

**March 10, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**March 16, 2008**

a.m. "*A World In A World* "

Scripture: Acts 2:43-47

p.m. "*Bartered Birthright*"

Scripture: Genesis 25:27-34

**Creation Is Not Negotiable**

Don Hatch

We are living in a world that is drifting deeper into unbelief. The Christian faith is under attack from many with positions, conditions and opportunities that would provide for them haughty disdain. If we do nothing about it we cannot expect anyone else to. The time is at hand to fortify our faith and come through safely, weathering the crisis and give an answer for the faith we hold (2 Tim 2:15).

Infidelity has raged over the centuries. Numbers of deluded souls have been led into spiritual bankruptcy due to sophisticated maneuvers of so called intellectuals. The attacks on God and His existence are incessant. Many feel Christians are asking them to gamble their lives on unproved assertions. There is ample proof of God and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb 11:6). Man has always had a deep-rooted sense of the divine. Man is curiously aroused by heaven. Modern and ancient records set forth man's urge to seek out divinity.

Atheism is not natural. Atheism is planted in the minds through doubt. Atheism breeds a wholesale disregard for authority. Distain of God as the Supreme Authority deprives hearts of idealism, recognition of good or evil and moral convictions. Inordinate pride is the disposition seen in those who seek freedom from moral responsibility. "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works" (Psm 14:1). Confidence in those who seem devout, but are not, shatters faith (1 Tim 1:18-20). Atheists must say, "I do not believe in God; I know that there is no God". This is filled with despair. Atheists enjoy little peace of mind. Madame Curie found "life barren". Robert Ingersoll found it "perfectly empty". Bertrand Russell "despaired that life was tortured and surrounded by invisible foes". Living the Christian faith approaches life or death with courage and peace (Rom 5:1-11; Phil 1:23; 4:13).

God can be proved. Not by scientific empirical evidence [experiments and observations] but there is adequate information to make a case for God. The Bible announces that there is a God. In a plain, yet lofty way, it announces a conclusion which was drawn by the ancients; God was, is and will be. J. R. Dummelow said, "[N]o race or tribe of men, however degraded and apparently atheistic, lacks that spark of religious capacity which may be fanned and fed into a mighty flame". Therefore the world is incurably religious. Alexander Campbell argued with Robert Owens of the unreasonable nature of skepticism.

Observing the world demands a Designer. As a part of its original cause the universe suggests intelligence and purpose. From the microscopic to the stars it is not random but planned. It is no accident. The universe operates on precise astronomical laws. Atheistic science seeks to solve problems without God but the laws of nature force them to operate within predictable and

discoverable laws. Who made the laws? Some are finding that the universe shows evidence of design and control by a power that has something in common with our mind. The sun, moon, earth and stars are just right for man to live only on earth. Is it a plan or accident that the earth has the right atmosphere, amount of water, salt, air and so on? The human body is made up of multiplied trillions of cells. In the nucleus of the cell is found genes [DNA]. If the code of instructions were put in English it would fill a 1,000 volume encyclopedia. It is estimated that the code of one body would span the universe. That is design. The human body is a veritable galaxy of systems all dependent, inter-dependent and independent. How? Evolution is a popular theory fostered by peer pressure. It remains unproven. There is no proof of evolution in embryology, vestigial organs [left over from primates], comparative anatomy of primates and humans because the laws of science work against them. Biogenesis is the law that living organisms develop only from other living organisms and not from nonliving matter. Man cannot be derived from a rock. Moreover all things reproduce after their own kind. Dogs beget dogs, monkeys beget monkeys, cows beget cows and apes have never produced a human. Humans are God's special creation, different from the animals.

The modern battle field is the Genesis Account. Evolutionists have attacked it and Theistic Evolutionists are compromising it. The only difference between a Theistic Evolutionist and an Atheistic Evolutionist is the "A" in atheistic. There are many in the religious world teaching that Genesis must be harmonized with atheistic evolution. They maintain that God used evolution to create. Theistic Evolution is popular because some want to walk in the middle of the road not wanting to appear "unscientific". The Christian does not have to be scientific, only biblical. Some are intimidated by impressive credentials and propaganda attacks on Christianity. The intimidated believe in evolutionary pseudoscience and that in some way God "worked by evolution". The Bible does not teach evolution.

