

June 9, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

June 15, 2008

a.m. *“Grow In Grace and Knowledge”*

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:14-18

p.m. *“The Love That Confers Sonship”*

Scripture: John 3:1-12

Christ Is The Answer

Don Hatch

The gospel reveals the love of God for mankind. Since Christ came to make eternity possible for man, a life with God the Father, His death assures us that all can be well with our soul if we are obedient and faithful. Jesus is the expression of the infinite love that God has for man. It should be obvious that Christ Jesus set the stage for man to be redeemed by His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension. If a person wishes to have fellowship with God in this world and have a home in eternity it will depend on his obedience to the gospel (2 Thes 1:5-8). The unambiguous thesis of the gospel is mercy, grace and forgiveness of sin via the blood of Jesus Christ. The New Testament allows man to find the way, the truth and the life in Christ (Jn 14:1-5).

The way to God is through Christ. Everything included in salvation depends on Christ. He is the “door” by which men enter into fellowship with God (2 Cor 6:14-19; Jn 10:9). Since Christ became the “way” the entire gospel scheme of redemption refers to His divinity and humanity (Acts 19:9-23; 24:33; 16:17). Christ is the essence of the “foolishness of preaching” (1 Cor 1:18-20). Christ is exalted and portrayed as the “only” way man can acquire fellowship with the Father. Jesus is the sole means of reconciling mankind to God, from whom they are alienated (2 Cor 5:15-20). The new life Jesus offers the souls that were dead in sin is the way to eternity and life with God in glory (Eph 2:1-10; Jn 17). When the teachings of the New Testament are adhered to and faithfulness is maintained, the spiritual blessings God promised are found in Christ (Eph 1:3). Jesus made a promise to all who would follow Him, “...and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt 28:16-20; Heb 13:1-5). Man must have spiritual eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that believe in order that the efficacy of Christ may be made available (1 Cor 2:6-16). God’s wisdom is that we receive freely from Him spiritual information which is a guide unto our souls. In Christ it is the good pleasure of the Father to reconcile all things unto Himself and make peace through the blood of His Son presenting man holy, without blemish and unrepensible before Him in Christ (Col 1:9-23).

Jesus is the truth of how man can be free from the penalty of sin (Rom 5:1-11; 6:23). Unless man is set free from sin the fellowship God offers can never be applied (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). Sin separates man from his God (Isa 59:1, 2). Sin denies man access into heaven. The spiritually unclean and abominable can in no wise enter heaven (Rev 21:27). Jesus’ blood can cleanse man from sins and iniquities (1 Jn 1:5-10). Therefore, for man to understand how to be redeemed he must know the truth and it will set him free (Jn 8:32). Truth prepares the heart, soul and mind of man to seek fellowship with the Father. The power of truth is not abstruse. Jesus, as the Son of God, came to make man free (Jn 8:36). Freedom is found in being made

holy. Jesus prayed that the disciples would be sanctified in the truth (Jn 17:17). Being in the truth and in Christ sets one apart from the world (1 Cor 1:2, 30, 31). The truth makes men free and it is found in God's divine revelation. When Jesus told the disciples of His coming death, that they were going to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood, some saw this as a hard saying and left Him (Jn 6:52-71). Jesus asked if the other disciples were going to leave also. They responded "...thou hast the words of life". Jesus is the truth of the gospel of salvation (Eph 1:3-15).

