usually can manage to come up with some good excuses for our actions. God's laws are unchanging; however, things that were wrong and frowned upon in the past have now become acceptable for many of our brethren and most people in our society.

False teachers claim to be religious people. They not only deceive but are deceived themselves. Their grand error is doing their will instead of following the teaching of Christ. Those that teach in error and promote division must be rejected and exposed. Many souls will claim to be serving God, and do many great things in His name, only to discover at last that they have never really served Him at all. Only those that obey truth and keep His commandments will face the judgment prepared.

Matt 7:18-23..." A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Have a great week serving God and keeping his commandments! Everyone that can attend should be gathered with the saints when we assemble. If you are not present, you are "missed" and a "void" is created. Be a good example to others! We have many that are suffering from various health issues. Keep all of these and our shut-in in your prayers.

~ Dean Webb

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons." (Deut 4:9).

Each generation of Israelites read and memorized Deuteronomy 4. Within these verses they learned what families do to help children grown in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As Israel preparing for nationhood it was imperative the each following generation have divine guidelines. Without divine guidance there would be anarchy. Nations like the United States of America have the Judeo and Christian basis upon which it is built. These divine guidelines are found in the documents, on National building, read and recited frequently. America is a nation built upon a firm foundation. Each generation needs to read our Constitution, Bill of Rights and other documents which are our guiding light. No nation has been like America and her moral should be the envy of the world. When America is good she is great. But only when the citizens of the United States take seriously that our nation is a nation of laws. Lawlessness cannot prevail and receive the blessings of an Almighty God. The United States of America is

a blessed land from sea to shining sea. God has shed His grace on her and can mend her every flaw when her citizens confirm their will by self-control and find liberty in her laws. May God refine her like gold until all her successes are nobleness and every gain divine. Within America is a brotherhood where selfish gain is no longer a stain and nobler ideals guide us through the storms [find the lyrics form "America The Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates and read them].

God had done mighty things in America. It is important to remind each generation of why we are here. Remind them of religious persecutions which were prevalent in days gone by and the price paid to be able to worship in peace. Freedom is not free there is a price.

The writer of Psalm 119 [the longest chapter in the Bible] stresses how important it was not to forget the words of God. "I will not forget thy word" (16), "Yet do I not forget thy statutes" (83), "I will never forget thy precepts" (93, 141), "I do not forget thy law" (109, 153), "For I do not forget thy commandments" (176). Our nation has seen God do spectacular things. It was founded on great Christian principles. In a short span it has become the greatest nation in the world. Why do so many seem to forget, as Israel once did?

The patriots dream a wonderful dream that has gone beyond the years. Cities dot our lands and within them the mercy, grace and peace of God is felt. Undimmed by human tears God has shed His providential blessings and confirmed our manifested destiny. We would do well to review again and again the poignant words of God "lest we forget". Stamp deep in our hearts and upon our minds that the God of host is with us. We would do well to rehearse again and again the poignant words "let us never forget". God is great and gracious.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 21, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price, Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

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.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **February 23rd** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Ilene Ashworth on Love/Kindness.

39'er BREAKFAST

Please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the front foyer if you plan to come and/or bring a friend to the breakfast on **March 6th** at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex.

RESPONSE

Beverly Sweat requests our prayers for forgiveness as she has been away from worship.

OPEN FORUM

The Granbury Street Church of Christ in Cleburne is hosting an open forum **February 27th** from 12:45pm– 4:30pm on "Politics & Religion". See the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

Five books from the Shenandoah Lectureship in San Antonio will be available for \$9.00. The theme was "The Everlasting Priesthood"; it would be a great asset for any library or private study. Call the church office for more information.

THANK YOU

Dear Belt Line Family, Grady & I want to thank our church family for the calls, visits, & love gifts we have received. There are no words that can express how grateful we are; we have been blessed beyond words & are very humbled by your love & kindness. God bless you all.
Grady & BC Fowler

WITH SYMPATHY

Penny Reagan (Taylor Reagan's daughter-in-law) passed away last Wednesday afternoon.

Velma Reynolds (Charlene Carroll's cousin) passed away last Saturday; services will be held tomorrow (2/16) in Sulphur Springs.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- Erma Lee Baker** is in Northgate Plaza, room #405A.
- Billie Beverly** is tentatively schedule for back surgery on February 23rd.
- Michele Latham** will undergo surgery in Presbyterian/Dallas on Thursday (2/18).
- Everett Newton** is now home.
- Nancy Pond** had 2 biopsies taken; one is cancerous. She'll have a procedure next Wednesday.
- The Ruckmans** are having home repairs as someone ran her car into their bedroom last week.

- **Ann Ryon** is in Baylor/Irving, room #401 being treated for severe dehydration.
- **Nola Wolfe** suffers with a staph infection in her foot.
- **Eddie Aslup** (friend of the Newtons) has cancer; he just lost his wife in December.
- **Kathy Bennett** (Marjorie's daughter) will have a procedure done at Baylor/Irving on February 16th.
- **Chip Prude** (Maxine's son) will have surgery on his wrist on February 23rd.
- **Blake Tarleton** (Becky Henry's grandson) requests prayers for very serious emotional challenges.
- **Lewis Tomlinson** (Nelda Newton's son) will undergo surgery in Harris Methodist/Ft. Worth either today or tomorrow.
- **Mary Elena Vaughn** (Mary Curtis' granddaughter) was running high fever & taken to the ER; she was treated & released with severe ear infections.
- **David Walker** (Geraldine Jones' brother-in-law) is gravely ill in Baylor/Dallas.

Continuous Prayer Concerns:

Ilene Ashworth, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), John Williams (Bobbie Williams' son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- February 21: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- February 21: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 23: Ladies' Bible class at 9:30 a.m.
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Jerry Baker
- Marvin Brown
- Grady Fowler
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Brandon Howard

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
Matthew 6:25-34

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Stan Selby
- Thomas Rathbun

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Proverbs 4:10-19

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Garl Latham (last song: Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Marvin Brown
- Glen Kelly

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	81	86	86	125
A.M. Worship	148	157	147	210
P.M. Worship	74	75	79	112
Wed. Class	70	79	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	19	21	22	35
Contribution	\$6192	\$5045	\$5598	\$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