Our theme for **Vacation Bible School** will be **Creation**. We will set forth God as Creator. The date is **June 16-18** for ages 2yrs-5<sup>th</sup> grade and adults. Signup sheets for teachers and workers will soon be available. We appreciate the cooperation we have had over the years and hope everyone will help again this year. Creation is not negotiable we must take a stand!

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message From Our Shepherds**

A big "thank you" to Darrell, Nathan and Scot Allen, Ty and Samantha Harvey, John and Kenny Mayer and many others for their hard work in planning and providing a breakfast for the 39er's. This effort was a total success and everyone who attended really enjoyed the time of fellowship and food.

Our thanks to Brother Don Hatch for two excellent sermons this past Sunday. Don, we really appreciate your hard work and dedication along with many others working in various programs. All efforts are not going unnoticed by the Elders and Deacons.

There are basically four types of people in the world: (1). those that seek pleasure, (2). those that seek wealth, (3). those that seek wisdom, and (4). those that seek and do God's will. The Bible teaches that those that love pleasure shall be poor men (Prov. 21:17). Pleasure chokes

out the word of God (Lk. 8:14) and leads to destruction (James 5:5). The Bible also teaches that one's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses (Lk. 12:15), and the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10). Will we in America ever learn this lesson? The Bible also says that we can't find (know) God's will for our lives through human wisdom. "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by its wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). We must seek God through His divine revelation, the Bible.

It was Solomon in the long ago that gave man's purpose in life. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; fear (respect) God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:23). It was the Christ, the Son of God and master teacher that also gave man's purpose in life. "Thou shall love the Lord God with all thy heart, soul, strength, and mind and thy neighbor as thyself" (Lk. 10:27). "Whosoever hears these sayings of mine and DOES them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matt. 7:24). If we are not doing God's will found in the Bible, then we have no real (true) meaning in life, and all is vanity. What is our purpose in life? Christians should be united and letting their light shine as examples to all others.

Let us all keep praying for our sick and shut-ins. It is good to see some who are able to return, but we have a large number who are still struggling with health issues and all of us need to continue with our prayers.

~ Dean Webb

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Getting Even**

There is a high cost of getting even. In years past you could go to Yellowstone Park and see the grizzly bears feed in the trash pit. In the West no animal is equal to it except the buffalo and Kodiak bear. No other animal would venture into the trash pit with the grizzly because he could easily take the life of any who dared. That is all but one. The bear would give a wide berth to the lowly Polecat [skunk]. He no doubt resented the skunk and longed to get even with him for such brazen impudence. Why did he leave him alone? He knew the cost of approaching this small animal was far too costly. Smart bear! Men often yearn to get even only to find its high cost. In Christ one learns a way of life that has high standards and righteous ways which encourages overcoming evil with good and not being overcome by evil (Rom 12:9-21).

## **The Final Home**

How great and glorious it will be  
To cross that river dark and deep;  
To reach at last the gilded shore  
And dwell with God forevermore.

To walk on streets out-shining gold  
And live with saints from days of old.  
To talk with Peter, Paul, and John  
While ages roll forever on.

To eat the fruit, the Tree of Life,  
While every tear is gently dried,  
To sit beside that river there  
And never know another care.

To join in rapture with the throng  
And praise the Lord in word and song;  
To walk with Him who died for me  
And live with God eternally...

How many blessings are in store  
For those who pass that narrow door,  
And on this earth walk paths so strait  
Until they enter Heaven's gate,  
- A place, a land forever fair -  
How sweet 'twill be to worship there;  
How bright a hope each Christian owns,  
To call God's land his final home.