Jesus described Himself as **the life**, the source of everlasting life with the Father (Jn 15:5). While dead in their sins men could not return to God on their own. They needed a Mediator, Saviour and Friend (Jn 14; 15; 16). Apart from Jesus they could not be revived and walk in the newness of life (Eph 2:11-23). Jesus was called the "bread of life" (Jn 6:35), "the eternal life" (1 Jn 1:2) and the "Prince of life" (Acts 3:15). The Bible describes Jesus as being in the beginning (Jn 1:1-17). He is the light that guides man back to God and illuminates the way. Christ is without equal in fulfilling human needs. Christianity teaches that Jesus is the means to eternal life (Jn 11:21-27). Jesus made available partaking of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:3-11). Man does not merely exist but lives to be rewarded after faithfully doing God's will by having eternal life. Jesus gave the abundant life (Jn 10:10). The pursuit of a godly life is to abstain from all appearances of evil (1 Thess 5:22). Mankind must lay hold on life which is life indeed (1 Tim 6:19). Unending life is the promise of the Gospel. Truly, eternal life begins after being raised to walk in the newness of life (Rom 6:1-11). The Bible affirms that the love of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and brethren are a prelude to passing from death into life (1 Jn 3:14, 15). "These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 Jn 5:13). "...rejoice with joy inexpressible... receiving the end of our faith - the salvation of the soul (1 Pet 1:9). Being justified by God's grace we have the promise and hope of eternal life (1 Jn 2:25; Tit 3:7). Keeping the ways of God and seeking His mercy to help us in times of need and encourages us to consider the heavenly state and rest for the soul (Jude 21).

Jesus as the **way, truth and life** emphasizes eternal life that awaits the redeemed through God's beloved Son. The Father's oath is that Jesus is our High Priest and means of everlasting life (Heb 7).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Thank you, Brother Hatch, for continuing to bring us outstanding Gospel sermons. Each one of our worship lessons is available on cassette or CD. We recommend as many as will using these methods to increase our learning and share the Gospel with others. We want to commend the Belt Line brethren for your dedication and love for the Gospel. I think our attendance was better this week and we should be going up every service if we all do our part.

Our VBS will start in one week. Have you made proper plans to attend this opportunity? Our prayers are that we'll all attend this like we have never before. It is important to all of us and our teachers will be highly encouraged and strengthened. Hope to see you at VBS June 16-18! Read Hebrews 10:25.

THE BIBLE IS RIGHT...What is The Church That Jesus Built? Christianity is the one true religion of the one true God, established by the one true Lord, Christ, and revealed by the one true Spirit in the one faith. Christianity expresses itself through literature, the Bible, the word of salvation, through a person, Jesus Christ, the savior, and through an institution, the church, and the saved. The Church then is the blood bought body of Christ. It is the saved (Acts 2:47).

The Church is the spiritual body of Christ. "And he is the head of the body the church" (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4). The Church is the blood purchased people. "Take heed unto yourselves and to the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Therefore, the Church is composed of those who have been purchased by the blood of Christ.

The Church is the saved, "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:23). The Church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 23). Therefore, Christ is the savior of the Church. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Those who are in the Church constitute the saved, and those who are saved constitute the Church. The Church is the house, household family of God, and the pillar and ground of truth (1Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:16-19; Ephesians 3:14, 5). The Church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22, 23). "Ye also were made dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be married to another, even to him who rose from the dead." (Romans 7:4). Paul likened the relationship between husband and wife unto the relationship between Christ and His Church. (Ephesians 5:23). The bride now belongs to Christ. However, when he comes, it will be presented to himself forever (Ephesians 5: 26, 27). We should all want to be in that glorious Church (2 Corinthians 6:2; Mark 16:16). Being outside the Church is living without any hope of salvation! We need to be in the assembly when at all possible.

Have a great week serving God and doing His will! Pray for our sick and shut-ins!

~ Dean Webb

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Discerning The Difference

The church is of divine origin, spiritual in nature whose work is to direct man to eternity with God. It is a monument of divine blessings and wisdom. It sets forth wisdom that supersedes all earthbound wisdom (Jas 3:13-18).

Sin separates man from God. The church's sphere of influence is preaching reconciliation of man with God. It was God's eternal will to unite all men in Christ's body (Eph 1:22, 23). That one body is the church and is composed of those who have obeyed Christ. In Noah's day only those in the ark were saved. In like manner only those in Christ's church are saved today (1 Pet 3:13-22).

God planned for His Son's holy bride, the church, to spend eternity with Him (Eph 1:3-15; Rev 19:6-10). Man's self-will in religion is not equivalent with God's plan. Ostentatious endeavors of

man falls short of the divine plan. The church has a mandate to worship in “spirit and truth” (Jn 4:23). Come learn of the truth of the gospel of salvation (Eph 1:3-15). ~ Don Hatch

The first century Christians were members of the Lord's church and met on the first day of the week to worship (Acts 20:7); to partake of the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34); to sing hymns of praise (Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16,17); to pray together (Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17); to give of their means to support the church, the greatest work in the world (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7); and to receive the greatest message man can receive, God's Word (Acts 2:42; 20:7).