~ J.C. Choate

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, March 16, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer; Thomas Rathbun

**Back foyer:** Paul & Bernice Guisinger

### **Sunday, March 23, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Max Melton

**Back foyer:** Megan Little; Carol Swinney

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

### LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex.

The Ladies' **Sunday afternoon** class will be held from 4:45pm to 5:45pm the second and fourth Sunday of the month through May. The study will be taken from Lottie Beth Hobbs' book Choosing Life's Best.

### RESPONSE

**Megan Little** requests the prayers of the church for her struggles. We love you, Megan!

### TEENS

The 39ers would like to thank the Teen class for a very special breakfast and time of fellowship last Saturday. Your effort and encouragement is appreciated by all. It is such a joy to see the youth and adults of the Lord's church working together. In Christian love, the Belt Line 39ers.

### THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for our Belt Line family, more than you know! Thank you for the calls, cards, & prayers on our behalf during this difficult time of treatment. We love you, Jack & Frances LaFerney.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our Brandon & Kenica are engaged to be married at the end of April in Oklahoma. There is a bridal shower planned for Kenica, but EVERYONE is invited to join us in the Annex on **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. They are registered at Target & JC Penney; however if you'd like to contribute to a group gift, please see Beverly McKey. More details to come...

Also, **Joe Gillispie** (former member who grew up here) will be installed as a deacon for the Decatur Church of Christ today. We're very proud of Joe.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Oleg Yakimenko's** mother passed away last week; the funeral was held on Friday. Oleg baptized both of his parents in 1998; please pray for his father & the family.

Also, **Rebecca Jones** (Carol Swinney's friend from Arkansas) passed away last week as well.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

√**Bob Bingham** will undergo surgery this Wednesday (3/12).

√**Bob Bradley** was released for outpatient testing.

√**Fauna Garrett** has returned to Ashford Hall.

√**Jean Haddock** has moved to Summerville & is waiting for her new cottage to be made ready for move-in.

- √ **Hank Henry** will undergo a procedure at Baylor/Grapevine on Wednesday (3/12).
- √ **Jimmy Caudle** (Jean Kelly's brother) is in the hospital in Waco with double pneumonia.
- √ **Mary Gough** (Elizabeth Garrison's sister) is in Baylor/Irving, room #425.
- √ **The Pauls** (from India) have health problems.
- √ **Marcella Porter's** family requests prayers.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: BC Fowler, Judy Hancock, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, AC & Maxine Prude, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Bran Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Shirley Bryant (James Gilliam's sister), Vern Daniel (Janice's son) Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Elizabeth Oliver (Becky Henry's sister), Lewis Porter (Marcella's brother), Nell Rogers (Carol Swinney's sister), Earl Scott (Mary Scott's son), Nita Spencer (the Webb's niece), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Allen Taylor (the Taylor's grandson), Lewis Tomlinson (Nelda Bell Newton's son), Larry Toye, & our shut-ins.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- Mar 18 – Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- Mar 23 – New Ladies' Bible Class @4:45 pm in room #206
- June 15 thru 18 –Vacation Bible School

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**Sunday morning:**

- Betty Ruckman

**Sunday evening:**

- Sandy Hall

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

### **Front Table**

- Mike Garrison
- Ty Harvey
- Bob Bingham
- Tom Prince
- Jerry Baker
- Rob Farmer
- Brandon Thomason
- Darrell Allen

### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney
- Bill Paschall
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn

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

- Dean Webb
- Tom Prince
- Bill Matthews

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

- Stan Selby
- Acts 2:43-47

## **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Ty Harvey
- Darrell Allen

## **LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun

## **COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

· Darrell Allen

### **FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<b><u>Last Week</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Avg.</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>
Sun. Class	81	96	96	125
A.M. Worship	160	185	169	210
P.M. Worship	84	90	95	112
Wed. Class	86	90	93	110
Ladies Bible Class	24	27	26	35
Contribution	\$7062	\$5153	\$5569	\$5400

### ***MISSIONS***

Gary Workman – Ukraine

21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India

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 – Stephenville, 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