These Christians worked and worshiped together in local churches, independent of each other; they had no central organization governing them. Each local church was governed by a group of elders (Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5). These local churches were linked only by their common ties to Christ, who is the head of the church which He built.

If we are members of the same church as the first century Christians, we must proclaim the same message — the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We will teach that men must believe in Christ and confess that faith. We will teach that men must turn from sin and be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26, 27). We will teach that men must submit to Christ as did the first century Christians, and be added to the Lord's church as were they (Acts 2:47).

If we are true Christians we will seek to restore the New Testament pattern in purpose, doctrine, worship, organization, life, and joy. The purpose of Christ's church then and now is the same - to seek and to save the lost world (Luke 19:10). Kenneth McClain preaches for the Garfield Heights congregation in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. ~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, June 15, 2008

Front foyer: Jamie & Megan Little; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Bob & Gwen Bingham

Sunday, June 22, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

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.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Youth Series meeting will be at the Handley Church of Christ in Ft. Worth on **Tuesday, June 17th**. Please see Beverly McKey or Melissa Allen for more details.

39ers

Because of the Vacation Bible School schedule, the 39er get-together has been moved to **Monday, June 23rd** at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex. Please bring finger foods this time.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers for our family and all who attended the visitation and service for my sister, June Bush. We want you to know that we love and appreciate all of you. In Christian love, Richard and Janet Harvey and family.

I want to express a big "thank you" to the Elders & the person who installed the hot water heaters in the restrooms. It is appreciated. In Christian love, Nancy Batot.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Our theme this year is "**Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining**". Next week's Wednesday evening worship, **June 18th**, will be a lesson entitled "There Is One Faith" brought to us by Brother Don Hatch. The scripture reference is Romans 1:16, 17.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

Just a reminder to bring your grocery donations for Christ's Haven to the building by **next Sunday, June 15th** for pickup on the 17th. God bless you for your efforts!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Time is drawing nigh; only one more week to prepare for Vacation Bible School! Be sure to plan...and bring a friend! The theme is "Creation".

Also, if you'd like to be involved in the refreshment phase of Bible School, **begin bringing your cookies this week**; you may leave them in the office or take them to the Annex.

WITH SYMPATHY

Bill Roses (Polly's husband) passed away this morning (6/9). Arrangements have not been made at the time of this writing.

PRAYER CONCERNS

√**Robert Taylor** will have rotator cuff surgery tomorrow (6/10) at the Sport's Clinic.

√**Nola Wolfe** was released Friday after cancer surgery.

√The Mohsen's daughter, **Rose Mary** is being hospitalized because of complications with her pregnancy.

√**Brother Paul** (missionary in India) has been in the hospital with congestive heart failure; he is now home.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Bob Bradley, Fauna Garrett, Gardean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Jimmy & Betty Douglass (relatives of Billie Prince & Linda Head), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Bette Yearwood (Becky Henry's sister), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- June 11: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching, Perry Cotham
- June 15: Christ's Haven van to pickup groceries
- June 16 – 18: Vacation Bible School
- June 17: Summer Youth Series, Handley – Ft. Worth
- June 23: 39ers in Annex at 6:30 p.m.
- July: Cisco Youth Camp
- July 19: Hardegree & Garner wedding

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Shellie Pearce

Sunday evening:

- Julie Roses

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Ty Harvey
- Dorris Walker
- Garl Latham
- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Bill Matthews
- Darrell Allen

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Melvin Armstrong
- Max Melton

SCRIPTURE READING

- Brandon Thomason
2 Peter 3:14-18

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Robert Ruckman
- Thomas Rathbun

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Stan Selby

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	93	103	96	125
A.M. Worship	176	164	169	210
P.M. Worship	105	98	93	112
Wed. Class	91	105	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$6963	\$4596	\$5398	\$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